

On Wednesday 25 May 2016 at 18.00

**MARION THAIN**

*WILL GIVE A LECTURE ENTITLED*

**“BERNARD BERENSON AND TACTILE VALUES”**



What does it mean to represent the sense of touch in the visual arts? And how might a painting represent the tactile? These are questions Marion Thain will address by exploring Bernard Berenson's theory of 'tactile values', engaging closely with some pictorial examples to elucidate it. Having set up this framework, she will consider the significance of these ideas for British aesthetes in Florence in the late 19th century. Using the work of Vernon Lee and, to a lesser extent, of Michael Field, she will offer an account of a broader tactile poetics: one which borrowed from Berenson's writing on the visual arts to reconceptualise our engagement with literature and to reimagine our encounter with words. Professor Marion Thain works on literature, culture and the visual arts at New York University (LSP and English). Above: Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), *The Creation of Adam* (detail), Sistine Chapel, Vatican City.

**Part of the cultural programme for Harold Acton Library members  
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**Library and Cultural Centre**

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