

SYMBOLISM



definition

Symbolism is more of an idea than a particular style. With the rejection of realism and naturalism, the artists move into a parallel world. Today it would probably be called fantasy. Mythology, biblical themes, mystery and dreams are used, often with a penchant for melancholy. The actual topic is described with symbolic aesthetics in the form of symbols and metaphors. Favorite themes included sin, passion, death, love, illness, emotion and beauty.

history

1880-1910 - It is a movement in art and literature in late 19th-century Europe, originating in France and Belgium. In times of industrialization, the symbolists developed counter-images that lie outside the visible world. Later, the surrealists build on this idea. The symbolism movement was parallel to Art Nouveau. Both stand between the grand art styles of Impressionism and Expressionism.

style

The style of Symbolism is very diverse. Epic opulent, diffusely dreamy and eccentrically rough, the symbolism is defined only by content and time. Post-Impressionism can be found in **Gauguin**, **Klimt** used the style of Art Nouveau and **Much** is often referred to Expressionism. These three great artists of Symbolism illustrate the enormous range of styles.

poem

You needn't to understand life,
then it will be like a celebration.
And let it happen to you every day
just like a child walking
from every wind blowing
be gifted by many blossoms.

To pick them up and save them
doesn't comes to the child's mind
It quietly loosens them from its hair,
and holds out to dear young years
its hands for new ones.

Rainer Maria Rilke (origin German)

artists

Léon-François Comerre
Paul Gauguin
Fernand Khnopff
Gustav Klimt
Edvard Much
Max Nonnenbruch
Sascha Schneider
Auguste Rodin
Leon Spilliaert
Franz von Stuck
female artists:
Isobel Lilian Gloag
Evelyn de Morgan
Dora Hitz

helpful links

[video](#)

[images](#)

[Klimt - The Kiss](#)

[von Stuck - Guardian of the Paradies](#)

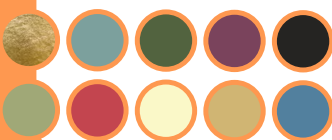
colors

The choice of color and contrast is completely depending on the artist.

Colors of Klimt*



Colors of von Stuck**



art nouveau



Klimt - 'The Kiss**

1. flat design, gold
2. decorative pattern
3. floral elements
4. organic shapes
5. ornamental abstraction
6. pale skin, flowing hair with flowers
7. floating, brightly colored robes

example



von Stuck

- 'Guardian of the Paradies***

1. abstract background with smooth transitions
2. confident composition, youthful beauty
3. flowing, translucent robe
4. biblical theme - angle with large wings