The Nude in French Art and Culture, 1870–1910

The Nude in French Art and Culture, 1870–1910, examines the forces that made the nude a contentious image in the early Third Republic. Analyzing the evolving relationship between the fine art nude, print culture, and censorship, Heather Dawkins explores how artists, art critics, politicians, bureaucrats, lawyers, and judges evaluated the nude. She shows how spectatorship of the nude was refracted through the ideals of art, femininity, republican liberty, and public decency. An art form made for and by men, the nude was rarely the subject of serious engagement on the part of women. A few, nevertheless, attempted to take up the issues and challenges of the nude. Dawkins investigates in detail how these women reshaped the genre of the nude and its spectatorship in order for it to accommodate their own experience and subjectivity.

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The Nude

in French Art and Culture,

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Contents

List of Illustrations vii
Acknowledgements xi
Introduction 1

ONE. Decency in Dispute: Viewing the Nude 7

TWO. Modelling Another View: Posing for the Nude 86

THREE. Improper Appreciation: Women and the Fine Art of the Nude 115

FOUR. A Defiant Imagination: Marie de Montifaud, Censorship, and the Nude 134

Epilogue 172

Notes 175

Works Cited 215

Index 223
Illustrations

1. Louis Igout, Photograph, 1880. page 13
2. Marconi, Photograph, c. 1870. 14
3. Lecadre, Photograph, 1881. 15
4. Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Roger délivrant Angélique, 1819. 16
5. Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, La Source, 1856. 17
6. Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Vénus anadyomène, 1808, 1848. 18
7. Eugène Delacroix, Le 28 juillet, 1830: La Liberté guidant le peuple, 1830. 19
8. Théodore Chassériau, Le 'Tepidarium', 1853. 19
9. Jean Jacques Henner, La Chaste Suzanne, 1865. 20
10. Henri Gervex, Rolla, 1878. 21
11. Pif, 'With the way some pictures are hung this year why not open a concession to rent stilts? That would result in a variety of perspectives in any case', 1880. 24
12. Pif, ‘– No more official exhibitions, no more juries. From now on each artist will exhibit his own painting’, 1880. 26
13. Henri Gervex, Une Séance de jury de peinture au Salon des artistes français (1883?) dans une salle du premier étage du Palais de l’industrie, c. 1883–85. 27
14. Jean-Louis Forain, ‘Someone is ringing. If it’s the Englishman who was here yesterday, Mama, you must leave’, 1890. 34
20. Hope, ‘La Maison à soldats’, 1884. 41
Illustrations

24. Oswald Heidbrinck, ‘Ask for the obscenity of the day, the little *Parisienne* bather! Find the legs of the bather!’, 1888. 50
25. Jean-Louis Forain, ‘And I suppose you’ll be paying for the months of wet-nursing’, 1888. 52
27. Cover, *Le Courrier français*, 1 July 1888. 56
28. Japhet, illustration for *Le Nu au Salon de 1888*, 1888. 58
29. Japhet, illustration for *Le Nu au Salon de 1888*, 1888. 60
30. Japhet, illustration for *Le Nu au Salon de 1888*, 1888. 61
31. Japhet, illustration for *Le Nu au Salon de 1888*, 1888. 62
32. Japhet, illustration for *Le Nu au Salon de 1888*, 1888. 63
33. Japhet, illustration for *Le Nu au Salon de 1888*, 1888. 64
34. Japhet, illustration for *Le Nu au Salon de 1888*, 1888. 66
35. William Bouguereau, *Baigneuse*, 1888. 67
36. Japhet, illustration for *Le Nu au Salon de 1888*, 1888. 68
38. Japhet, cover design for *Le Nu au Salon de 1888*, 1888. 70
39. Frédéric Dufaux, *La Toilette*, 1888. 71
40. Edgar Degas, *Le Tub*, 1886. 72
41. Edgar Degas, *Woman Bathing in a Shallow Tub*, 1885. 73
42. Edgar Degas, *Femme au tub*, 1884. 74
43. Edgar Degas, *Nude Woman Drying Herself*, 1884. 75
44. Edgar Degas, *La Boulangère (Étude de nu, femme à son lever)*, 1885–86. 76
45. Edgar Degas, *Girl Drying Herself*, 1885. 77
46. ‘Dépilatoires Dusser’, 1886. 78
47. Photograph of Suzanne Valadon, 1886. 87
48. Suzanne Valadon, *Seated Female Nude (After the Bath)*, 1893. 89
49. Edgar Degas, *Danseuse regardant la plante de son pied droit*, 1895–1910. 91
51. Maurice Denis, *Degas et son modèle, c. 1904–1906*. 110
52. Page in Edgar Degas’s sketchbook, undated. 113
53. Mary Cassatt, *The Coiffure*, 1891. 121
55. Gustave Courbet, *Woman with a Parrot*, 1866. 125
56. François Boucher, *Les Forges de Vulcain ou Vulcain présentant à Vénus les armes pour Enée*, 1757. 127
57. François Boucher, *Apollon révélant sa divinité à la Bergère Issé*, 1750. 129
Illustrations

58. Berthe Morisot, untitled copy of *Apollo Revealing His Divinity to the Shepherdess Issé* by François Boucher, 1892. 130


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