

Abstract

Mikhail Kuzmin's (1872-1936) *Wings* (*Kryl'ia*, 1906) is in search of a new community defined by its focus on a subjective form of reading and study of texts, images, and languages outside of the general Russian readership. **Through *Wings*, Kuzmin grasps his readership with a textual montage of sensations that sets itself in opposition to other forms of text in the period.** My project seeks to define how *Wings* desires to create community in its readership, ushering a revolution unlike the political 1905 Russian Revolution.



Symbolism (1890-1900s)

- Poetry is the “cryptography of the inexpressible”
- Symbolists construct the world through creativity, word, aesthetics

Acmeism (1910s)

- Greek *acme*: highest degree, maturity, peak
- Strove for sensual clarity over the fuzzy symbol and metaphor
- Where Kuzmin closely resides to perfect poetic form

Futurism (1912-1916) → 1917

- Force, speed, technology, revolution

In Search of a New Russian Readership:

Communal Experience and Literary Form in Mikhail Kuzmin's *Wings*

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“The body itself, matter, will perish, and works of art, Phidias, Mozart, Shakespeare, let's say, will perish but the idea, the type of beauty enshrined in them cannot perish, and that is, perhaps, the only valuable thing in the changing and transient diversity of life” – Mikhail Kuzmin, Wings

