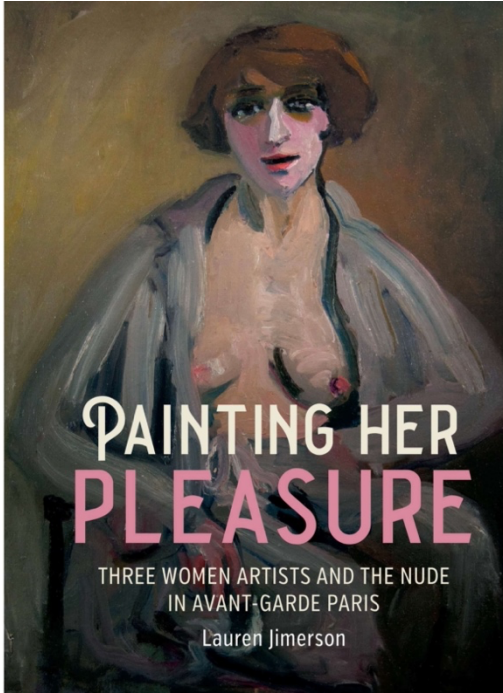


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THREE WOMEN ARTISTS AND THE NUDE IN AVANT-GARDE PARIS

BY LAUREN JIMERSON



In an era dominated by male artists, particularly in genres like the nude, Marie Vassilieff (1884–1957), Émilie Charmy (1878–1974), and Suzanne Valadon (1865–1938) shattered boundaries with unprecedented boldness. Through their art, they explored complex themes of gender, sexuality, pleasure, and self-perception. Vassilieff's innovative Cubist nudes challenged traditional views of gender and race, while Charmy's work daringly portrayed female sensuality and uninhibited pleasure. Valadon's raw, unfiltered depictions of the male nude displayed her pleasure and brought a new level of intensity to the portrayal of the male body. This book stands as the inaugural scholarly publication on Vassilieff in English, the first comprehensive exploration of Charmy's nudes, and a novel analysis of Valadon's unique approach to the male body.

Lauren Jimerson's cutting-edge study deeply probes the genre of nude self-portraiture: from Valadon's unvarnished representations of her mature form and Vassilieff's self-portrait dolls that blurred lines of gender and race, to Charmy's provocative self-depictions candidly revealing her body and pleasure, including during pregnancy. Together, these artists marked themselves as avant-garde pioneers.

Despite their significant contributions to modern art, their stories have been largely overlooked. This book aims to rectify that, providing an in-depth study of their lives, works, and the unique challenges they faced, while contextualizing their work within and against avant-garde currents. Through Jimerson's meticulous research and engaging prose, readers will gain insights into how these artists navigated the early 20th-century art world, their distinct styles and techniques, and their enduring impact on modernism.

Jimerson not only resurrects the legacy of these three artists, but also provides a fresh perspective on the evolution of the nude in avant-garde art. This book is a must-read for art enthusiasts, feminists, and anyone interested in the intersection of art and societal change. This enlightening book offers a new lens through which to view the history of modern art.

About the author

Lauren Jimerson, PhD is a Paris-based art historian specializing in modern European art. Focusing on gender dynamics and representation in art as well as the intersections of art and literature, her work has been recognized through prestigious grants such as the Fulbright and Mellon Fellowships. Jimerson has contributed to exhibitions on women artists at museums such as the Barnes Foundation, Musée de Montmartre, Musée du Luxembourg, and Centre Pompidou Metz. Her insights have also led her to appearances on NBC's *The Today Show* and France 24 as an art history commentator. Beyond her research, she lectures to diverse audiences through her online art history platform *Art with Friends* and in museums across the globe.



In conjunction with the release of this book, readers are invited to visit www.laurenjimerson.com, which hosts a digital exhibit for those interested in exploring the depths of these artists' contributions to modern art.

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