



Lesbian Decadence: Representations in Art and Literature of Fin-de-Siècle France

Nicole Albert

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In 1857 the French poet Charles Baudelaire, who was fascinated by lesbianism, created a scandal with *Les Fleurs du Mal* [*The Flowers of Evil*]. This collection was originally entitled "The Lesbians" and described women as "femmes damnées," with "disordered souls" suffering in a hypocritical world. Then twenty years later, lesbians in Paris dared to flaunt themselves in that extraordinarily creative period at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries which became known as the Belle Époque.

Lesbian Decadence, now available in English for the first time, provides a new analysis and synthesis of the depiction of lesbianism as a social phenomenon and a symptom of social malaise as well as a fantasy in that most vibrant place and period in history. In this newly translated work, praised by leading critics as "authoritative," "stunning," and "a marvel of elegance and erudition," Nicole G. Albert analyzes and synthesizes an engagingly rich sweep of historical representations of the lesbian mystique in art and literature. Albert contrasts these visions to moralists' abrupt condemnations of "the lesbian vice," as well as the newly emerging psychiatric establishment's medical fury and their obsession on cataloging and classifying symptoms of "inversion" or "perversion" in order to cure these "unbalanced creatures of love."

Lesbian Decadence combines literary, artistic, and historical analysis of sources from the mainstream to the rare, from scholarly studies to popular culture. The English translation provides a core reference/text for those interested in the Decadent movement, in literary history, in French history and social history. It is well suited for courses in gender studies, women's studies, LGBT history, and lesbianism in literature, history, and art.

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From reader reviews:

Edna Miller:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the publication untitled Lesbian Decadence: Representations in Art and Literature of Fin-de-Siècle France can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Bess Cook:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always aim to and must have the spare time or they will get wide range of stress from both everyday life and work. So , once we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not just a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the book you have read will be Lesbian Decadence: Representations in Art and Literature of Fin-de-Siècle France.

Mike Hart:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Lesbian Decadence: Representations in Art and Literature of Fin-de-Siècle France, you are able to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Martin Herrin:

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