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The Knight errant

Within the long history of recalling the image of the Christian knight, the article focuses on German paintings from the turn of the 19th century to the Weimar Republic. Notably before the First World War painters, writers and philosophers were attracted by the image of the lonesome virtuous knight representing unconquerable masculine power while excluding femininity and sex life. With regard to the history of interpreting Albrecht Dürer's famous engraving "Ritter, Tod und Teufel", the article explores how Hans Thoma, Max Slevogt, Lovis Corinth, Oskar Kokoschka and Paul Klee perform and deconstruct the knight's heroic masculinity before and after the war.