



## The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence Perversity, Despair and Collapse

By Kirsten Lodge

Dedalus Limited. Paperback. Condition: New. 346 pages. Dimensions: 7.7in. x 4.9in. x 1.1in. The sensationalism and morbid pessimism that characterized French decadence in the late nineteenth century quickly attracted converts throughout Europe, including Russia. The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence: Perversity, Despair and Collapse brings together horrifying, dramatic and erotic short stories and poetry, most of which have never before been translated into English, by the most decadent Russian writers. It includes scandalous writings by the well-known authors Valery Briusov, Leonid Andreyev, Fedor Sologub and Zinaida Gippius and acquaints English-speaking readers with the forgotten writer Aleksandr Kondratiev. These writers explore the darkest depths of the unconscious, as their characters experience sadism, masochism, rape, murder, suicide, and, in a story by Gippius, even passionate love for the dead. Briusov, the self-proclaimed leader of the Russian decadent movement, describes revolution or the spread of madness leading to the collapse of highly advanced but decadent civilizations that indulge in refined pleasures and ritualized orgies as they await the final hour. Andreyev portrays the collapse of all moral values on a personal level in his famous story *The Abyss*, which caused an uproar when it was first published. Femmes fatales lure men to destruction, but...



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The depravity and despair of decadence that burgeoned in France in the latter half of the nineteenth century had gripped all of Europe, including Russia, by the century's close. Originating in the superbly refined and subtly perverse poetry of Charles Baudelaire, Stéphane Mallarmé and Paul Verlaine and finding its quintessential expression in Gustave Moreau's sensual paintings of Salomé dancing for the lecherous King Herod, decadence gained widespread popularity in France in 1884 after the publication of Joris-Karl Huysmans's novel *Against Nature*. Other author's books: *The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence*. The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence. Menu. Homepage. *Perversity, Despair & Collapse*. by Kirsten Lodge Editor · Grigory Dashevsky Translator. ebook. Kate Griffin in *The Big Issue* 'By the end of the 19th century hope in Russia that literature might have provided either political or spiritual salvation had withered, leaving writers ripe to fall under the spell of JK Huysmans' apocalyptic decadence. The French-born movement, which espoused the notion that 'civilisation is in decline, reality as it exists is contemptible, and that the decadent hero, who is neurotic and sexually deviant, must create an alternative world for himself alone', had a direct appeal to writers such as Valery Briusov and Feodor Sologub. *Perversity, Despair and Collapse*. By: Kirsten Lodge. Publisher: Dedalus. Print ISBN: 9781903517604, 1903517605. Print ISBN: 9781903517604, 1903517605. The world's #1 eTextbook reader for students. VitalSource is the leading provider of online textbooks and course materials. More than 15 million users have used our Bookshelf platform over the past year to improve their learning experience and outcomes. With anytime, anywhere access and built-in tools like highlighters, flashcards, and study groups, it's easy to see why so many students are going digital with Bookshelf. Over a million titles available from more than 1,000 publishers. Subtitled "Perversity, Despair and Collapse", this is really for those who want to fill the gap in their knowledge of Russian culture - late nineteenth century Western decadence tended to elide into pessimism, despair and gloom as it got closer to Moscow. It also tended to be very derivative of Western forms and preoccupations. Until I picked up *The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence* I had very little idea that a literary decadent movement even existed in Russia. But exist it most assuredly did. The book features selections, prose and poetry, from seven Russian decadents, dating from the early 1890s to around 1910.

