

The Last Pre-Raphaelite: Edward Burne-Jones and the Victorian Imagination by Fiona MacCarthy. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 2012. xxiv, 629 pp. + 32 colour, 61 b/w illus. ISBN 978-0-674-06579-6. \$35.00.

Fiona MacCarthy's *The Last Pre-Raphaelite: Edward Burne-Jones and the Victorian Imagination* is an engrossing example of biographical art. Her exquisite telling of Edward Burne-Jones's life (1833-1898) is both entertaining and a valuable contribution to the existing literature on the artist. Probably the greatest achievement of MacCarthy's biography is her ability to draw upon her extensive knowledge about the figures surrounding Burne-Jones, including William Morris and Dante Gabriel Rossetti; yet, Burne-Jones emerges as an entirely independent and well-developed character, which has not always been the case in previous biographical treatments. MacCarthy provides an unprecedented glimpse into Burne-Jones's personal life and character by plumbing the established primary sources and the artist's unpublished correspondence, which she quotes heavily throughout the book. She thoroughly explores his friendships, his working habits, and his travels in meticulous and unparalleled detail.

The biography is arranged chronologically into 27 chapters, each devoted to a period of one to three years in Burne-Jones's life. This arrangement, though hardly groundbreaking, does allow MacCarthy to examine the most minute details of the artist's life, a method applied with equal dexterity in her earlier biography, *William Morris: A Life for Our Time* (1995). Her linear approach also reveals the strikingly circuitous trajectory of Burne-Jones's career as a professional artist. As MacCarthy stresses throughout her examination, Burne-Jones worked on numerous projects simultaneously. MacCarthy does not attempt to isolate aspects of his career, like his stained glass designs for Morris and Co. and his exhibition of paintings at the new Grosvenor Gallery throughout the 1880s. Instead, she underscores the confluence of his