

DEMOCRATISING BEAUTY IN NINETEENTH-  
CENTURY BRITAIN

Could the self-interested pursuit of beauty actually help to establish the moral and political norms that enable democratic society to flourish? In this book, Lucy Hartley identifies a new language for speaking about beauty, which begins to be articulated from the 1830s in a climate of political reform and becomes linked to emerging ideals of equality, liberty, and individuality. Examining British art and art writing by Charles Lock Eastlake, John Ruskin, Walter Pater, Edward Poynter, William Morris, and John Addington Symonds, Hartley traces a debate about what it means to be interested in beauty and whether this preoccupation is necessary to public political life. Drawing together political history, art history, and theories of society and supplemented by numerous illustrations, *Democratising Beauty in Nineteenth-Century Britain* offers a fresh interdisciplinary understanding of the relation of art to its publics.

LUCY HARTLEY is Professor of English at the University of Michigan. She is the author of *Physiognomy and the Meaning of Expression in Nineteenth-Century Culture* (2001), and she has written essays on a wide range of subjects including intellectual history and art history, John Stuart Mill and Alexis de Tocqueville, and nineteenth-century aesthetic theories. She is the editor of *The History of British Women's Writing, 1830–1880* (forthcoming).

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DEMOCRATISING BEAUTY IN  
NINETEENTH-CENTURY  
BRITAIN

*Art and the Politics of Public Life*

LUCY HARTLEY



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*To David Glover and Cora Kaplan*

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