NEW AESTHETIC THEORIES

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1. The Aesthetic movement began in France, in the last decades of the 19th century;
2. It reflected the sense of frustration and uncertainty of the artists. It reacted against the materialism and the restrictive moral code of the bourgeoisie and his need to re-define the role of art;
3. The Aesthetic movement’s motto was “Art for Art’s sake”;
4. The Aesthete lived leading an unconventional existence, pursuing sensation and excess, and cultivation art and beauty.

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John Everett Millais, *Ophelia*, 1851-52.

Tate Gallery, London

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| The source of the painting | The paint is about Ophelia, an *Amlet*’s protagonist. |
| The painter’s aim | It’s a new way of represent art. The painter want to put into light, trough the Ophelia, not the characteristics of the figure but something else about the real life. |
| The model | The painting depicts Ophelia singing while floating in a river just before she drowns. |
| The technique | Oil on canvas.  Millais produced *Ophelia* in two separate stages: He first painted the landscape, and secondly the figure of Ophelia |
| The background | The scene is described in Act IV, Scene VII of Hamlet in a speech by [Queen Gertrude](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gertrude_(Hamlet)). |
| Symbolism | Ophelia is immersed in a rivere surrounded by flowers. all the types of flowers have a big importance on the paint because they means the uneasy of life. |