

- **News** 27th October

Blackburn Museum has work of William Morris on display

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WORK from a renowned artist, loaned from the Victoria and Albert Museum, is set to stimulate young minds in **Blackburn**.

William Morris was at the forefront of 19th century wallpaper design and a leading figure in the Arts and Craft Movement.

Several examples of his work, dating back to 1875, have been lent to Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery by the V&A in the latest link-up between the two institutions.

Curator Stephanie Seville said: “The exhibition is part of the DesignLab Nation programme.

“This project aims to bring together secondary schools, local museums and local designers to inspire and preserve the essential role of design education.”

Morris’ pioneering samples are being exhibited alongside wallpapers fashioned by Blackburn designer Halima Cassell.

She was commissioned to produce five designs for local manufacturer Graham and Brown in 2012, all of which were based around plants, fusing some of her 3D concepts into a 2D wallpaper format.

The initiative is supported by the Arts Fund, in conjunction with The Foyle Foundation, the Brian Mercer Charitable Trust and the Zochonis Charitable Trust.

Morris’ reputation was sealed by two prestigious decorating commissions, for a new dining room at South Kensington Museum, which later became the V&A. and another for St James’ Palace.

Around this time he was also working on an epic poem, *The Earthly Paradise*, essaying his strong belief in anti-industrialism.

Before the end of his design career he had given his name to 32 printed fabrics, 23 woven fabrics and 21 wallpapers. The exhibition featuring his and Cassell’s work remains on show in the Hart Gallery until next July