

Viking Gods and Valkyries: The Art of Norse Mythology

James Vaux

Additional Resources

Featured major artists

UK

Henry Fuseli (1741-1825)

William Blake (1757-1827)

Denmark

Nicolai Abildgaard (1743-1809)

C.W. Eckersberg (1783-1853)

H.E. Freund (1786-1840)

Lorenz Frølich (1820-1908)

Sweden

B.E. Fogelberg (1786-1854)

Nils Blommér (1816-1853)

Mårten Eskil Winge (1825-1896)

Carl Larsson (1853-1919)

Bengt Lindström (1925-2008)

Norway

Peter Nicolai Arbo (1831-1892)

Germany

Emil Döpler (1855-1922)

Anselm Kiefer (1945-)

Where to see

Scandinavia

Statens Museum for Kunst (SMK), Copenhagen

National Museum, Stockholm

Nasjonalmuseet, Oslo

(These display mainly the 19th century history paintings / sculptures)

Germany

Neues Museum, Berlin, Vaterland Hall

(Restored frescoes depicting the Eddas)

United Kingdom

Nearer to home, the Royal Academy occasionally shows Fuseli's Thor (currently not on display). There is a 'Nordic Noir' exhibition of prints at the British Museum (Room 90) which includes Norse myth as one of its themes (9th October 2025 to 22nd March 2026).

Birmingham Museum holds Edward Burne-Jones's studies for stained glass windows of Odin, Thor and Frey for the Vinland mansion in Newport, Rhode Island (the original windows are now lost). A copy of the Gosforth Cross is in the V&A sculpture hall. A copy of the Thorwald Cross (showing Odin devoured by Fenrir the wolf at Ragnarök) is in the Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man. The Finglesham Buckle (Odin?) is in the Ashmolean, Oxford. Anselm Kiefer often exhibits at the White Cube, Bermondsey. Pam Glew's series of Norse goddesses, 'Dark Tales', can be seen online here: <https://www.pamglew.co.uk/p-dark-tales>.

Further Reading

There are only three books I have found dealing specifically with the art of Scandinavian Mythology. All are out of print; one is in Icelandic and one in Danish! However, you can purchase the English one (accompanying an exhibition in York and Nottingham in the late 1990s) second hand, e.g. from Abe Books.

Wilson, David M, 1997. *Vikings and Gods in European Art*. Aarhus: Moesgaard Museum

BUT...this excellent book does include many reproductions of the artwork shown:

Larrington, Carolyne, 2023. *The Norse Myths That Shape the Way We Think*. London: Thames & Hudson

For the art of the Viking Age more generally, this is a good primer:

Graham-Campbell, 2021. *Viking Art*. London: Thames & Hudson

For Norse Mythology generally, the Prose Edda and Poetic Edda are both available in Penguin, but I suggest starting with a modern introduction such as:

Gaiman, Neil, 2017. *Norse Mythology*. London: Bloomsbury

Larrington, Carolyne, 2017. *The Norse Myths – A Guide to the Gods and Heroes* London: Thames & Hudson

If you like YouTube, Old Norse educator Dr Jackson Crawford @jacksoncrawford posts fascinating, academically accurate and readily understandable short videos on Norse mythology and literature.

In addition to Larrington's 2023 publication above, these books cover the cultural reception of the Norse myths over the ages:

O'Donaghue, Heather, 2008. *From Asgard to Valhalla*. London and New York: I.B. Taurus

Arnold, Martin, 2011. *Thor: Myth to Marvel*. London and New York: Continuum

Lindow, John, 2021. *Old Norse Mythology*. New York: Oxford University Press

Helgason, Jón Karl, 2017. *Echoes of Valhalla*. London: Reaktion Books