

Nietzsche and the problem of the art of *décadence*: hysteria and theatricality

Isadora Petry*

Abstract: The present article deals with the concept of *décadence* in Nietzsche's philosophy, aiming to comprehend it departing from the physiological analyses of the 'art of the *décadence*', where Nietzsche characterizes Wagner as modernity's perfect *décadent* due to his histrionism and "theatrical excesses". In order to achieve its goals, the present article concentrates itself, mainly, in *The Case of Wagner* (1888) and certain posthumous fragments from the period of 1883 to 1889. As a cross-reference to the approach of the art of *décadence*, we shall consider Nietzsche's reading of Paul Bourget's "*Essais de Psychologie Contemporaine*" (1883), in which Bourget locates *décadence* as a problem rooted in the disaggregation of the part in relation to the whole.

Key-words: *décadence*, art of *décadence*, physiology, Richard Wagner.

* Mestranda em Filosofia pela PUC/SP, bolsista FAPESP e BEPE pela Université du Québec à Montréal, com orientação de Chiara Piazzesi. São Paulo, SP, Brasil. Contato: isadorapetry@gmail.com