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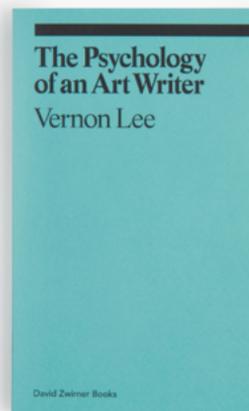
swedenborg house Newsletter September 2018...



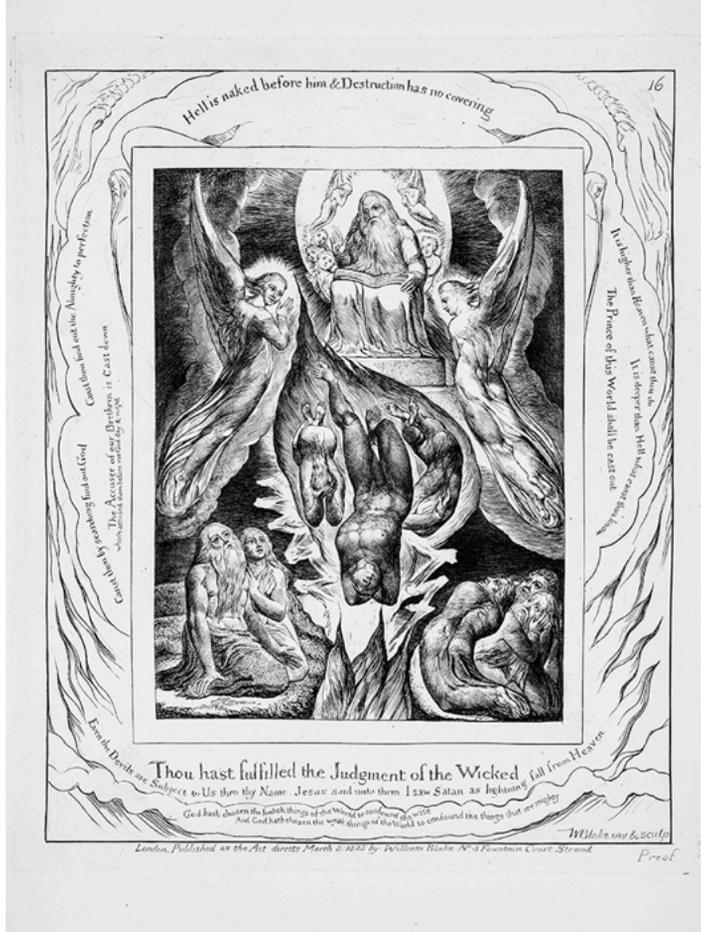
SEPTEMBER 2018

swedenborg house newsletter

Exhibition for the Bloomsbury Festival 2018: *Swedenborg and the English Romantics: items from the Swedenborg Collection*; panel discussion: *Vernon Lee, Swedenborg and Psychological Aesthetics in the Art Gallery*; new photographic book and exhibition from Michael Shea: *Distracted Focus*; New Archive series book ready for pre-order: *In Celebration of Tomas Tranströmer*; Henry Corbin discussion group update; *Arcana Caelestia* Reading Group update...



panel discussion | Vernon Lee, Swedenborg and Psychological Aesthetics in the Art Gallery



Bloomsbury Festival update I Swedenborg and the English Romantics: items from the Swedenborg Collection

Emanuel Swedenborg | William Blake | S T
Coleridge | C A Tulk | Philip James de
Louthembourg | John Flaxman | J J G
Wilkinson and others

Curated by Stephen McNeilly

Booking details for Opening Night to be
announced soon

Open evening: Thursday October 18th,
6pm – 9pm (with drinks and canapés)
I Exhibition dates: October 17th
- November 3rd I Monday to Friday 10am
to 5pm

Drawn directly from the collection at
Swedenborg House, *Swedenborg and the
English Romantics* explores the many

Wednesday 26 September 2018 I doors
open 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start
I Swedenborg Hall, The Swedenborg
Society, 21 Bloomsbury Way, London,
WC1A 2TH I FREE but please RSVP
below

