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978-0-521-84080-4 - Modern Women and Parisian Consumer Culture in Impressionist Painting

Ruth E. Iskin

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# MODERN WOMEN AND PARISIAN CONSUMER CULTURE IN IMPRESSIONIST PAINTING



This book examines the encounter between Impressionist painting and Parisian consumer culture. Its analysis of Impressionist paintings depicting women as consumers, producers or sellers in sites such as the millinery boutique, theater, opera, café-concert and market revises our understanding of the representation of women in Impressionist painting, from women's exclusion from modernity to their inclusion in its public spaces, and from the privileging of the male gaze to a plurality of gazes. Ruth E. Iskin demonstrates that Impressionist painting addresses and represents women in active roles, and not only as objects on display, and probes the complex relationship among the Parisienne, French fashion and national identity. She analyzes Impressionist representations of commodity displays and of signs of consumer culture such as advertising and shopfronts in views of Paris. Incorporating a wide range of nineteenth-century literary and visual sources, Iskin situates Impressionist painting in the culture of consumption and suggests new ways of understanding the art and culture of nineteenth-century Paris.

Ruth E. Iskin holds a PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has received the Andrew W. Mellon fellowship at the Penn Humanities Forum. Her publications include essays in *The Art Bulletin*, *Discourse* and *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*. She teaches art history and visual culture at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel.

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*Ben-Gurion University*



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## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10013-2473, USA

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107672468](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107672468)

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First published 2007

First paperback edition 2013

Printed in the United States of America

*A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*

Iskin, Ruth E.

Modern women and Parisian consumer culture in impressionist painting /

Ruth E. Iskin.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN: 978-0-521-84080-4 (hardback)

1. Women in art. 2. Consumption (Economics) in art. 3. Fashion in art.

4. Advertising in art. 5. Impressionism (Art) – France – Paris. 6. Painting, French – France – Paris – 19th century. I. Title.

ND1460.W65I85 2006

759.4'36109034 – dc22 2006013626

ISBN 978-0-521-84080-4 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-67246-8 Paperback

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*To my mother and sister Charlotte and Michal and in memory of my father  
Aharon Ernst Iskin*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



This book has been a long time in the making and I am indebted to many people and institutions. It began with a doctoral dissertation in the Department of Art History at the University of California, Los Angeles, where I benefited from studying with Professors Debora L. Silverman, Donald Preziosi, Cécile Whiting, Ann Bermingham, Albert Boime, and Samuel Weber. I am especially indebted to the advisors of my PhD dissertation: Debora L. Silverman, Donald Preziosi, and Cécile Whiting for their support and interest in my work.

Chapter 2 was first published in *The Art Bulletin* in March 1995; my thanks to Nancy Troy, the editor-in-chief at the time, for her comments. Some of the chapters in this book were written long after the dissertation was completed. I am grateful to colleagues and friends who read parts of the manuscript in different phases or helped in other ways along the way: Wendy Belcher, Nirit Ben-Arieh Debby, Ann Bermingham, Marilyn R. Brown, Joseph Bristow, Jill Carrick, Cristina Cuevas-Wolf, Heather Dawkins, Caroline Ford, Serge Gilbert, Zeynep Kezer, Fran Markowitz, Maureen Ryan, Michal Sapir, Relli Shechter, Richard Shiff, Susan Sidlauskas, Kerri Steinberg, Cécile Whiting, and the anonymous readers. All of these readers offered valuable insights and helpful suggestions, which were crucial in the revisions of this manuscript.

During the writing of this book, I benefited from presenting work in progress and am especially grateful to Richard Ericson, Caroline Ford, Serge Guilbaut, Eugene Narmour, Holly Pittman, Peter H. Reill, and Christine Poggi for providing these opportunities.

I am grateful to the staffs of libraries and to curators at museums in North America and in France. Special thanks to Judy Edwards and Jay Gam at the library of the Getty Research Institute; Suzanne Tatian and Carole Sommer at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA; the staffs of the libraries of the Andrew E. Young Library and Special Collections UCLA, the University of British Columbia and of the University of Pennsylvania, the Herbert D. and Ruth Schimmel Rare Book Library, Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. My gratitude to the staff and curators of the Cabinet des Estampes, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, especially Madame

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Jestaz, and Anne-Marie Sauvage for making posters available for my viewing. Special thanks to Réjane Bargiel, curator of the Musée de la Publicité, Paris, for sharing her knowledge of posters with me. My thanks to Thierry Devynck and the staff of the Bibliothèque Forney; the staffs of Musée Carnavalet, the Bibliothèque de la Ville de Paris, the Bibliothèque Marguerite Durand, the Documentation du Musée d'Orsay, Bibliothèque Ducet, and the Musée nationale de la Mode. I am especially grateful to Madame Roxane Debuissou for allowing me to study in her private collection in Paris; to Gloria Groom, Douglas Druick, and Judith A. Barter for access to the archives at the Chicago Art Institute; and to Lisa Tiersten for sharing her knowledge of Paris libraries and archives with me. I am also grateful to the staffs of libraries in Israel, especially to the staff of the library of the Israel Museum, the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the Hebrew University.

Many helped in locating photographs in private collections. My special thanks to Gloria Groom for her generous assistance and to all those who contributed to the process, especially Sylvie Brame, Douglas Druick, Kathrin Galitz, Kimberly Jones, Richard Kendall, Annette Lloyd-Morgan, Manuela Mena, Michael Merling, Matthew Percival, Joachim Pissarro, Jon Sydl, Gary Tinterow, Juliet Wilson-Bareau, Tonya Vernooy, and John Zarobell.

Research in Paris was made possible by the Dickson Travel Fellowship, UCLA. Several post-doctoral fellowships contributed to the realization of this project: The Ahmanson-Getty Fellowship at UCLA's Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies, the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Fellowship and the Green Scholar Award of Green College at the University of British Columbia, and the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship at the Penn Humanities Forum, the University of Pennsylvania. The final stages of the project were assisted by research grants and generous funds in support of the publication by the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and for these I am grateful to the Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Avishai Henik, the Rector, Jimmy Weinblatt and the office of the President.

My gratitude also to friends and colleagues in Jerusalem, Beer-Sheva, and Tel-Aviv for their warm welcome in Israel, where this project was brought to completion. Particular thanks to Beatrice Rehl, who commissioned the manuscript for Cambridge University Press and supported the project at every step; to Mira Frankel Reich for her editing of the manuscript; to Barbara Walthall for shepherding the manuscript through the production process; and to Yael Nevo for assistance in acquiring photographs. Finally, my deep gratitude to my sister Michal Iskin and my mother Charlotte Iskin for their enthusiasm and interest in my work and for providing warm homes during weekends in Jerusalem. This book is dedicated to them and in the memory of my father, Aharon Ernst Iskin, who first encouraged my graduate studies in art history years ago.