

The ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT in Surrey

Zoom Lecture “Graceful and expressive’: The movement for Artistic dress”

Tuesday 17th March 2026
at 7.30 pm

A lecture by Dr Claire Allen-Johnstone

“How is lovely woman to clothe herself?” asked a *Sketch* journalist in 1894, conscious of the lively Victorian dress debate. Advocated by individuals including Healthy and Artistic Dress Union members George Frederic and Mary Watts and, in the United States, Annie Jenness Miller, flowing Artistic dress often based on historical models was one of the proposed answers. This lecture will explore the origin, development, and legacy of this multilayered dress reform movement, from its connection with the Pre-Raphaelites to its relationship with topics including feminism and historicism.

Dr Claire Allen-Johnstone works at the Victoria and Albert Museum as an Assistant Curator. She is a Trustee at the Museum of Cambridge and Newsletter Editor for the Dress and Textile Specialists network. Her monograph *Dress, Feminism, and New Woman Writing* was published by Cambria Press in 2025.



Caption: “May Morris, seated,” glass negative, George Charles Beresford, early twentieth century, George Grantham Bain Collection, Library of Congress.

Black-and-white photograph of May Morris sat in a wooden armchair with fabric in the background. She is wearing a long, flowing dress with bands of a contrasting, patterned textile around the neckline and towards the hemline.

Tickets ACMS Members £5. Non-members £6.

The Society’s Disclaimer, Data Protection Policy and Cancellations Terms apply.

ZOOM DETAILS:

This is an online event to be delivered via Zoom. Bookings will close 24 hours prior to commencement of the event. Your application will be acknowledged by email. Please note that this lecture will be recorded and, if you are not available on the day, a link sent subsequently to last a week.

THE ZOOM MEETING LINK DETAILS WILL BE EMAILED TO ATTENDEES THE DAY BEFORE THE EVENT. (PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL SPAM/JUNK FOLDER).

**The Arts and Crafts Movement in Surrey
Zoom Lecture Tuesday 17 March 2026. Ticket Application Form.**

The Society prefers that you book online at: [The Society for the Arts and Crafts Movement in Surrey](https://www.artsandcraftsmovementinsurrey.org.uk)

Or apply for tickets to: chairman@artsandcraftsmovementinsurrey.org.uk