

Throughout her career Woolf was captivated by questions about the relationship between literature and painting, word and image. Her intense interest in the field of the visual arts was reflected in her development of a new literary method. Woolf's use of the visual arts in her writing largely transcends a mere decorative function. Her employment in her texts of visuality represents a significant stylistic innovation by means of which she rejects the conventional way of depicting reality and the descriptive realism of the nineteenth-century writers. In attempt to develop a modern way of writing, which would render reality more in accord with the modern sensibility, she employed in her texts principles underlying the contemporary theory and practice in the visual arts relying particularly on the aesthetics of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism. The principles of these two styles exist side by side and complement each other even in Woolf's later works which have been considered as predominantly post-impressionist. The objectives of Post-Impressionist art became known to Woolf through the theories of Roger Fry which turned out to be a major formative influence in the shift towards her new aesthetics.