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ART AND THE FORMATION OF EARLY MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

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Art and the Formation of Early Medieval England

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Abstract: This Element covers the art produced in early medieval England from the departure of the Romans to the early twelfth century, an art that shows the input of multi-ethnic artists, patrons, and influences as it develops over the centuries. Art in early medieval England is an art of migrants and colonisers, and the Element considers the ways in which it was defined and developed by the different groups that travelled to or settled on the island. It also explores some of the key forms and images that define the art of the period and the role of both material and artist/patron in their creation. Art is an expression of identity, whether individual, regional, national, religious, or institutional, and this Element sheds light on the way art in early medieval England was and continues to be used to define particular identities, including that of the island on which it was produced.

Keywords: materiality, migration, postcolonial, early medieval England, early medieval art

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