



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

By Eric Kandel

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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. 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 women's 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 pioneers—Freud, Schnitzler, Klimt, Kokoschka, and Schiele—inspired 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 today's 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. 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.

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Editorial Review

Review

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 Reviews (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 book’s color reproductions alone make it a great browse—to dyslexia. . . . Kandel captures the reader’s imagination with intriguing historical syntheses and fascinating scientific insights into how we see—and feel—the world.”

—**Publisher’s 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 siècle culture but also opens new vistas in bioesthetics. 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 infectuous 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

About the Author

Eric R. Kandel is University Professor and Kavli Professor at Columbia University and a Senior Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Kandel is founding director of the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, and recipient of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work on memory storage in the brain. He is the author of *In Search of Memory*, a memoir that won a *Los Angeles Times* Book Award, and co-author of *Principles of Neural Science*, the standard textbook in the field. He was born in Vienna and lives in New York with his wife, Denise.

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Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain, from Vienna 1900 to the Present. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this guide?

Louise Schmidt:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain, from Vienna 1900 to the Present it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book features high quality.

Daniel Hartung:

This The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain, from Vienna 1900 to the Present is great book for you because the content which is full of information for you who also always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it details accurately using great arrange word or we can claim no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain, from Vienna 1900 to the Present in your hand like getting the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no publication that offer you world with ten or fifteen small right but this e-book already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt in which?

Diane Lomas:

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