



David Zwirner Books

Swedenborg Society: Panel Discussion

Vernon Lee, Swedenborg and Psychological Aesthetics in the Art Gallery

A panel discussion

The Psychology of an Art Writer
Vernon Lee

David Zwirner Books

Featuring

Michael Bracewell

Professor Patricia Pulham

Cally Spooner

Dr Francesco Ventrella

and

James Wilson



In collaboration with David Zwirner Books

WEDNESDAY 26 September 2018 | doors open 6.30 pm
for a 7.00 pm start

FREE ADMISSION (but book in advance)

To mark the occasion of the publication of Vernon Lee's *The Psychology of an Art Writer* by David Zwirner Books, the Swedenborg Society and David Zwirner Books will be hosting an in-depth panel discussion entitled 'Psychological Aesthetics in the Art Gallery'.

An openly lesbian, feminist writer, Vernon Lee (1856-1935)—a pseudonym of Violet Paget—is the most important female aesthete to come out of nineteenth-century England. Widely known for her supernatural short stories, Lee was familiar with Swedenborg, as were many from the literary, artistic and intellectual circles she moved in: Robert Browning, Henry James, William Dean Howells, H G Wells, Sarah Orne Jewett and Harriet Martineau, to name but a few.

Admired for her fiction, Lee's contributions in the fields of aesthetics, philosophy of empathy, and art criticism are characterized by extreme attention to her own responses to artworks, and a level of psychological sensitivity rarely seen in any aesthetic writing. That this side of her work hasn't gained the recognition it deserves is something this evening will seek to redress.

MICHAEL BRACEWELL is a writer and cultural commentator. A Turner Prize judge in 2007, his works include *The Nineties: When Surface was Depth* and *Perfect Tense*.

PATRICIA PULHAM is Professor of Victorian Literature, University of Surrey, Secretary of the British Association for Victorian Studies and editor of *Victoriographies*.

CALLY SPOONER is an artist based in Athens and London. She was writer in residence at Whitechapel Gallery in 2016/17 has exhibited internationally.

FRANCESCO VENTRELLA is Lecturer in Art History at the University of Sussex, and the recipient of the Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellowship and the Rome Fellowship.

JAMES WILSON is librarian and editor at the Swedenborg Society. He is the author of the essay collection *Images of the Afterlife in Cinema* and the novel *Three Bridges*.

— **TIME:** 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm
(doors open at 6.30 pm)

— **DATE:** 26/09/2018

— **ADMISSION:** Free
(but book in advance)

— **VENUE:**
Swedenborg Hall
20/21 Bloomsbury Way
London WC1A 2TH
0207 405 7986
info@swedenborg.org.uk

— **NEAREST TUBE:**
Holborn /
Tottenham Court Road

— **TICKETS:**
www.swedenborg.org.uk
https://vernonlee.eventbrite.co.uk

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