

# Useful & Beautiful

THE TRANSATLANTIC ARTS OF WILLIAM MORRIS & THE PRE-RAPHAELITES



"Useful & Beautiful: The Transatlantic Arts of William Morris and the Pre-Raphaelites" will be the subject of a conference and related exhibitions to be held 7–9 October 2010 at the University of Delaware (Newark, DE) and at the Delaware Art Museum and the Winterthur Museum & Country Estate (Wilmington, DE). Organized with the assistance of the William Morris Society in the United States, "Useful & Beautiful" will highlight the strengths of the University of Delaware's rare books, art, and manuscripts collections; Winterthur's important holdings in American decorative arts; and the Delaware Art Museum's superlative Pre-Raphaelite collection (the largest outside Britain). All events will focus on the multitude of transatlantic exchanges that involved Morris, the Pre-Raphaelites, and the Arts and Crafts and Aesthetic movements of the late nineteenth century.

In addition to sessions featuring internationally known scholars and experts, there will be a keynote lecture by the writer, Fred Kaplan; demonstrations by leading practitioners who make Arts and Crafts objects; a recital of early music; and a performance of Oscar Wilde's

*The Importance of Being Earnest* by the University of Delaware's critically acclaimed Resident Ensemble Players. Special exhibitions are scheduled at the University of Delaware Library, the University's Old College Gallery, the Delaware Art Museum, and the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Fred Kaplan, the noted biographer and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, will give the conference keynote address on Thursday, 7 October 2010, at 4:30 p.m. in the Reserve Room of the Morris Library. Kaplan is the author of many books, including *The Singular Mark Twain*; *Gore Vidal*; *Henry James: The Imagination of Genius*; *Dickens: A Biography*; *Thomas Carlyle* (finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Pulitzer Prize); and, most recently, *Lincoln: The Biography of a Writer*. His lecture, on "Useful and Beautiful: Henry James and Mark Twain," is sponsored by the University of Delaware Library Associates and associated with the exhibition, *London Bound: American Writers in Britain, 1870–1916*, at the Morris Library (24 August–17 December 2010).

## REGISTRATION

Online registration for "Useful & Beautiful" is available at [www.udel.edu/conferences/uandb/index.html](http://www.udel.edu/conferences/uandb/index.html). You can also register by downloading a form and mailing it to Conference Services at the University of Delaware. The conference fee is \$150 or \$75 for students; no charge for University of Delaware faculty, students, and staff. Registrants can also purchase tickets for the Resident Ensemble Players' performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest* on Friday night, 8 October 2010.

## MORE INFORMATION

[www.udel.edu/conferences/uandb](http://www.udel.edu/conferences/uandb) or (302) 831-3250.

"Useful & Beautiful" is supported by Delaware Art Museum; Winterthur Museum & Country Estate; Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts; William Morris Society in the United States; William Morris Society (UK); University of Delaware Library Associates; Faculty Senate Committee on Cultural Activities and Public Events; the following University of Delaware units, departments and programs: College of Arts and Sciences, University of Delaware Library, Art, Art Conservation, Art History, English, Fashion and Apparel Studies, History, Institute for Global Studies, Frank and Yetta Chaiken Center for Jewish Studies, Center for Material Culture Studies, Music, Office of Equity and Inclusion, Resident Ensemble Players/Professional Theatre Training Program, University Museums, and Women's Studies; the Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau; Oak Knoll Books and Oak Knoll Press; Routledge Visual Art Journals. ILLUSTRATION: Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–1882), *Water Willow*, 1871. Oil on canvas, glued to wood. Delaware Art Museum, Samuel and Mary R. Bancroft Memorial, 1935.