

# Mucha

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All about the Belle Époque: Delicate illustration that defined an era

With his instantly recognizable decorative style, Czech artist and Art Nouveau master **Alphonse Mucha** (1860–1939) defined the look of the fin-de-siècle. In evocative shades of peach, gold, ochre and olive, his **seductive compositions of patterns, flowers, and beautiful women** became paradigms of the Belle Époque years.

Mucha's work permeated illustration, posters, postcards, and advertising designs of his day. His striking posters of **star actress Sarah Bernhardt** were particularly famous. Alongside this delicate decorative work, Mucha also harbored committed **humanist ideals** and **nationalist beliefs**. With monumental works such as *The Slav Epic*, he expressed his staunch support for Pan-Slavism, promoting the political independence of the Czech and Slavic nations from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

This book presents key works from Mucha's distinctive oeuvre to introduce an artist who, with few rivals, distilled the spirit of an age.

#### **About the Series:**

Each book in TASCHEN's Basic Art series features:

- a detailed chronological summary of the life and oeuvre of the artist, covering his or her cultural and historical importance
- a concise biography
- approximately 100 illustrations with explanatory captions



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