

Evelyn Pickering De Morgan and the Allegorical Body by Elise Lawton Smith. Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2002. 248 pp. + 14 colour plates, 117 b/w illus. ISBN 0-8386-3883-X. \$65.00.

It can be dismaying to read, especially on the penultimate page of a long book, the rhetorical question: What makes this artist worth our consideration? All sorts of doubts are raised, and not allayed when the answer is the art's content, since the preceding two hundred pages have shown in extreme detail how this content was based on a belief in parallel physical and spiritual realms, and human communication with immaterial beings.

Of course, this should not matter, since a great deal of Western art carries the same message without its worth being doubted. But nineteenth-century