

For spring 2015 . . .

THE DECADENCE

American & Russian Art & Culture, 1890-1914

(HA 597 / SLAV 679)

Brilliant. Terrifying. Decadent. The extended turn of the twentieth century (1890 – 1914) was a stressful era in which bourgeois materialism and spiritual aspirations battled for human hearts and minds. Before this twilight world exploded into “the war to end all wars,” it created a dazzling cultural phenomenon known as The Decadence. Are the arts of this era the incandescent flicker of a dying past, or the harbingers of a new culture yet to form?

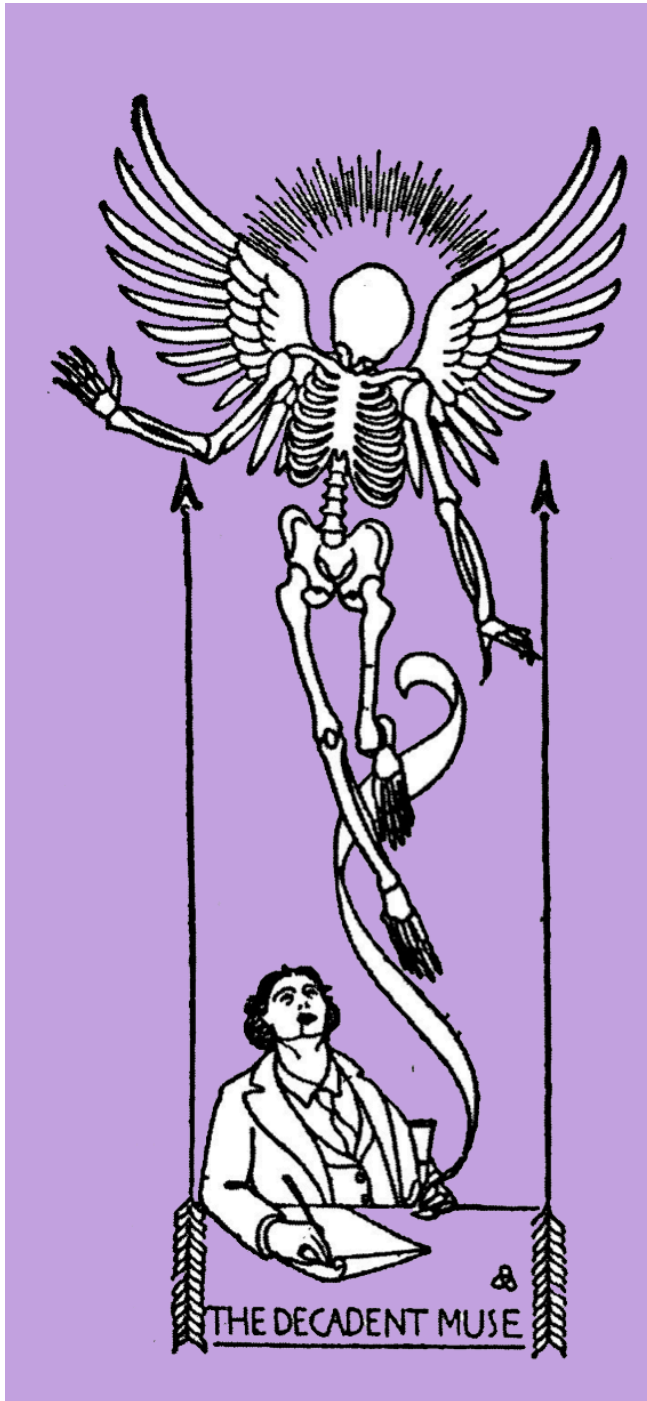
The center of decadence and symbolism lay in Paris and Vienna, but intriguing things were happening on the peripheries, in the US (Boston and New York) and the Russian Empire (St. Petersburg and Moscow). Artists of the peripheries shared in and contributed to the European phenomenon, but they never lost sight of their own national identities. Using a comparative approach, this course enters into the “conversation” between these two peripheries and the center and explores the larger cultural context of a world on the edge of imminent catastrophe.

Prof. Charles C. Eldredge, Art History, and Prof. emerita Maria Carlson, Russian Literature and Culture

Class meets in Spencer Museum #208, Mondays, 2:30-5:00.

Prerequisite: An introductory college-level course in art history *or* modern history, or consent of instructor. Russian language ability is not required.

Interested? Contact Prof. Eldredge (864-4713) or Prof. Carlson (864-2350)



Claude Bragdon, 1895