The word Decadence first appeared in Russian criticism in an 1889 article by Vladimir Grabar, a Hungarian-Russian law student studying in Paris who earned extra money by writing for a Russian newspaper. In it, he sympathetically defined Decadence as a rebellion against the strict formalism of the French Parnassian poets that emphasized subjective experience of the world.<sup>1</sup> In the same year, the promising young artist Mariia Iakunchikova (1870–1902) was diagnosed with tuberculosis and forced to move to Paris to avoid the strain the harsh Russian winters would put on her lungs.<sup>2</sup> Thus— Introduction to *The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence: Perversity, Despair and Collapse* (Sawtry: Dedalus). K Lodge. The “Mir iskusstva” Group and Russian Art. Like site? Add book. Sign In. Sign in. Under federal law, if you knowingly misrepresent that online material is infringing, you may be subject to criminal prosecution for perjury and civil penalties, including monetary damages, court costs, and attorneys’ fees. We check all files by special algorithm to prevent their re-upload. Send. 2007. *The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence: Perversity, Despair and Collapse*. Sawtry: Dedalus. Google Scholar. Lowry, Michael. Google Scholar. Sweeney, Carole. 2013. *Michel Houellebecq and the Literature of Despair*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. Google Scholar. Symons, Arthur. *The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence: Perversity, Despair and Collapse*, edited by Kirsten Lodge (Dedalus, £12). By the end of the 19th century hope in Russia that literature might have provided either political or spiritual salvation had withered, leaving writers ripe to fall under the spell of JK Huysman’s apocalyptic decadence. The French-born movement, which espoused the notion that “civilisation is in decline, reality as it exists is contemptible, and that the decadent hero, who is neurotic and sexually deviant, must create an alternative world for himself alone”, had a dir This book is not for the optimist or seeker of light-hearted fiction. These Russian stories and poems are extremely bleak and at times disturbing. The back cover states that “the writers explore the darkest depths of the unconscious, which lead their characters to sadism, masochism, rape, murder, suicide, and even passionate love for the dead.” Actually, some of those vile things are subtle or non-existent. For example, in no story did I come across any overt sadism or masochism. Almost all of the poetry can be characterized as bitter, despairing, and longing for death. Case in point are Sologub’s poems. Apparently, Sologub was given the appellation “Bard of Death” due to his glorification of death.

Perversity, Despair & Collapse. by Kirsten Lodge. Buy the eBook. Books related to The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence. Skip this list. The depravity and despair of decadence that burgeoned in France in the latter half of the nineteenth century had gripped all of Europe, including Russia, by the century's close. They sensed the imminent collapse of the culture they represented. In his programmatic 1894 poem "Children of Night," Dmitry Merezhkovsky, speaking for the generation writing at the turn of the century, proclaims that there is hope "but not for us. This generation will perish beneath the first rays of the sun that will shine for the new era that will replace it." The importance of Russian decadence has been underestimated, and it is hoped that this anthology, which includes many works never before translated into English, will bring it the recognition it deserves. The Last Martyrs. Valery Briusov. Buy a cheap copy of The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence: by Kirsten Lodge. The sensationalism and morbid pessimism that characterized French decadence in the late nineteenth century quickly attracted converts throughout Europe, including Free shipping over \$10. Book Overview. Including writings by the well-known authors Valery Briusov, Leonid Andreyev, Fedor Sologub and Zinaida Gippius, this collection explores the darkest depths of the unconscious, which lead their characters to sadism, masochism, rape, murder and suicide. The sensationalism and morbid pessimism that characterized French decadence in the late nineteenth century quickly attracted converts throughout Europe, including Russia. The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence: Perversity, Despair and Collapse brings together horrifying, dramatic and erotic short stories and poetry, most of which have never before been translated into English, by the most decadent Russian writers. It includes scandalous writings by the well-known authors Valery Briusov, Leonid Andreyev, Fedor Sologub and Zinaida Gippius and acquaints English-speaking readers with the forgotten Subtitled "Perversity, Despair and Collapse", this is really for those who want to fill the gap in their knowledge of Russian culture - late nineteenth century Western decadence tended to elide into pessimism, despair and gloom as it got closer to Moscow. It also tended to be very derivative of Western forms and preoccupations. Until I picked up The Dedalus Book of Russian Decadence I had very little idea that a literary decadent movement even existed in Russia. But exist it most assuredly did. The book features selections, prose and poetry, from seven Russian decadents, dating from the early 1890s to around 1910.