



## *Eroticism* in Andreas-Salomé, Lou (1861–1937)

Matthew Del Nevo  
Catholic Institute of Sydney, Australia

Eroticism in Salomé means love's desire and the desire for love, the doubled conflictual irreconcilable oscillation of feeling and being between the two; and the excess of love and desire beyond the individual and the havoc of this. The word sexuality she uses synonymously but it has a broader meaning also: the skein of inter-relation and interconnection between all men and women at an unconscious level of operation. Eroticism is in that regard more manifest in our actual sexual life and erotic fantasy. There is a feminine kind of eroticism and masculine kind both with roots in psychological bisexual complimentary. "Only in womankind is sexuality no surrender of the ego boundary, no schism; it abides as the homeland of the personality, which can still include the sublimations of the spirit without losing itself" (Journal 118). The masculine is narcissistic in Freud's sense, not just of the "mirroring" of self and the building of self through identifications and repetitions, but the ability, also, that to find himself a man must lose himself. Narcissus sees his reflection in the water but also behind and above and all around, the Encompassing, the sheltering sky. And for Narcissus, the depths are all on the surface and shimmer, eroticism in the masculine register is inflected like this. Narcissistic eroticism is non-procreative. In order for man to be creative the ego boundary must be surrendered, there must be schism, sublimations will be made at the expense of the erotic and sexual drives.

### **Primary Sources:**

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