Josef Schusser

Josef Schusser (1864–1941) gained recognition as a portraitist of aristocrats, entrepreneurs, and artists, such as the violinist Jan Kubelík. He established himself as a painter of allegories and figurative scenes set in landscape, and also worked as an illustrator; his connection to books ran deep, as he had trained as a bookseller in his youth. After studying figurative painting under Vojtěch Hynais (1854–1925) at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague in the 1890s, Schusser also continued his academic training in Munich with Johann Caspar Herterich and joined the local Škréta association. He also spent time in France and England. From 1902, he taught at the School of Applied Arts in Prague. Artistically, Schusser drew inspiration from Neo-Romanticism, Symbolism, and Art Nouveau. Following the example of his Prague professor, he painted plein-air nudes executed in the spirit of fin-de-siècle Luminism. Later, he created canvases filled with vibrant colours and luminous effects, with striking compositions and landscapes inspired by poetry. He was a member of the Mánes Union of Fine Arts. From 1892 to 1914, he regularly exhibited with the *Krasoumná jednota* (Fine Arts Association), and after 1900, also with the Jednota umělců výtvarných (Union of Creative Artists).