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Art Appreciation lecture series 2025

Legendary Stories: Leonardo da Vinci to Murakami

Madame Sada Yacco as Kesa, Rupert Bunny

Dr Morris Low



Rupert Bunny, *Madame Sada Yacco (Sadayakko) as Kesa*, c.1900

Lecture summary

Be transported to turn-of-the-century Paris through the work of Rupert Bunny, and encounter actress Kawakami Sadayakko, or in French, Sada Yacco, who came to be known as Japan's Sarah Bernhardt. Collaborating with American Loie Fuller, Sada Yacco created one of the star attractions at the 1900 Paris Universal Exposition/World's Fair. Bunny portrayed Sada Yacco in a suite of three paintings that were exhibited at the Salon d'Automne in 1909 and were regarded as some of Bunny's most exceptional works. We will **firstly** focus on Bunny's paintings of the Japanese actress Sada Yacco and **then** examine who Sada Yacco was, how Bunny came to paint her, and what her impact was.

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