

JEANNE JACQUEMIN (French / 1863-1938)

Jeanne Jacquemin was born Jeanne-Marie Boyer in rue Pigalle, Paris, in 1863, later taking the surname of her stepfather Louis Coffineau.

She began her career as a writer and a critic, and first exhibited as a visual artist in 1892 as part of the *Peintres impressionnistes et symbolistes* that took place between 1891 and 1897. Her work was included in almost all of the following Symbolist and Impressionist exhibitions.

At 19 she married the natural history illustrator Édouard Jacquemin, but this marriage did not last, and by 1892, when she first exhibited at Le Barc de Bouteville (in the third of fifteen shows there featuring *Peintres Impressionnistes et Symbolistes*), she was living in Sèvres with the artist Auguste Lauzet.

Lauzet was a friend of Puvis de Chavannes, whose influence can be seen in the art of Jeanne Jacquemin. Lauzet died in 1898. Jeanne remarried twice, first to a doctor, Lucien Pautrier, and lastly to an occultist, Paul Sédir.

Jeanne Jacquemin's interest in the occult was a marked feature of her dreamlike work, and reflected in her close associates such as Jean Lorrain and J.-K. Huysmans; Lorrain championed her work, seeing her first as a muse and then as a vampire, while Huysmans based the character of Madame Chantelouve in *Là-Bas* at least partly on her.

Jeanne Jacquemin was a pioneering French female Symbolist, most active in the 1890s, when she exhibited alongside artists such as Paul Sérusier, Maurice Denis, Paul Gauguin, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

Jeanne Jacquemin died in Paris in 1938, having outlived by several decades the art movement to which she contributed a significant female voice. See: Leslie Stewart Curtis, "Jeanne Jacquemin: A French Symbolist), *Women's Art Journal* vol 21:2, Autumn 2000