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## Three Paintings by Egon Schiele: Ideas About the Essence of Art

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*Egon Schiele (1890–1918) is one of the most significant representatives of Austrian expressionism, whose works influenced not only numerous painters and graphic artists, but dancers and theatrical stage employees as well. However, few academic publications are devoted to E. Schiele's creative work, and among the existing ones, there is a significant proportion of those where his paintings are considered as the evidence of deviations in the painter's mental health. The main method used in the present work is the philosophical and art studies analysis, appealing to the universal meanings of works of art. Three paintings: Self-Portrait with Black Vase (1911), The Holy Family (1913) and Death and the Maiden (1915), which can be combined into one series demonstrating the genesis of Egon Schiele's ideas about art in general and about his creative work in particular, are the material for this study.*

*Keywords: Egon Schiele, expressionism, turn of the 19th-20th centuries, G. Klimt, Vienna, self-portrait.*

*Research area: theory and history of culture.*

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### Introduction

As a rule, modern art studies are of interdisciplinary nature. The main purpose of these studies is to identify hidden senses and meanings in the signs of artworks. Semiotic analysis of artworks originated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, distributed in the humanities research of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and does not require special grounding in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (Seredkina, 2015). In addition to the semiotic analysis of literary (Kolesnik, 2016),