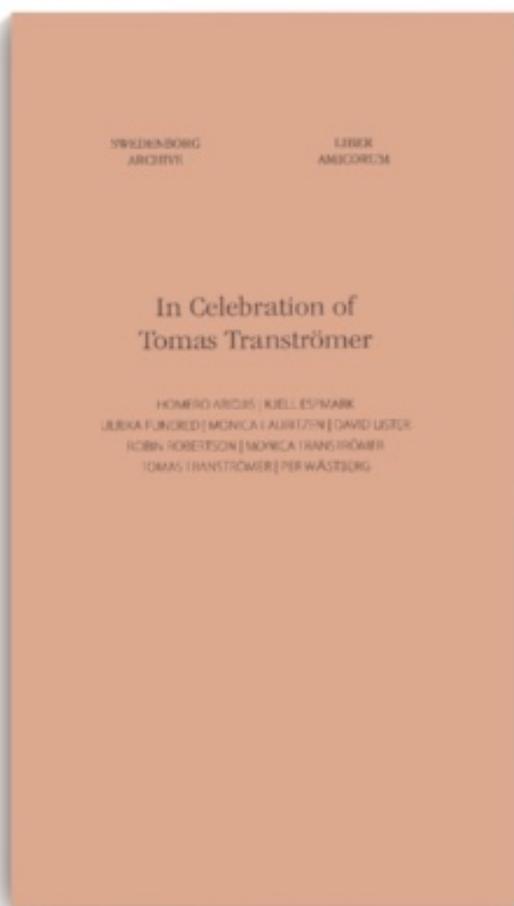
RSVP

To mark the occasion of publication of
Vernon Lee's *The Psychology of an Art
Writer* by David Zwirner Books, the
Swedenborg Society and David Zwirner
Books will be hosting an in-depth panel
discussion entitled 'Psychological
Aesthetics in the Art Gallery'.

An openly lesbian, feminist writer, **Vernon
Lee** (1856-1935)—a pseudonym of Violet
Paget—is the most important female
aesthete to come out of nineteenth-
century England. Widely known for her
supernatural short stories, Lee was
familiar with Swedenborg, as were many
from the literary, artistic and intellectual
circles she moved in: Robert Browning,
Henry James, William Dean Howells, H G
Wells, Sarah Orne Jewett and Harriet
Martineau, to name but a few.

Admired for her fiction, Lee's contributions
in the fields of aesthetics, philosophy of
empathy, and art criticism are
characterized by extreme attention to her
own responses to artworks, and a level of
psychological sensitivity rarely seen in any
aesthetic writing. That this side of her
work hasn't gained the recognition it
deserves is something this evening will

previously unexplored links between writers and artists such as William Blake, S T Coleridge, John Flaxman, J J G Wilkinson and others, and their connection to the work of the Swedish visionary and scientist, Emanuel Swedenborg. The exhibition will include previously unseen material.



new book | the swedenborg archive series – *In Celebration of Tomas Tranströmer*

featuring contributions from

Homero Aridjis | Kjell Espmark | Ulrika Funered | Monica Lauritzen | David Lister | Robin Robertson | Monica Tranströmer | Tomas Tranströmer | Per Wåstberg

Hardback | 84 pages | £9.95

Out 29 September 2018

seek to redress.

Speakers include:

Michael Bracewell, Professor Patricia Pulham, Cally Spooner, Dr Francesco Ventrella and James Wilson.



in the news | *Mexico's natural wonders are under threat. Can a poet save them?*

Homero Aridjis, President of the Swedenborg Society discusses poetry, politics and the environment in [Mexico](#) in this informative article from [The Guardian](#).

"I don't think of my work as being for stupid little animals or little trees. I think of it as being a battle for who we are, and the existence of what we have inherited from nature"

[READ HERE](#)

[PRE-ORDER YOUR COPY HERE](#)

Tomas Tranströmer (1931-2015) was one of Sweden's most universally respected literary exports, his poetry being translated into over 60 different languages and drawing the admiration of international contemporaries (many of whom would become close friends and translators of his work), such as Czesław Miłosz, Joseph Brodsky and Robert Bly. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature to great acclaim in 2011.

