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| Kokoschka, Oskar (Born: 1886 – Poechlarn, Austria; Died 1980 – Villeneuve, Switzerland) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| The Austrian painter, graphic artist, writer, and playwright Oskar Kokoschka received distinction as a protégé while still studying at the Viennese School of Applied Arts. He worked for the Wiener Werkstätten (Vienna Workshops) on a freelance basis, creating decorative objects in the Jugendstil for the Cabaret Fledermaus in Vienna, which subsequently also staged his plays, ‘Mörder, Hoffnung der Frauen’ (Murder, Hope of Women) and ‘Sphinx und Strohmann’, (Sphinx and Strawman), both written before the age of twenty-five.  In 1908, Kokoschka published an illustrated love poem that prefigured later Expressionist poetry, ‘Die träumenden Knaben’ (The Dreaming Boys), which he dedicated to Gustav Klimt. Also in 1908, he participated in an international exhibition held in Vienna, the Kunstschau, where he displayed tapestry designs, illustrations for his drama, ‘Mörder’, the illustrations for ‘Knaben’, a poster entitled *Pieta,* and an allegorized self-portrait bust, skull-like with open mouth as if screaming, washed in blue, which was purchased by Adolf Loos, who became a trusted friend and fervent admirer of the young artist. Klimt had also supported Kokoschka’s inclusion in the exhibition due to his admiration of the young artist whom he considered to have an outstanding talent. As the older generation of ‘moderns’ had feared, the reaction of the critics and the general public was heated and hostile to Kokoschka, considering his work to be outrageous and barbaric, but it served to make him notorious and well known. Some of his early classroom sketches were bought by Koloman Moser and Emil Orlik. |
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| Further reading:  (Barron)  (Vergo) |