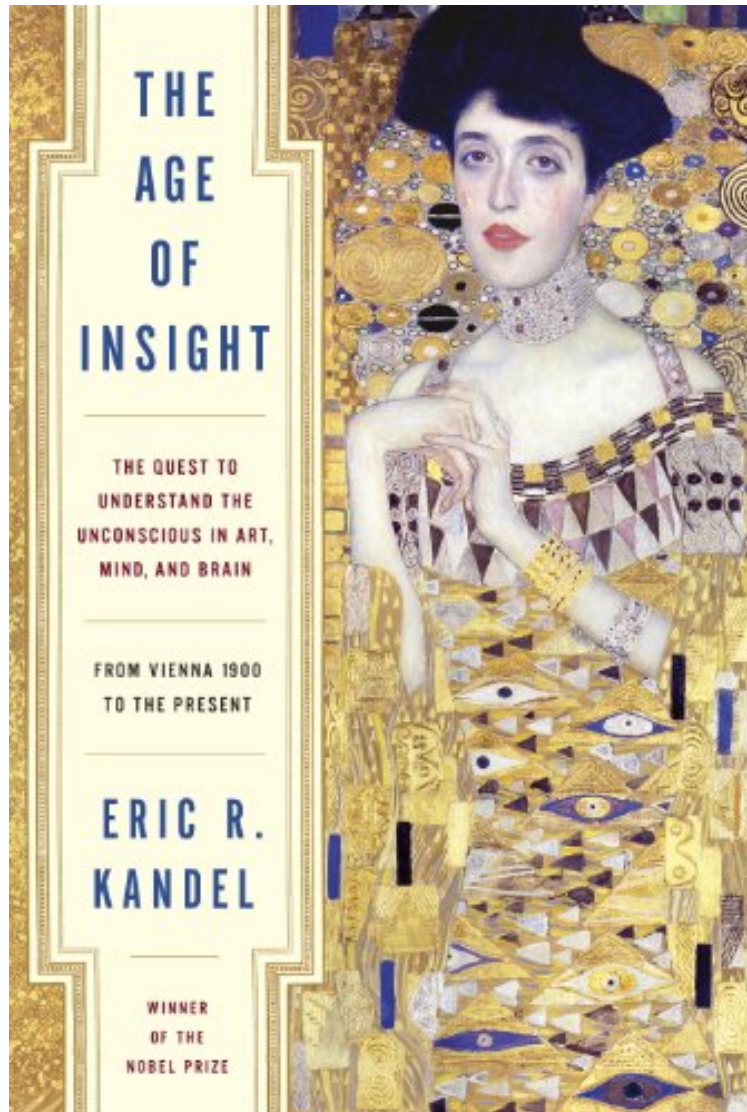


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## The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain, from Vienna 1900 to the Present

Von Eric Kandel

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Von Eric Kandel : The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain, from Vienna 1900 to the Present before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain, from Vienna 1900 to the Present:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A nice journey of exploring human mind from science to artVon INSIL SUHWhat a thoughtful and analytic piece of work from a wide range of perspectives!! My words are too limited to express how recommendable this book is. Anybody who is interested in knowing more about the conscious and the unconscious of human mind would thoroughly enjoy "The Age of Insight."7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Building a Bridge between Art and Science to Illuminate BothVon Donald Mitchell"But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light." -- Ephesians 5:13 (NKJV)The Age of Insight is a hard book to categorize. Professor Kandel's stated purpose is to demonstrate how a knowledgeable scientist can write clearly about science so that the interconnections between art and science can be exposed to those who know only about the art. As such, this book is more about informing those interested in the humanities than those whose interest is in science. As a necessary part of his method, there's a circumscription around a narrow set of artists and literary figures rather than an attempt to make a universal statement. To have attempted otherwise would have made a hefty book into a multi-volume tome that few would read.As someone who reads a lot of art history, history of science, and current research on mental processes, I was impressed by the conception of the book and how deftly it was carried out in ways that deepened my appreciation for subjects I have long been familiar with. I was grateful for these new perspectives. I found the book to be enjoyable for the most part. If I got to a part that was too elementary for what I wanted to absorb, I just skipped quickly through until I got to weightier material. I didn't have to do that very often.This book would be a wonderful gift to a budding artist or writer . . . or to an art historian in training. I'm sure that many wonderful shows could be mounted that would take advantage of the information here in ways that would delight museum and gallery goers.Although the book will seem flawed to some, I think it succeeds in its purpose of proposing a new way to write about art and science. I'm sure that future books that attempt to do the same will benefit from having observed how this one turned out.I particularly found the repeated examination of certain art works from different perspectives to be revealing. I think you will, too.A few times in my younger days I had the opportunity to speak to people who were alive in Vienna during the heady days of the salons that Professor Kandel describes here. Their descriptions carried to me a similar fascination with how the leading thinkers influenced one another there and then. I was pleased to be able to expand my understanding of that unique society in the late 19th century and early 20th century.I am not much of a fan of Klimt, Kokoschka, and Schiele. I was pleased to learn more reasons to appreciate their work. I must admit that if the subjects had been tied to artists I like better I would have enjoyed the book more . . . but don't let that stop you. This is an important book for you to read!Bravo, Professor Kandel!2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A very personal account of science and art in Vienna around 1900Von KARL KNOPThis is a very personal book of a (retired) leading scientist in neurobiology and a lover of art. For lay people with a strong interest in both topics it is certainly a delight to read, although sometimes a bit lengthy and repetitive. The scientific and artistic hotspot at Vienna around 1900, the birthplace of the author, is vividly described.I read the book in small digestible chunks over a longer time with great pleasure.

KurzbeschreibungA brilliant book by Nobel Prize winner Eric R. Kandel, *The Age of Insight* takes us to Vienna 1900, where leaders in science, medicine, and art began a revolution that changed forever how we think about the human mindour conscious and unconscious thoughts and emotionsand how mind and brain relate to art. At the turn of the century, Vienna was the cultural capital of Europe. Artists and scientists met in glittering salons, where they freely exchanged ideas that led to revolutionary breakthroughs in psychology, brain science, literature, and art. Kandel takes us into the world of Vienna to trace, in rich and rewarding detail, the ideas and advances made then, and their enduring influence today. The Vienna School of Medicine led the way with its realization that truth lies hidden beneath the surface. That principle infused Viennese culture and strongly influenced the other pioneers of Vienna 1900. Sigmund Freud shocked the world with his insights into how our everyday unconscious aggressive and erotic desires are repressed and disguised in symbols, dreams, and behavior. Arthur Schnitzler revealed womens unconscious sexuality in his novels through his innovative use of the interior monologue. Gustav Klimt, Oscar Kokoschka, and Egon Schiele created startlingly evocative and honest portraits that expressed unconscious lust, desire, anxiety, and the fear of death. Kandel tells the story of how these pioneersFreud, Schnitzler, Klimt, Kokoschka, and Schieleinspired by the Vienna School of Medicine, in turn influenced the founders of the Vienna School of Art History to ask pivotal questions such as What does the viewer bring to a work of art? How does the beholder respond to it? These questions prompted new and ongoing discoveries in psychology and brain biology, leading to revelations about how we see and perceive, how we think and feel, and how we respond to and create works of art. Kandel, one of the leading scientific thinkers of our time, places these five innovators in the context of todays cutting-edge science and gives us a new understanding of the modernist art of Klimt, Kokoschka, and Schiele, as well as the school of thought of Freud and Schnitzler. Reinventing the intellectual enquiry that began in Vienna 1900, *The Age of Insight* is a wonderfully written, superbly researched, and beautifully illustrated book that also provides a foundation for future work in neuroscience

and the humanities. It is an extraordinary book from an international leader in neuroscience and intellectual history. *Pressestimmen* Advance praise for *The Age of Insight* Eric Kandel has succeeded in a brilliant synthesis that would have delighted and fascinated Freud: Using Viennese culture of the twentieth century as a lens, he examines the intersections of psychology, neuroscience, and art. *The Age of Insight* is a tour-de-force that sets the stage for a twenty-first-century understanding of the human mind in all its richness and diversity. Oliver Sacks, author of *The Mind's Eye* and *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* In a polymathic performance, a Nobel laureate weaves together the theories and practices of neuroscience, art and psychology to show how our creative brains perceive and engage art and are consequently moved by it. . . . A transformative work that joins the hands of Art and Science and makes them acknowledge their close kinship. Kirkus s (STARRED) A fascinating synthesis of art, history, and science that is also accessible to the general reader. A distinctive and important title that is also a pleasure to read *Library Journal* (STARRED) Engrossing Nobel-winning neuroscientist Kandel excavates the hidden workings of the creative mind. Kandel writes perceptively about a range of topics, from art history the books color reproductions alone make it a great browse to dyslexia. Kandel captures the readers imagination with intriguing historical syntheses and fascinating scientific insights into how we see and feel the world. *Publishers Weekly* A fascinating meditation on the interplay among art, psychology and brain science. The author, who fled Vienna as a child, has remained captivated by Austrian artists Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka and Egon Schiele, each of whom was profoundly influenced by Sigmund Freud and by the emerging scientific approach to medicine in their day [calls] for a new, interdisciplinary approach to understanding the mind, one that combines the humanities with the natural and social sciences. *Scientific American* Eric Kandel's book is a stunning achievement, remarkable for its scientific, artistic, and historical insights. No one else could have written this book all its readers will be amply rewarded. Howard Gardner, Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education Eric Kandel's training as a psychiatrist and his vast knowledge of how the brain works enrich this thoroughly original exploration of the relationship between the birth of psychoanalysis, Austrian Expressionism, and Modernism in Vienna. Margaret Livingstone, Professor of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School This is the book that Charles Darwin would have produced, had he chosen to write about art and aesthetics. Kandel, one of the great pioneers of modern neuroscience, has effectively bridged the two cultures science and humanities. This is a task that many philosophers, especially those called new mysterians, had considered impossible. V. S. Ramachandran, author of *The Tell-Tale Brain* Eric Kandel has created a masterpiece, synthesizing brain, mind, and art like no one has before. Joseph LeDoux, NYU, author of *The Emotional Brain and Synaptic Self* [This book] offers not only a stunning organic (in every sense of the word) view of fin de siecle culture but also opens new vistas in bioaesthetics. It explores the often shocking neurology of the beautiful. And it shows how artist and scientist interlace in the common quest to discover the innards of reality. I don't render the visible, said Paul Klee, I make visible. He echoed Edna St. Vincent Millay's *Euclid alone looked on beauty bare*. Eric Kandel is of that company. Frederic Morton Nobel laureate Eric Kandel's path-setting exploration of the connections between neuroscience and the painters Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka establishes a new frontier in the study of this all-important historical period. The shift toward a biological conception of self, which began in Vienna over a hundred years ago, has since decisively shaped our understanding of human nature. Jane Kallir, director, *Galerie St. Etienne* With infectious enthusiasm and limitless reverence for his multiple subjects, Kandel deftly steers the reader through a vast and inviting territory of science, the creative process, the mind, emotion, eroticism, empathy, feminism, and the unconscious. Years in the making, this highly readable book presents a magisterial study of brain, mind, and art. Alessandra Comini, University Distinguished Professor of Art History Emerita, Southern Methodist University *Kurzbeschreibung* A brilliant book by Nobel Prize winner Eric R. Kandel, *The Age of Insight* takes us to Vienna 1900, where leaders in science, medicine, and art began a revolution that changed forever how we think about the human mind our conscious and unconscious thoughts and emotions and how mind and brain relate to art. At the turn of the century, Vienna was the cultural capital of Europe. Artists and scientists met in glittering salons, where they freely exchanged ideas that led to revolutionary breakthroughs in psychology, brain science, literature, and art. Kandel takes us into the world of Vienna to trace, in rich and rewarding detail, the ideas and advances made then, and their enduring influence today. The Vienna School of Medicine led the way with its realization that truth lies hidden beneath the surface. 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understanding of the modernist art of Klimt, Kokoschka, and Schiele, as well as the school of thought of Freud and Schnitzler. Reinvigorating the intellectual enquiry that began in Vienna 1900, *The Age of Insight* is a wonderfully written, superbly researched, and beautifully illustrated book that also provides a foundation for future work in neuroscience and the humanities. It is an extraordinary book from an international leader in neuroscience and intellectual history.