



Second Sight: The visionary imagination in late Victorian literature

Catherine Maxwell

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This challenging and important study, which examines a range of canonical and less well-known writers, is an innovative reassessment of late Victorian literature in its relation to visionary Romanticism.

It examines six late Victorian writers - Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Walter Pater, Vernon Lee, Eugene Lee-Hamilton, Theodore Watts-Dunton and Thomas Hardy - to reveal their commitment to a Romantic visionary tradition which surface towards the end of the nineteenth century in response to the threat of growing materialism. Offering detailed and imaginative readings of both poetry and prose, *Second Sight* shows the different ways in which late Victorian writers move beyond materiality, without losing a commitment to it, to explore the mysterious relation between the seen and the unseen.

A major re-evaluation of the post-Romantic visionary imagination, with implications for our understanding of literary modernism, *Second Sight* will be required reading for scholars interested in the literature of the late Victorian period.

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