

The Esoteric-Aesthetic Vision of Sâr Péladan

*Ideal
Tradition
Hierarchy*

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Joséphin Péladan
1858-1918



Art is Man's effort to realise the Ideal, to form and represent the supreme Idea, the idea par excellence, the abstract idea, and great artists are religious, because to materialise the idea of God, the idea of an angel, the idea of the Virgin Mother, requires an incomparable effort and procedure. Making the invisible visible: that is the true purpose of art and its only reason for existence.

Péladan, L'art idéaliste et mystique (1894)

Artist, you know that art descends from heaven... it is a little piece of God within a painting... If you create a perfect form, a soul will come and inhabit it.



Frontispiece to *La Vice Supreme* (1884)
La decadence Latine, Felicien Rops,

- *La Décadence Latine: Ethopée* (1884-1907): 21 novels
- *La décadence esthétique*: 24 works on aesthetics & art
- *Amphithéâtre des Sciences Mortes* (1892-1899): sociopolitical applications
- *Les Idées et les Formes* (1900-1913): esoteric theoretical texts



Artists who believe in Leonardo and the Victory of Samothrace, You will be the Rose and Croix. Our aim is to tear love out of the Western Soul and replace it with the love of Beauty, the love of the Idea, the love of Mystery. We will combine in harmonious ecstasy the emotions of literature, the Louvre, and Bayreuth.

*Péladan, Salon de la Rose+Croix, 1892
Poster for Salon by Carlos Schwabe*

L'ordre de la Rose-Croix Catholique et esthétique du Temple et du Graal

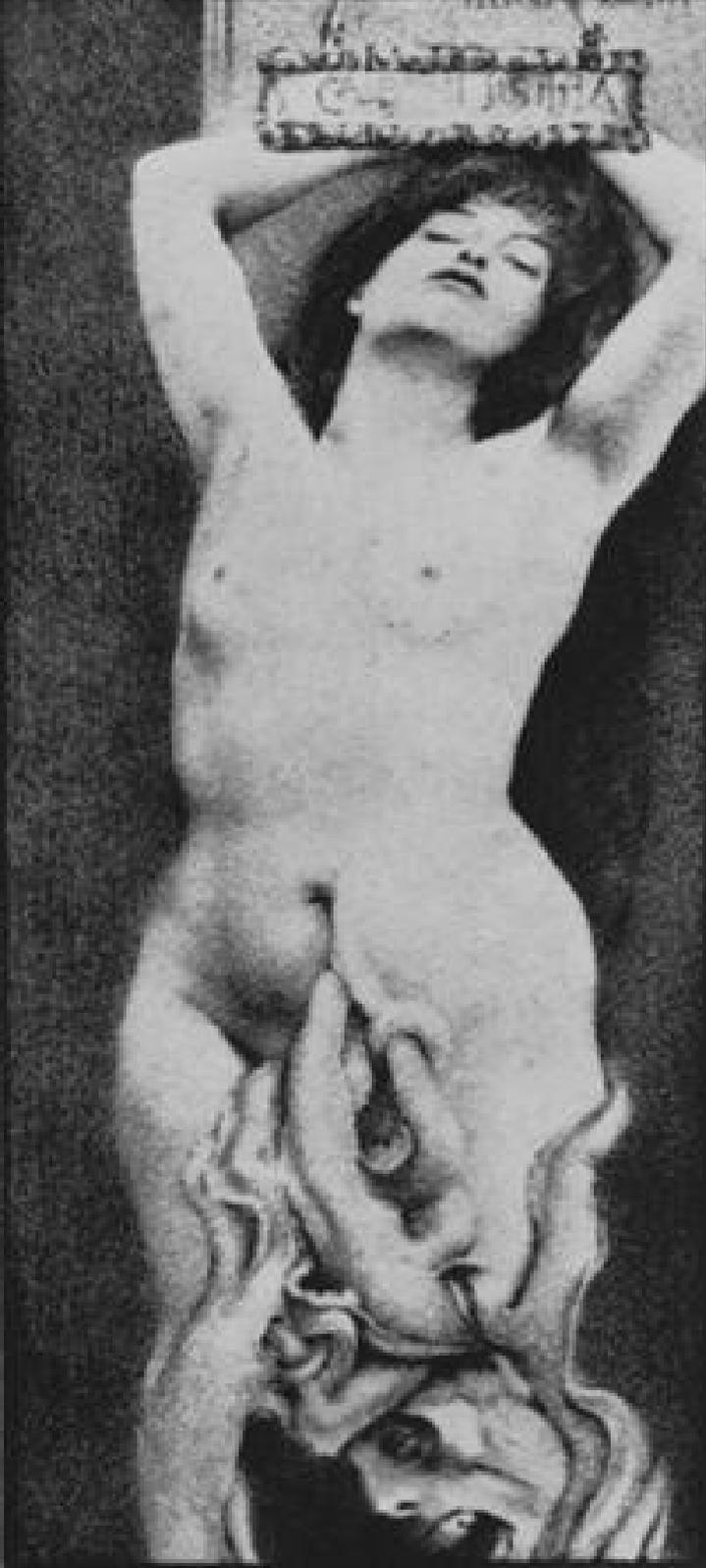


Neophyte

Rose-Croix
Art &
Science

The Word
of Jesus

Theodicy
The Grail
Intellect



>>>
Carlos
Schwabe,
*Spleen and
Ideal*
(1907)

