

# Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction And The Emergence Of Modernism

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*Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism*. By Ruth Hoberman. Charlottesville: U of Virginia P, 2011. xi + 236 pp.

The field of literary modernism is "a highly complex and hotly contested one, and there is no universal consensus on precisely what constitutes modernism,"<sup>1</sup> as Paul Poplawski reminds us. Its ever-expanding borders shift in meaning according to who uses the term, when, and how. Is anything essential to modernism? What is it that literary modernists do, as writers, as thinkers, that is unusual, unique, different, and specific to the time in which they wrote? Ruth Hoberman has located the emergence of literary modernism—and possibly that of the debate which continues to surround it—in the late Victorian and Edwardian period, and, specifically, in the "ongoing conversation about not only aesthetics but also the relation of individuals to institutions that, like the museum, seek to erase their bodily difference."<sup>2</sup> In the fascinating and detailed story of the development of the museum as we know it, Hoberman highlights the importance of the control of representation. Her topic is most decidedly the museum: the thinking behind its creation, the people concerned, debates which swirled at the inception, and its reception in the works of the literati. What emerges in the discussion of "the relation of visual and verbal representation,"<sup>3</sup> like the "mummies [which] break out of their museum-imposed stasis and silence to articulate their stories"<sup>4</sup> (in the chapter entitled 'Museum Gothic'), is the story of the ideas which motivated and disturbed writers such as Henry James and E.M. Forster.

When art moved from the private collection into the public museum, not only the venue changed, but also the context in which it was presented and the way in which it was received. Art participated in the angst of modernity, as its value was questioned but its commodification secured in the halls and glass cases of the British Museum and the Louvre. Newly-minted "experts" collected, controlled, and critiqued. "In the absence of a commonly accepted arbiter of value, there was 'fashion,' . . . [s]hoppers in quest of ordinary objects faced efforts to manipulate their desires through the

tendershepherds skincare.com: Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism (): Ruth Hoberman: Books. Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism. Front Cover. Ruth Hoberman. University of Virginia Press, Jun 10, - Literary. Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism. Pp. xii + Charlottesville and London.: University of Virginia Press. Museum Trouble has 0 ratings and 1 review. Candy said: Ruth Hoberman sets out to gain understanding not of how museums work, but of how literary history. PDF On Jan 1, , Nanette Norris and others published Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism by Ruth. Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism. Ruth Hoberman (Charlottesville and London: U of Virginia P, ) xi + pp. Ruth Hoberman, Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism. Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism. Richard L. Stein University of Oregon Correspondence: rstein@uoregon.edu. If the Victorians built museums, the Edwardians haunted them and were haunted by them. In Museum Trouble, Ruth Hoberman documents. Ruth Hoberman. Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, Hoberman Ruth. Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, Review of Ruth Hoberman, Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism. Randi Saloman. Uploaded by. Randi Saloman. connect to. Ruth Hoberman, Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, ). xi+pp For permission to include material in this essay derived from my book, Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism.

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