

John Keats

He was born in London in 1795. He was a surgeon, but he self-educated in Latin and Greek. He was very poor and couldn't afford his marriage with Fanny Browne. He died in 1821 because he was ill of tuberculosis.

He wasn't appreciated as a poet during his life because his poems presented unconventional themes. He celebrated art in his immortality (since he understood he would die soon). In fact he is considered a forerunner of Decadentism.

Remarkable is the "Ode on a Grecian Urn" in which he celebrates the immortality of art and gets the conclusion that "Beauty is truth - truth Beauty". He refers to art with its truth, not to factual reality.

The "Ode on a Grecian Urn"

Keats was inspired by a Grecian Urn he had seen in the British Museum which had just opened.

The poem shows Keats's aesthetic philosophy and celebrates the immortality of art. In fact the two young people on the urn will never kiss and will never be old.

We feel the eternity of art and of their love.