

Portraiture – Masculine Identity in France

Heather B.

Interior Portraiture
and Masculine Identity in France,
1780-1914

Temma Balducci,
Heather Belnap Jensen,
Pamela Warner, editors

The private person who squares his accounts with reality in his office demands that the interior be maintained in his illusions. This need is all the more pressing since he has no intention of extending his commercial considerations into social ones. In shaping his private environment he represses both. From this spring the phantasmagorias of the interior. For the private individual the private environment represents the universe. In it he gathers remote places and the past. His drawing room is a box in the world theater.

--Walter Benjamin, "Louis-Philippe, or the Interior"

We invite proposals for a collection that considers portraits of men in interior/domestic spaces over the long nineteenth century in France. Scholars of this period have conventionally associated men and masculinity almost exclusively with the public realm based on such paradigms as the "ideology of separate spheres" and Charles Baudelaire's flâneur. Indeed, in scholarly theorizations of modernity, this assumed relationship between masculinity and the public realm is ubiquitous. Men's relationships to interior spaces, which are typically associated with women and children, have been marginalized in such approaches. The numerous nineteenth-century portraits of men in interior spaces, however, suggest that such interpretations of both masculinity and modernity are limited. These images need to be investigated in terms of how they construct various understandings of masculinity as well as how such representations help to fashion conceptions of the modern.

The editors seek submissions that interrogate interior portraits of men in light of changes to the family, the impact of Haussmanization, homoeroticism, patronage, authenticity vs. masquerading, domesticity,

aging, family property, and other issues. Such examinations will necessarily take into account political, structural, and social changes that inflected understandings of masculinity, modernity, and public and private spaces. The editors hope to create a more complex and multifaceted understanding of masculinity in this crucial period of modernity in nineteenth-century France.

We encourage and wish to present multiple theoretical frameworks and perspectives.

Please send a 300-500 word proposal and a CV as electronic attachments in MS-word to Temma Balducci (tbalducci@astate.edu), Heather Belnap Jensen (heather_jensen@byu.edu), and Pamela Warner (pwarner@umassd.edu) by April 30, 2007.

Those invited to submit essay manuscripts will be held to a deadline of September 30, 2007.

Reference:

CFP: Portraiture - Masculine Identity in France. In: Arthist.net, Mar 21, 2007 (accessed Sep 13, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/29061>>.