<<<
Fernand
Khnopff,
Frontispiece
for *Istar*
(1888)





I know all things. I am serene and without desire; however my mission is to distribute desire, because my riddle provokes and raises all who gaze at me; I am da Vinci's gracious pentacle, I manifest his soul, which is never still, for it sees to high and too deep. I am she who does not love, because I am she who thinks, the only woman in art who, though beautiful, does not attract a kiss, I have nothing to give to passion, but, if intelligence approaches me, she will be mirrored in my expression, and I will help some become conscious of themselves.

*“I am the
androgynous of
forms...
I am the
announcer of the
mysticism of
Beauty, the
mysticism of
Art...”*



Aristophanes ... had a mind to praise Love in another way.

Mankind...has never at all understood the power of Love... In the first place, let me treat of the nature of man and what happened to it... The sexes were not two as they are now, but originally three in number; there were man, woman, and the union of the two, of which the name survives but nothing else. Once it was a distinct kind, with a bodily shape and name of its own, constituted by the union of male and female, but now only the word 'androgynous' survives, and that as a term of reproach...

Now the sexes were three... because the sun, moon, and earth are three, and man was originally child of the sun, the woman of the earth, and the man-woman of the moon... Terrible was their might and strength, and the thoughts of their hearts were great, and they made an attack on the gods...

[Zeus] spoke and cut men in two...

We must praise the god Love... for he promises that if we are pious, he will restore us to our original state, and heal us....

Jean Delville,
Parsifal
1890



Intellect and matter are correlatives, in other words, the one exists only for the other, they stand and fall together... They are in fact really one and the same thing.



Jean Delville, *School of Plato*, 1898



Before Oedipus, they knew that the answer to the riddle of the Sphinx is man, the microcosm, the divine agent, who recapitulates all the elements and forces of nature within him.

Edouard Schuré,
The Great Initiates

Esoterically, it represents the initial condition of man, which is identical to his final condition. It teaches him the secret of evolution and the secret of bliss... he knows that one day he will reconstitute his original unity.

Peladan, *De l'androgynie*



Fernand Khnopff:
Avec Verhaeren: Un Ange (1889)



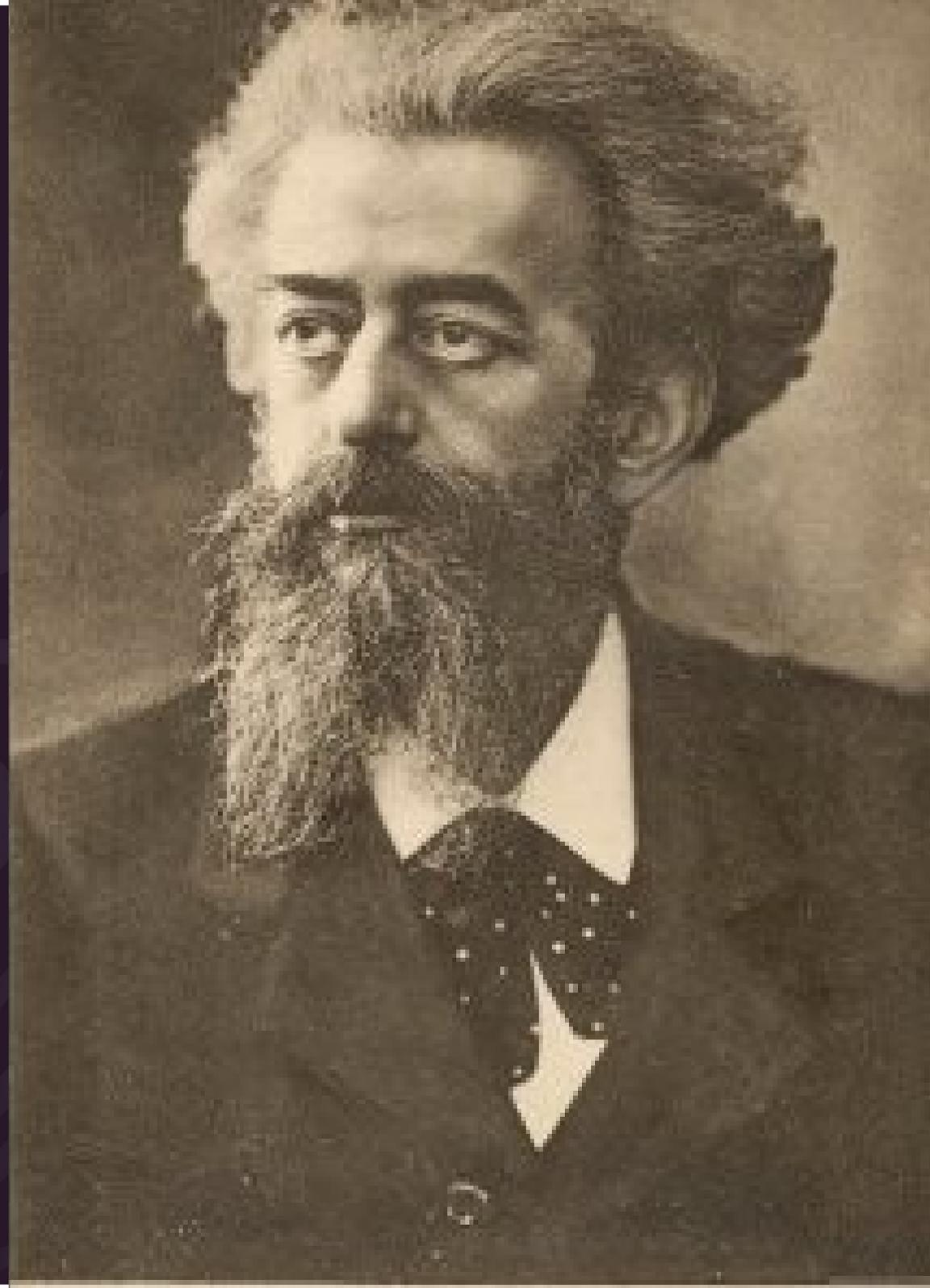
Art, or the Caresses (1896)



