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L'essai d'un portrait de l'intellect en tant que simulacre Paul Valéry, *Introduction à la méthode de Léonard de Vinci* (1894)

- **Publication type:** Article from a collective work
- **Collective work:**
[Essai et essayisme en France au xix^e siècle](#)
- **Author:** Klettke (Cornelia)
- **Abstract:** Valéry's essay is said to be conceptual but might better be described as poetic. It is based on an "imaginative logic" which works with metaphors used to reflect the mind of the "*universal man*", who distinguishes himself through his "mental reach" and "continuity". By rendering an abstract vision concrete, Valéry creates a *portrait* of the "pure" intellectual's intellect – inevitably incomplete – and shows it be a myth of modernity.
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