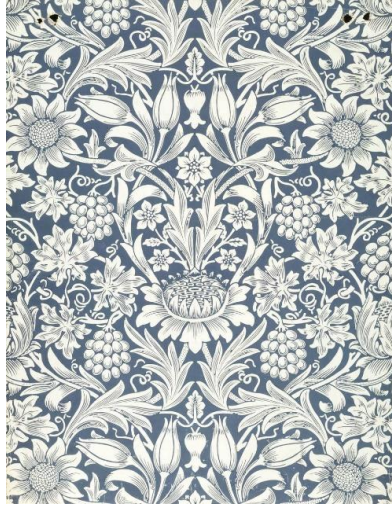


Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November York Medical Society Rooms at 2pm

**'William Morris on the Wall'** a talk by Dr Imogen Hart



Sunflower Wallpaper, designed by William Morris, manufactured by Jeffrey & Co, 1879, England, Museum No E501-1919 © Victoria and Albert Museum

'I say the walls, because after all, the widest use of pattern-designing is the clothing of the walls of a room, hall, church, or what building you will.'

William Morris 'Some Hints on Pattern Designing' (1894)

The display of Morris's patterns on walls of different kinds - from the home to the museum - brings his work into contact with a diverse range of objects, users, audiences, and rituals. Analysing Morris's wallpaper and textiles designs alongside his lectures on decoration, this talk will explore the significance of the wall in Morris's work.

Morris famously declared: 'Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful'. He produced outstanding work within a number of what he called 'the lesser arts', the 'decorative' or 'applied' arts as opposed to the traditionally 'fine' arts of painting and sculpture: wallpaper, furniture, textiles (tapestries and carpets), stained glass, metalwork, calligraphy and printing, among them. Morris believed that these were more democratic than the fine arts, which were arts 'for the few' and which only the rich could afford to buy. By contrast anyone could view in a church the beautiful stained-glass windows produced by the Morris firm.

Dr Hart is currently Teaching Fellow in the History of Art at Oxford Brookes University. After completing her PhD at York, she has worked at the Yale Center for British Art at Newhaven, and taught at the University of California, Berkeley. Among her many publications is her book *Arts and Crafts Objects* (Manchester University Press 2010).

This talk is designed to coincide with the exhibition '**The Art of Wallpaper: Morris & Co**' at York Art Gallery (27 September-23 February).

The talk will be followed by tea/coffee and cake. Cost: **£22 50**