“I will die soon, it is all over for me;

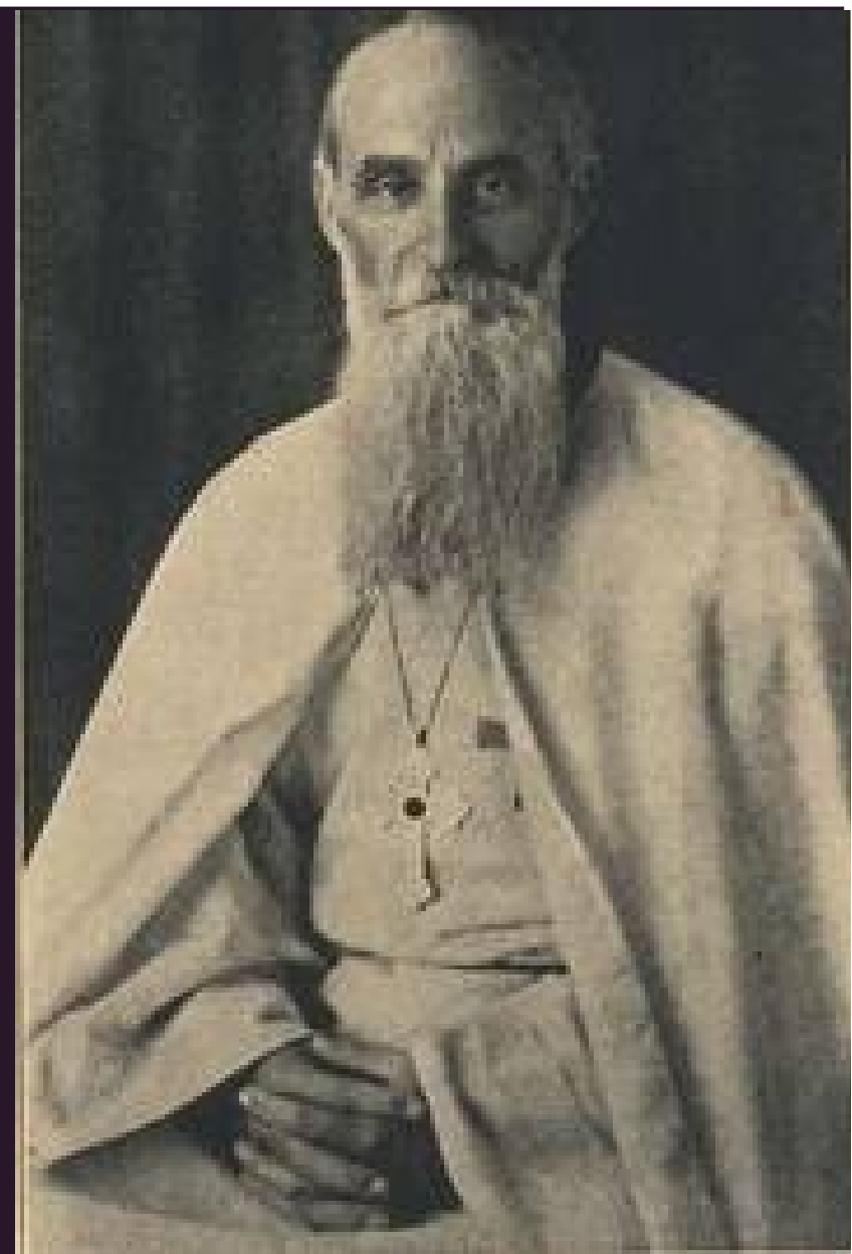
Everything I dreamed of has failed because I was wrong about the method. I am paying for it.”

