



## In search of light

The mysticism of Octave Mirbeau, art critic

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Abstract: The oeuvre of Octave Mirbeau traces the portrait of a politically and ideologically engaged writer. In particular critics have emphasized his anticlericalism. The goal of this article is to examine his writings as an art critic. His friendship with Monet, his defense of impressionism, and the quality of his art criticism have all been noted. We will attempt to nuance each of these points and, indeed, to counter them as reductive assessments of a profound and complex writer and critic.

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