

*THE ANIMAL GAZER* by Edgardo Franzosini

A Reading Group Guide

What did Rembrandt Bugatti see in the animals with whom he felt such a strong connection?

Bugatti was a member of a distinguished family. What does the reader of this book learn about his relationship to his father and his brother and how did that influence him?

How would you describe the development of Bugatti's art in the period before and after the start of the First World War?

What contacts did Bugatti have with other artists and cultural figures? How did this influence him?

Discuss the situation in Antwerp during the war and how Bugatti responded to it.

The critic Michael Brenson praises this "memorable portrait not only of a famed yet ill-fated artist most at home in the zoo, but also of a Europe whose cruelties are infinitely more extreme than any form of animal behavior." What does Brenson mean?

Describe the style in which Edgardo Franzosini has written this book and the atmosphere he creates.

Would you define Rembrandt Bugatti as an artist of his time and what makes his career distinctive?

What were the factors that contributed to the sculptor's ultimate fate?

Here is an informative video about an exhibition of Rembrandt Bugatti's sculpture at the Alte Nationalgalerie in Berlin in 2014. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjcVI7dtqSU>