

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE SYMBOLIST GENERATION

Post-Impressionism or symbolism?	7
Symbol, symbolism, allegory	8
Symbolist theorists and critics	13
Anywhere out of the world	13
Under the influence of Saturn	16
Music before all else	18
The Symbolist dream-world	20
Arabesques	22
Symbolism and psychoanalysis	23
Salome, the myth of the femme fatale	25
Symbolism and Art Nouveau	27
From symbolism to abstract art and surrealism	28

THE ORIGINATORS OF SYMBOLISM

The Pre-Raphaelites spiritual angst	32
Dante Gabriel Rossetti, poet and painter	32
Edward Burne-Jones and the metaphysical world of legends	36
George Frederic Watts, or the art of teaching through pictures	39
Puvis de Chavannes, a new vision of Arcadia	40
Gustave Moreau, the assembler of dreams	44
Odilon Redon, the rule of the unconscious	49
Arnold Böcklin's Darwinian mythology	52

SYMBOLISM IN FRANCE

1

From naturalism to symbolism

Fantín-Latour: from the Batignolles studio to Wagnerian fantasies	57
Eugène Carrière's humanitarian symbolism	59
Auguste Rodin and Camille Claudel	62
Paul Gauguin, an impressionist in search of the soul's colors	64
An article by Georges-Albert Aurier: "Symbo- lism in Painting-- Paul Gauguin"	68
Gauguin's pictorial testament	70

The symbolism of the Pont-Aven group

Emile Bernard and his quarrel with Gauguin over who fathered pictorial symbolism . . .	76
The unstudied symbolism of Vincent Van Gogh	78
Gauguin's mystical disciple, Charles Filiger . .	82

The Nabis

The birth of the Nabi group	85
Sérusier the theorist	87
Maurice Denis's beautiful icons	90
Georges Lacombe, the Nabi sculptor	94
Paul Ranson, the occultist Nabi	98
The Nabi artistic canon	100

The esoteric symbolism of the Rose+Croix Salons

Joséphin Péladan, the paladin of idealist art .	103
The disciples of Puvis de Chavannes	106
Georges de Feure, from symbolism to Art Nouveau	112
Moreau's students at the Rose+Croix Salons	114
The musical correspondences of Lévy-Dhurmer	118
From symbolism to parody: Gustav-Adolf Mossa and Marcel Duchamp	119

THE SPREAD OF SYMBOLISM IN EUROPE

Belgium, the Netherlands, and Switzerland under the spell of the Rose+Croix

The satanic Félicien Rops	124
James Ensor, the disguised symbolist	126
Fernand Khnopff, or the retreat into oneself .	128
Jean Delville, the quintessential Rose+Croix artist	130
Two portrayers of human suffering: George Minne and Emile Fabry	132
The nocturnes of William Degouve de Nuncques	134
The macabre probings of Jan Toorop	136
Lingering twilight of symbolism: Léon Spilliaert and Piet Mondrian	140
Ferdinand Hodler's pantheism	142
Carlos Schwabe, a mystic of death	144
Other Swiss artists influenced by symbolism	147

The Scandinavian countries

Sweden	150
Denmark	151
Finland	152
•Edvard Munch: the torn self as source for the art work	155

Central and eastern Europe

The Russian artist Mikhail Vrubel and the devil's mystique	159
Polish symbolists	160
The retrograde career of Alphonse Mucha . .	163
František Kupka, from symbolism to abstraction	167

German-speaking countries

A German Puvis de Chavannes: Hans von Marées	169
•Max Klinger, the engraver of life's dark side	170
Franz von Stuck's poisonous symbolism . . .	172
Gustav Klimt and the consecration of Eros . .	174
Alfred Kubin and the lure of death	176
The kingdom of Hungary	177

English-speaking countries

A perverted Pre-Raphaelite: Aubrey Beardsley	179
Mackintosh and the mystique of plants . . .	180
American analogies	181

Southern Europe

Death in the Engadine: Giovanni Segantini .	184
Two painters of virginity: Gaetano Previati and Giuseppe Pellizza da Volpedo	186
An avatar of symbolism: the metaphysical art of Giorgio De Chirico	189
Picasso's blue period	190

BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE SYMBOLISTS	195
GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY	207
INDEX	209
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	213