This book celebrates Tranströmer's life and work, featuring a carefully considered selection of his poetry, in translations by the award-winning Scottish poet Robin Robertson, and an array of revealing and insightful tributes, appreciations and reminiscences from some of Tomas's closest literary friends and colleagues, including the Swedish writer and literary historian, Kjell Espmark; the journalist and Chair of the Nobel Committee, Per Wåstberg; the literary critic and producer Monica Lauritzen; and the Mexican poet, environmental campaigner and former president of PEN International Homero Aridjis.

Tranströmer's writing possessed a deceptive simplicity that often saw him considered a 'poet's poet'. Simultaneously mineral and metaphysical in its concerns, Seamus Heaney described Tomas's work as permitting us 'to be happily certain of our own uncertainties'. It was somehow fitting that, in conjunction with the Swedish Embassy, a commemoration of Tomas should take place at Swedenborg House,



'Rottingdean, Sussex', *Distracted Focus* by Michael Shea.

distracted focus | book and exhibition

Private view Wednesday 3 October 6-9 pm | 4-28 October 2018, Tuesdays-Sundays, 3-7.30 pm | ECAD Gallery, 71 Consort Road, Peckham, London SE15 3SS

[Pre-order book and prints here](#)

[RSVP for private view here](#) (ltd places available)

Former Swedenborg Society volunteer, photographer Michael Shea, launches *Distracted Focus*, a new limited collector's item book (published by Scala) and an accompanying exhibition in October. The book and exhibition also feature contributions from the Society's editor and librarian James Wilson.

An evocative, timeless and emotional series of landscape photographs that simultaneously highlight the uniqueness and representative qualities held by an

an event out of which this book was born. That day's proceedings were closed by Tomas's widow, Monica, whose warm and moving words also close this volume, and should delight anyone with an interest in Tranströmer's poetry.



update | *Arcana Coelestia* reading group

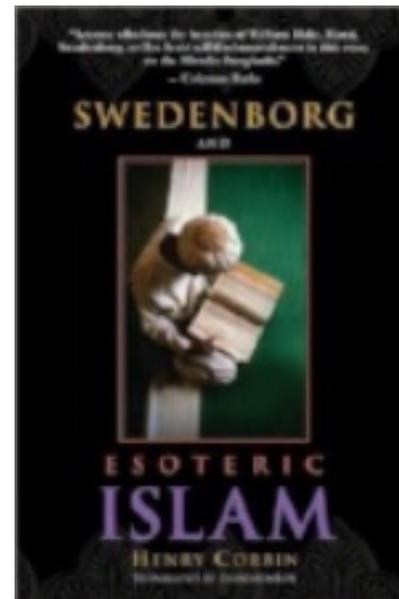
Next meeting: Thursday 27 September 2018 | 6.00 - 8.00 pm | Gardiner Room, Swedenborg House, 20/21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH | FREE | Last Thursday of every month

Please note there will be no meeting on 30 August 2018. Apologies for any confusion.

The *Arcana Coelestia* reading group will resume on 27 September, starting volume two of Swedenborg's magnum opus.

Newcomers welcome.
[Book your place here.](#)

array of urban, pastoral and coastal British topographies: Michael Shea's *Distracted Focus* provides a delicate blend of documentary and art, not only charting the beauty and textures of under-explored geographical terrains, but also chronicling through them a personal journey that investigates identity, history and loss.



update | Henry Corbin discussion group

Wednesday 3 October 2018 | 2.00 – 4.00 pm | Swedenborg House, 20/21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH | FREE | Refreshments served | more dates to be confirmed...

Discussions will be led by Max Phillips

[BOOK HERE](#)

In the current cultural paradigm, which takes for granted the tenets of scientific materialism, the word 'imaginary' is often used synonymously with 'unreal'. However, in most traditional cultures the life of inner experience has been valued as the source of richness and meaning that not only carried importance vis-à-vis

the world of matter, but stood in counterbalance to it. Hence, in the Islamic tradition, every phenomenon in the outer-world (Zāhir) has its corresponding opposite in the inner world of spirit (bāṭin). The uncovering of these inner worlds (or 'climates') is the goal of the spiritual seeker.

The discussions will be based on the publication *Swedenborg and Esoteric Islam* by the late Islamic scholar and perennial philosopher Henry Corbin. The session on 3 October will continue with the second essay in the volume entitled 'Comparative Spiritual Hermeneutics', which compares the revelation of the internal sense of the sacred books to two distinct religions, Christianity and Islam.



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