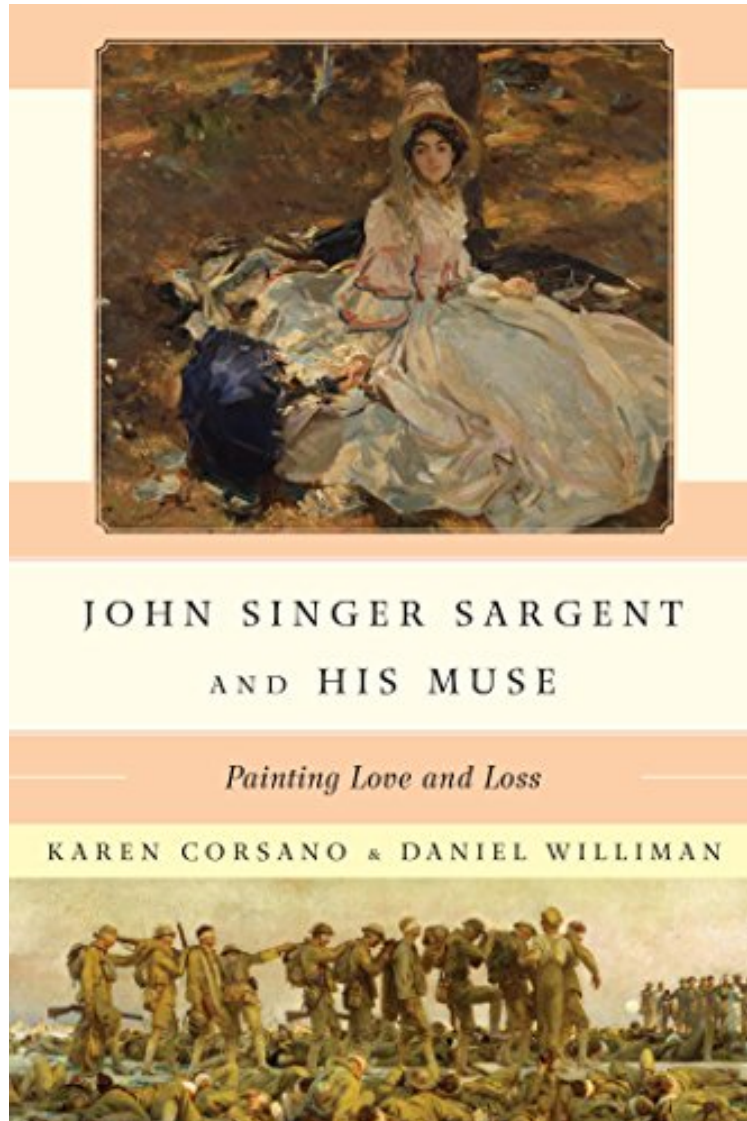


[Free pdf] John Singer Sargent and His Muse: Painting Love and Loss

John Singer Sargent and His Muse: Painting Love and Loss

Karen Corsano, Daniel Williman
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Karen Corsano, Daniel Williman : John Singer Sargent and His Muse: Painting Love and Loss before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Singer Sargent and His Muse: Painting Love and Loss:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Artist and his personal world By Doug Frey A thoroughly researched and highly detailed history of Sargent and his many connections, this book brings a deep context to the paintings and to the epoch. The recreational reader may feel a little overwhelmed by the flood of details and the spillover across continents and cultures, but the historian will surely revel in the finely grained picture of the world of

art and cosmopolitan privilege at the end of the 19th century. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Sandrapaints Love it!
9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A New Look at Sargent's World and Work
By jaylyn olivo
This wonderful book, which focuses on the life of Rosemarie Ormond, niece of John Singer Sargent and his most beloved subject, pulls together the history of Sargent's times, the lives of the cultured class on the Continent, and the love story of two shining lights of that class, both cut down in their prime and at the beginning of their married life. For a work of non-fiction, it is as close to a page-turner as I've read in some time, the stories of love and war and art merging to paint a vivid picture of WWI and its horrors and its particular tolls on one prominent family. The fluid writing, the brilliant setting of the scene of Rosemarie and Robert's lives, the insights into Sargent's life and his devotion to friends and family, and the particular slant on the history of a period we think we know but can always know better make for satisfying and illuminating reading. I commend this book to anyone interested in Sargent, his world, and the trials of Europeans faced with a brutal war.

