



**VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM  
BOTTICELLI RE-IMAGINED**

THURSDAY 26 MAY

NICHOLAS FRIEND

In his 'Birth of Venus' in 1485, Sandro Botticelli gave his patron Lorenzo di Pierfrancesco Medici, and generations of spectators and artists thereafter, his dream of the Platonic ideal of woman; she is beautiful and vulnerable. But there is far more to Botticelli than beautiful women- his 'Calumny of Apelles' is complex and challenging, his drawings after Dante's 'Inferno' are the best illustrations of that greatest work of medieval literature ever made, while the edgy, neurotic quality of his 'Adoration of the Magi' captures perfectly the uncertainties of Florence around 1500. Yet after he died in 1510, his work lay forgotten for three hundred years, until being rediscovered by the Pre-Raphaelites and their patrons in the mid 19c. Burne-Jones was even able to make parallels between the drapery of Botticelli and that of the Elgin marbles. Now the V&A and the Gmaldegalerie Berlin are putting on the largest show of his work and its influence since 1930. Including painting, fashion, film, drawing, photography, tapestry, sculpture and print, the exhibition will explore the ways that artists and designers have reinterpreted Botticelli. It will include over 50 original works by Botticelli, alongside works by artists such as Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris, René Magritte, Elsa Schiaparelli, Andy Warhol and Cindy Sherman.

**MEET** 10:30 coffee for I am lecture at the Art Workers' Guild, Bloomsbury

**ENDS** 3:30pm Victoria & Albert Museum

**COST** £77 members, £87 non-members (£65 and £75 V&A members, £72 and £82 Art Fund members)