Péladan, aged 60 (1918)
He died that year.





Emile Dantine
(1884-1969)
(Sâr Hieronymous)



Edouard Bertholet
(1883-1965)
(Sâr Alkmaion)



LA DÉCADENCE LATINE
PEREAT!
Le Sar PELADAN
PARIS
GUSTAVE FLAMMARION, ÉDITEUR

JOSEPHIN PELADAN
LA DÉCADENCE LATINE
ISTAR
PARIS
GUSTAVE FLAMMARION, ÉDITEUR

PÉLADAN
OEdipe et le Sphinx
PARIS
SOCIÉTÉ DE RECHERCHES SCIENTIFIQUES

PÉLADAN
Ecrivain Catholique
ÉTUDE LITTÉRAIRE
PAR
JULIEN DE TRÉVISE

PÉLADAN
La Dernière Leçon
de LÉONARD DE VINCI
PARIS
E. SANSOT & C^o

PÉLADAN
Les Idées et les Formes
Antiquité orientale
PARIS
E. SANSOT & C^o

L'ANDROGYNE
Illustration of a face on a rock



ROSE CROIX
SALON
20 MARS 1895
28 Avenue de l'Opéra

SAR MÉRODACK J. PELADAN
AMPHITHÉÂTRE
DES
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IV
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CALIFORNIA
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LA DÉCADENCE ESTHÉTIQUE
SIX
LE SALON
de
JOSEPHIN PELADAN
PARIS
E. DENTU, ÉDITEUR

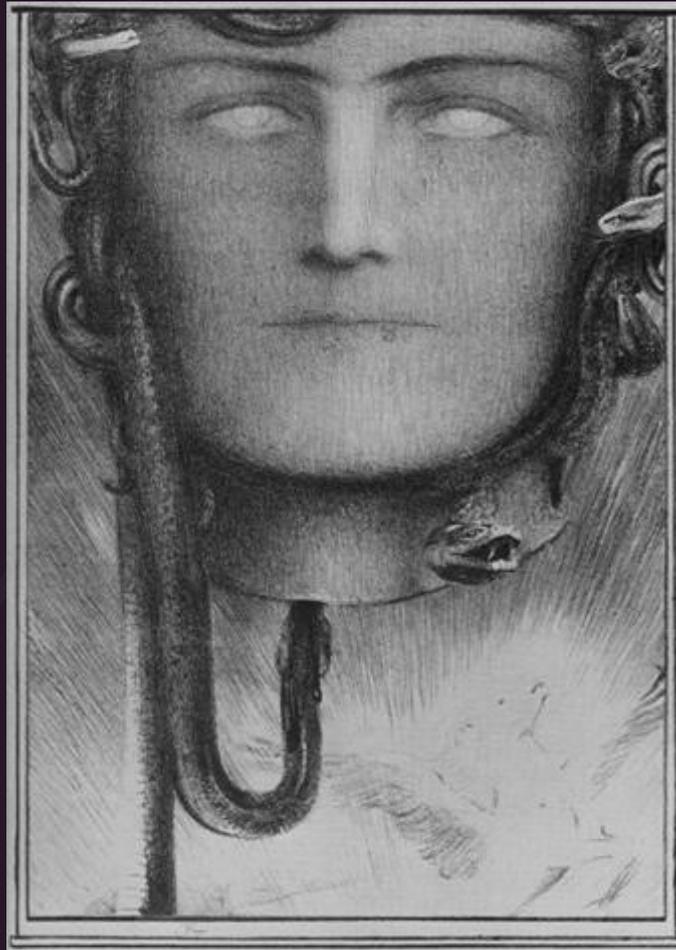
JOSEPHIN PELADAN
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LA GYNANDRE
PARIS
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PÉLADAN
L'ATHLÉTIE
STATUAIRE ANTIQUES
PARIS
E. SANSOT & C^o

PÉLADAN
LE SECRET
de
JEANNE D'ARC
PARIS
E. SANSOT & C^o

PÉLADAN
LA DOCTRINE DE DANTE
PARIS
E. SANSOT & C^o

Thank you!



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