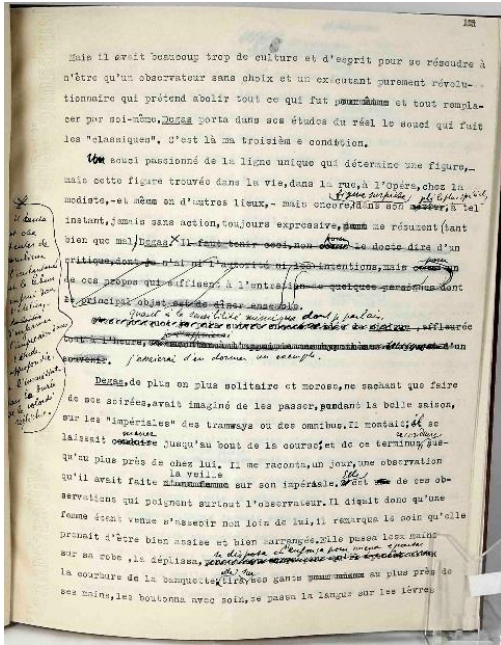


Valery, Paul. **Mimesis**. Typed, corrected manuscript (1933). Four page with numerous corrections. [*Mimesis* is a chapter from *Degas Danse Dessin* (published Paris: Gallimard 1938)]. The manuscript was used for the final version of the book, but it has many changes including typed overstrikes and the crossing out of words and entire sentences that do not appear in the final version. Over 30 changes, some grammatical and stylistic, but several complete sentences are deleted and new thoughts composed. Quarto. Bound in red cloth, paper label. 4p (numbered M1-M4) Bound in is a note signed “P Valery” to collector Andre Schück conveying the manuscript, with envelope.



This small but important section of Valery's *Degas Danse Dessins* describes Degas' way of seeing the female form. To Valery, Degas drew the “l'animal féminin” in different attitudes of her daily life: tying a ballet shoe or ironing a blouse, or at the bath in order to show the entire system of her living mechanism with the clarity of a facial expression: “grimacer comme un visage.” Degas sought a “ligne unique qui détermine une figure” one not seen in classical art or by any artist before him.

One page from the manuscript

Valery then recounts a wonderful anecdote told to him by Degas: Degas describes his evening habit of riding on an open deck of a bus all across Paris. On one occasion, Degas carefully observes a working woman seated across from him going through her precise ritual of precautions and movements in the arrangement of her gloves, her skirt, her expression, her entire person in a very personal routine until she arrives at a “nouvel état d'équilibre apparemment stable, mais qui ne dure qu'un moment..”

The art historian Douglas Cooper writes that the reader of Valéry's writings will find in *Degas Danse Dessin* an “impressive, tortuous and allusive piece of writing...where we are given glimpses of Degas the man” (and also of Valery the writer) (Cooper xxxiii-iv).

Ref: (Cooper): Degas, Manet, Morisot. Translated by David Paul. With an introduction by Douglas Cooper.[New York] : Pantheon Books, [1960]; Provenance: Andre Schück's library was sold in three sales in Paris in 1986, 1987,-2005: To an American collector.

Valery manuscripts rarely appear on the market.