

Other definitions of *Modernismo*

"...the new spirit which today animates a small but triumphant and proud group of writers and poets of Spanish America: the spirit of Modernism. This implies: elevation and factual accuracy in criticism, in prose, freedom, imagination and the triumph of the beautiful over the didactic; originality in poetry and the infusion of colour, life, air and flexibility to old verse forms which suffered from repression for they were pressed between imitated iron moulds."

Rubén Darío, in an article on Peruvian writer Ricardo Palma, 1890

"*Modernismo* unites solitary Romantic rebellion, the musicality of the word learned from Symbolism and the artistic precision taken from the Parnassians. It is not a mere reflection of European poetry: it assumes its own characteristics and is rooted in the Spanish Baroque. Its originality consists in creating the unexpected from existing material." (XVIII)

Angel Rama, "Prologo" in Poesía (a Rubén Darío anthology published by Biblioteca Ayacucho)

"Modernism is the linguistically rich and formally innovative literary movement that began in the late 1870s and that lasted into the second decade of the twentieth century [when it was supplanted by the Hispanic American Vanguard]. Its recourse to European artistic visions and poetic models— primarily French Parnassian and symbolist verse— reflected a dissatisfaction with the restrictive Spanish poetics of the day, a longing for cultural autonomy, and a desire to achieve a sense of equality with the great cultures of Western Europe. With its faith in the poet and poetry, it also proposed a profound response to the crisis of beliefs that surfaced among the philosophers and artists of Spanish America towards the end of the nineteenth century, a crisis similar to the one that had dominated intellectual circles throughout the West since Romanticism."

Cathy L. Jade, "Modernist Poetry" in Cambridge History of Latin American Literature, vol. II