



The Origins of the World

Invention of nature at the time of Darwin

Laura Bossi

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- At the crossroads of science and art, this catalog compares the main milestones of scientific discoveries with their parallels in the collective imagination
- Featuring 300 works which testify on the influence of scientific discoveries on the imagination and art of the 19th century
- Accompanied an exhibition at Musée d'Orsay in Paris: December 2020 – May 2021. The exhibition has been organized with the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, Canada, which will take place from June - 27 September 2021

The 19th century saw an unprecedented development of the natural sciences. Darwinian theory questions the origins of man, his place in Nature, his links with animals and his own animality in a world now understood as an ecosystem. This upheaval in the sciences, as well as the public debates throughout the century, deeply influenced the artists.

The Musée d'Orsay and the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal are devoting an exhibition to the intersection of science and the arts for the first time, in partnership with the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, which will retrace the themes of this questioning and will confront the main milestones of scientific discoveries with their parallel in the art.

Laura Bossi, born in Milan (Italy), is a neurologist, science historian and Exhibition general curator. She is the author of many scientific publications mainly in the areas of epilepsy and neurodegenerative disorders. In the past few years, she has been increasingly involved in the history of ideas. Her book *Histoire naturelle de l'âme* (Presses Universitaires de France, 2003) has been translated into Italian and Spanish.

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