



SYMBOLIST ART IN A CHANGING EUROPE: 1880-1900

Coordinators: Mary Ball Howkins and Mary Snowden

Lifelong Learning Collaborative 2019

Course description: Join us on an artistic journey. In the last decades of the 19th century, many artists rebelled against realism and contemporary subjects, delving instead into myth, literature, spiritualism and Eastern religion, while Europe heralded new technology and conservative impulses like imperialism and nationalism. Artists responded strongly to women's efforts to diminish patriarchy by imaging women as dangerous, diseased, or perpetually asleep. Get to know the work of painters like Gustave Moreau, Paul Gauguin, the cult-like Nabis, Odillon Redon, Edward Munch and Gustav Klimt as they held ground in a threatening, changing world. Become familiar with the art of women such as Camille Claude and Suzanne Valadon, moving in a different, modernist direction.

Class meeting structure: each meeting, from September 13th on, will consist of two participants' presentations and class discussion of the images offered via PowerPoint (organized by the presenter or with the help of a coordinator if that program is not familiar). The material to be explored in the course will be organized chronologically.

Format: *Participants will be asked to give short presentations, lead discussions, and participate in group analysis of images in this course.*

Temple Safety: Be aware of safety advisements issued by the temple.

Temple dietary rules: eating food in only in the coffee room; no pork or shellfish, don't mix dairy and meat; no beverages in chapel if we meet there one day; a cap always on drinks in classrooms.

SYMBOLIST ART SCHEDULE FALL 2019

Sept. 11: Introductions and housekeeping

- Imperialism and nationalism, and cultivation of the ‘other’
- What is Symbolism? Symbolism vs Decadence

Sept. 18: Antecedents: Romantics: evocative religion and history: Caspar David Friedrich.

Abbey in the Oak Forest Delacroix *The Death of Sardanapalus*

John Everett Millais *Autumn Leaves*, Aestheticism (Whistler and Moore: *Beads*)

Sept. 25: Paul Gauguin *Vision after the Sermon or Self-portrait with Yellow Christ*

Emile Bernard *Spring*

Oct. 2: Pierre Bonnard *Young Woman in the Garden* (Interiors, decoration)

Edouard Vuillard *Interior with Work Table (The suitor)* 1893

Oct. 16: Edward Munch, *The Dance of Life, Evening on Karl Johan Street*, 1892, anti-urban sentiments

James Ensor *Masks Confronting Death*

Oct. 23: Gustave Moreau *Dead Poet 1890* (myth, the poet/artist)

Dante Gabriel Rossetti *Beata Beatrix* (femmes fatales: Lilith, Mona Vanna)

Oct. 30: Suzanne Valadon *Casting the Net*, and *The Blue Room*

Camille Claudel, *The Waltz*

Nov. 6: Burne-Jones *Merlin*

Odillon Redon *Ophelia*

Nov. 13: The Rosicrucians, Paladin and the first Exhibition

Ferdinand Khnopff: *Caresse* (the artist, Sphinx, cheetah, sister)

Nov. 20: Klimt *Salome/Judith* (Japanese influence, myth, portraits)

Alphonse Mucha, and visual round-up

SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS BY FIRST AND SECOND HOURS

- Sept. 18:** Delacroix's North African images
Walter Pater, theoretician of beauty as the goal of art
- Sept. 25:** Gauguin's symbolist theory:
What was Cloisonnism?
- Oct. 2:** Ideas and theories of Nabis Group
Japanese influence in France: decoration, contrasting patterns:
- Oct. 16:** Norwegian artistic tradition influence on Munch
Mardi gras masks: Ensor masks
- Oct. 23:** Moreau and exoticism
Spiritualism in England
- Oct. 30:** Women's rights in France
Caudel's personal and artistic relationship with Rodin
- Nov. 6:** Burne-Jones' international influence on other artists
John E. Millais *Death of Ophelia*
- Nov. 13:** The First Salon de la Rose + Croix in Paris, 1892, and Josephin Peladan
Ingres' image of *Oedipus and the Sphinx*
- Nov. 20:** Klimt and the erotic in Viennese culture: