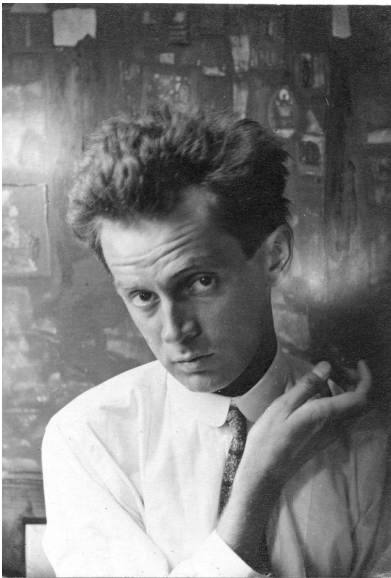


Egon Schiele

And one of his greatest pieces



Egon Schiele was an Austrian painter born on June 12, 1890. As an artist he was active primarily during the early 20th century and, therefore, he was an expressionist. His works have a very distinguished, specific style. His art is provocative, somewhat dark and gloomy, with a prevailing amount of nudes. One of his most famous art pieces is "Portrait of Wally," which is an artwork he created in 1912 portraying his model and former lover Walburga "Wally" Neuzil. This artwork is famous not only for its artistic density, deep feeling and unique softness of colors created by Schiele, but also because it was the centerpiece of a complex and highly publicized legal case that went on for more than 13 years.



Expressionism is a part of modern art movement and just as impressionism its goal is not creating a photographically perfect and very realistic image of life. Expressionism values emotions and feelings. Art of this period is characterized by gestural brushstrokes which convey extreme emotions. Artists use arbitrary colors in their works, thus objects have unnatural colors. People could have blue face, grass could be red, sky — yellow and etc. Typically, expressionist art is not very positive, because its essential goal is to portray extreme emotion, which due to the anxiety about, at that time, modern world was predominantly negative.



"Portrait of Wally" has a lot of different tones and colors. There are no supplementary color contrasts and low saturation most likely because Egon Schiele tried to make the painting look very harmonious and calm. Her face is pale and, generally, beige. However, she has some blue strokes next to her nose, eyes, on her forehead and next to her ears. If we look closely we could also see some orange, grey, brown, green and even a little bit of black on her chin. The collar of her dress is also not entirely white — it has some blue spots, some beige and even greenish stains. Her brown hair has a lot of green-black strokes in it and her brows have a very distinct red color in them. Just as the collar, background is not entirely white either. It looks a little grey, because it has a lot of dirty-white strokes which have a little blue in them, a little green, yellow, red and etc.

The plant is probably the most color-varied part of the painting: it has yellow, brown, green, red, black, blue colors. Just like all other works of Egon Schiele, this particular art piece is made by cool colors with relatively low saturation.

Egon Schiele was a major expressionist and his work represents this art movement very well. Despite the "dirtiness" and dullness of the color pattern in the painting, it has a very calm and appealing tone into it. Walburga "Wally" Neuzil was a very significant person to Egon Schiele and was romantically involved with him, therefore he portrayed her in a good perspective, showing compassion and love to her. He used dull, but soft and pretty colors to show his warm feelings towards her. Especially he paid a lot of attention to her eyes. He painted them with a very appealing, dreamy blue color and some white spots on iris to show their brightness, which is probably because he loved her eyes a lot. All of Egon



Schiele works have a very unique and specific texture. He used hard brushes and painted with large strokes, which are very obvious to the viewer. This "negligence" is a very distinct characteristic of expressionism which was partially created and established by Egon Schiele. The lines in his art are also a very significant characteristic of his work. Just as the color, they are unnatural and contradict the sizes and shapes of objects in reality. Wally in his painting has a big head, big eyes, a small chin and a quite big mouth, which is unrealistically close to the bottom of her face. The lines in his art are curved, sometimes sharp and very "quick". This makes the expression of feelings in his art even more "extreme".

