



Anna Boch

An Impressionist Journey

Virginie Devillez

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- Harmonious use of colour and delicate paintwork in a superb overview of the artist Anna Boch
- This book is published on the occasion of the exhibition *Anna Boch, An Impressionist Journey* at Mu.ZEE, Ostend from 1 July until 5 November 2023, and at the Musée de Pont-Aven from 3 February until 26 May 2024

The versatile Anna Boch (1848–1936) was not only a talented artist, but also a highly knowledgeable collector, generous patron, and enthusiastic traveller with a great love of music and architecture. She was the only woman to become a member of the prominent art societies Les XX and La Libre Esthétique, and she was treated as an equal by her fellow artists. Inspired by kindred spirits including Théo van Rysselberghe, Paul Signac and Georges Seurat, Anna Boch set about developing her own personal version of Neo-Impressionism.

Anna Boch's lucid paintings chart her search for line and colour. Her passion for nature took her to remote destinations and imbued her with dreams of beautiful bucolic landscapes that she wanted to interpret. She loved the sea and succeeded in capturing the light and its reflection upon the coast with unparalleled skill, translating it into intriguing but above all timeless compositions. This book presents her oeuvre with more than 100 works, and resolutely claims a place for Anna Boch in the art history of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Edited by Virginie Devillez, with the cooperation of Stefan Huygebaert and Wendy Van Hoorde.

Active for more than 25 years in the art world, **Virginie Devillez** is unanimously recognised as a Belgian and international art expert. Virginie Devillez holds a PhD in Contemporary History from the Université libre de Bruxelles (2001), published under the title *Le Retour à l'Ordre. Art et Politique en Belgique (1918-1945)* and awarded the Suzanne Tassier prize by the Royal Academy of Belgium. Curator at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium from 2001 to 2013, Virginie Devillez was the lead project manager of the Magritte Museum inaugurated in 2009. She was also a member of the Acquisition Committee of the Ixelles Museum. From 2013 to 2016, Virginie Devillez managed internationally renowned contemporary art galleries (Daniel Templon, Micheline Szwajcer) before joining Sotheby's where, from 2016 to 2023, she was an expert in Impressionist, Modern and Contemporary Art. In this framework, she was responsible for the sale of a large number of works by René Magritte and historical Belgian collections. Virginie Devillez is currently a member of the René Magritte Expert Committee, a scientific collaborator of the Université libre de Bruxelles and guest curator of the Ostend Museum for the research and exhibition project dedicated to the Impressionist Belgian painter Anna Boch. She also sits on the Acquisition Committee of the Delta Museum in Namur. Specialised in provenance, she is a member of the Federal Government's Study Commission for the creation of a Centre of Excellence in Provenance and Restitution. In 2023, Virginie Devillez created her own Centre of Fine Art Expertise and Advisory.