This sensitive and compelling biography sheds new light on John Singer Sargent's art through an intimate history of his family. Karen Corsano and Daniel Williman focus especially on his niece and muse, Rose-Marie Ormond, telling her story for the first time. In a score of paintings created between 1906 and 1912, John Singer Sargent documented the idyllic teenage summers of Rose-Marie and his own deepening affection for her serene beauty and good-hearted, candid charm. Rose-Marie married Robert, the only son of Andreacute; Michel, the foremost art historian of his day, who had known Sargent and reviewed his paintings in the Paris Salons of the 1880s. Robert was a promising historian as well, until the Great War claimed him first as an infantry sergeant, then a victim, in 1914. His widow Rose-Marie served as a nurse in a rehabilitation hospital for blinded French soldiers until she too was killed, crushed under a bombed church vault, in 1918. Sargent expressed his grief, as he expressed all his emotions, on canvas: He painted ruined French churches and, in *Gassed*, blinded soldiers; he made his last murals for the Boston Public Library a cryptic memorial to Rose-Marie and her beloved Robert. Braiding together the lives and families of Rose-Marie, Robert, and John Sargent, the book spans their many worlds—Paris, the Alps, London, the Soissons front, and Boston. Drawing on a rich trove of letters, diaries, and journals, this beautifully illustrated history brings Sargent and his times to vivid life.

This biography casts new light upon the influences and family history of the famed American portraitist John Singer Sargent (1856–1925). Coauthors Corsano and Williman focus intently on two major figures in the artist's life: Rose-Marie Ormond, Sargent's niece and favored model, and her husband, Robert Andreacute;-Michel, an art historian and the son of a prominent French art critic. Wed in 1913, young Robert and Rose-Marie were 'raised in the cult of the beautiful,' moving in refined circles of artists, scholars, and connoisseurs. Corsano and Williman use the couple's correspondence records to eloquently chart the tragedy that WWI brings to their lives, and to the entirety of the European Belle Epoque. Robert perishes in the trenches as an infantry sergeant in 1917, and Rose-Marie bravely works as an army nurse until she too is killed, by German bombs, in 1918. The authors' final chapters reconsider Sargent's postwar work (including the mural masterpiece, *Triumph of Religion*) as memorial to his beloved family and to the era of beauty and refinement cut short by the Great War. (Booklist) An indelible account of lives maximally charged with talent and romance, and horribly undone by loss. Karen Corsano and Daniel Williman have produced a brilliant book, a tale of intertwined families that is at once panoramic and intimate. Full of apposite images and quotations from primary sources, it sets out to tell the story of John Singer Sargent's most famous commission—the murals for the Boston Public Library—but it ends up telling a story that is so much bigger, and even more moving. (Boston Globe) This powerful book describes the tragic result of the rush to Armageddon in August 1914 in a way that is not easily forgotten. The subtitle of this evocative book leaves no doubts about the human cost of the war: *Picturing Love and Loss*. (Art Eyewitness) Karen Corsano and Daniel Williman have written a gem of a book. Their research here reveals important new biographical discoveries that fill out the historical record on renowned artist John Singer Sargent and his body of work. In addition, the authors provide an intimately nuanced and textured account of select moments and events in the city of Paris and elsewhere during the First World War. This deeply archival and beautifully elaborated story of art and war, of human love and loss, will be of value and substantial interest to art historians and the general reader alike. (Sally M. Promey, Yale University; author of *Painting Religion in Public*) The authors have brilliantly captured a vibrant, artistic, and intellectual Europe on the brink of catastrophic change. They have combined the meticulous research and narrative pace of biography with the lyricism of a love story, which, were it not poignantly real, might seem to be the stuff of fiction. The adventure of Robert's scholarship and the beauty of Rose-Marie (captured in her unclersquo;s ravishing studies) are silent testaments to the glory of their short lives, the tragedy of the Great War that killed them both, and the pity of promise unfulfilled. (Elaine Kilmurray, research director, *John Singer Sargent Catalogue Raisonneacute;*) Corsano and Williman have created a tapestry of cultural and family connections, illuminating one particularly vibrant corner of the turn-of-the-century world of Sargent and his cosmopolitan friends—a world that would not survive the onslaught of war. The authors have focused on a fascinating cast of characters with a moving tale to tell. (Mary McAuliffe PhD, author of *Twilight of the*

Belle Epoque) Dan Williman and Karen Corsano have told the story of Robert and Rose-Marie Michel for the first time, against the richly textured artistic and intellectual milieu in which they grew up and flourished. . . . The research has been exemplary, the authors delving into French, English, and American archives (public and private) in search of their quarry. Particularly revealing for me is the new material on the Andreacute; Michel family and their network of relations; the story of Robert's career as a scholar; and the detailing of his military service from his reconstituted notebooks. Rose-Marie's wartime work as a nurse is documented and brought to life, including a rare illustration of her among a group of nurses, leading a line of blinded soldiers. Fascinating discoveries like that abound in a narrative that is at once poignant at the human level and revealing on the wider issues of scholarship, art, and war. (Richard Ormond, coauthor of *John Singer Sargent: Complete Paintings* (from the foreword))

About the Author Karen Corsano and Daniel Williman are historians who have collaborated on studies of the Latin archives of the Middle Ages. Now they have turned their attention to a more contemporary subject, whose secrets they have uncovered in archives and eyewitness journals and letters.