The Use and Misuse of Fin-De-Siècle Decadence and Its Imagination

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Message from the Guest Editor

Fin-de-siècle decadence is an intricate hallmark that subsumed various aesthetic climates in the late nineteenth-century Europe, which were shaped into aestheticism, symbolism, escapism, dandyism, and fashionable subversion against bourgeoise conformism, etc. Marked by the sense of skepticism for industrial modern society, fin-de-siècle decadents gestured, in sum, an individually stylized form of aesthetic defiance. The clique of representative figures includes Charles Baudelaire, Arthur Rimbaud, Stéphane Mallarmé, and Joris-Karl Huysmans in France, and in England, Arthur Symons, Oscar Wilde, and Earnest Dowson, to name a few. Their literary works—novels, novellas, dramas, essays, and prose poetry—wielded the power of decadent imaginations, expanding their loci of sensorial expression to painting, theatrical performance, perfume, and cuisine. […]

Special Issue

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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