

'Self-portrait' (1864)
Courtesy of Tate Britain.
Bequeathed by
Sir William Bowman Bt,
1898



George Frederic Watts Centenary Conference

**Friday 12 November 2004 (10.00- 19.00)
at Tate Britain and at the National Portrait Gallery**

2004 marks the centenary of the death of Victorian painter and sculptor George Frederic Watts (1817-1904). Watts was a central figure in the Victorian era: a friend of Tennyson, the Pre-Raphaelites, photographic pioneer Julia Margaret Cameron and, briefly, the husband of the actress Ellen Terry. Precociously gifted and self-taught, he was the most revered figure in British art from 1880 onwards. He was also, however, a complex and elusive figure. Influenced by evolutionary theory, he reinterpreted the tradition of the classical figure, and his philanthropic and educational interests informed numerous projects for a more affective public art.

Jointly organised by Tate Britain and the National Portrait Gallery, and supported by the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, this one-day Conference coincides with Tate Britain's new display *The Symbolic Paintings of G F Watts*, and

with the Portrait Gallery's major exhibition *G F Watts, Portraits: Fame & Beauty in Victorian Society*. It is divided into two sections: the first, held at Tate Britain, focuses on new readings and interpretations of Watts' work; the second, at the National Portrait Gallery, explores Watts' career as a portraitist and public figure. It is followed by a drinks reception and private view of the Watts exhibition.

Invited speakers include: Paul Barlow, Stephanie Brown, Barbara Bryant, Lara Perry, Kenneth McConkey, Elizabeth Prettejohn, Colin Trodd, David Stewart, and Shelagh Wilson

Tickets: £35 (£25 concessions)

For further details please e-mail: joanna.banham@tate.org.uk