Hochman, Barbara

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Date
1988

Contributor
University of Missouri Press

Format
Book

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Abstract
Over the past twenty years, critics have increasingly challenged the conventional wisdom on Frank Norris as an exponent of literary naturalism. In the present study, Barbara Hochman goes still further in redefining his affinities. She focuses on his artistry as a storyteller, and on his overriding concern with human contact and the functions of aesthetic form. Hochman begins by considering traditional approaches to Norris. She notes thin although the rhetoric of the narrative voice and the pattern of events in his fiction made Norris’s work seem to fit neatly into the naturalist category, his four major novels—Vandover and the Brute, McTeague, The Octopus, and The Pit—lend themselves to very different readings. Hochman argues that the imaginative focus of Norris’s work centers on the vulnerability of the self and its quest for a measure of equilibrium. She shows how Norris’s work increasingly depicts constructive individual responses to experience, and the stabilizing power of memory, language, and art. These concerns are seen to account for the enduring vitality of Norris’s work, and for the popularity it enjoyed in its own time.-- Book jacket.

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Start by marking “The Art of Frank Norris, Storyteller” as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Reevaluating Norris’s standing as a naturalist relative to other ideas within his work, Hochman sets aside the critical focus on literary naturalism to show Norris’s artistry as a storyteller and his concern with human contact and the functions of aesthetic form. Get A Copy. Kindle Store. Frank Norris was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1870, and moved to San Francisco at the age of fourteen. He later became a member of San Francisco's artistic Bohemian Club, which included such literary notables as Jack London and Ambrose Bierce. He studied painting in Paris for two years, where he was exposed to the naturalist novels of Emile Zola. The Art of Frank Norris, Storyteller University of Missouri Press (1988) ISBN 0-8262-0663-8. McElrath, Joseph R., Jr. and Crisler, Jesse S. Frank Norris: A Life, University of Illinois Press (2006) ISBN 0-252-03016-8 (the definitive biography of Norris). This article might use material from a Wikipedia article, which is released under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share-Alike License 3.0. Browse by Author's Name.