

**IMPERIAL FACES:  
BRITANNIA'S "DAUGHTERS"  
IN VICTORIAN VISUAL CULTURE**

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Within the realm of allegorical imagery, nations and continents have long been depicted as female figures. In Victorian Britain, images of a maternal Britannia and her “daughters”—the British colonies—served as compelling imperial propaganda. Portrayed as attractive young women, according to Eurocentric codes, these figures incorporated contemporary notions about beauty as an expression of virtue and morality, and invited viewers to apply those ideas to an interpretation of colonial relations. In so doing, however, they masked the ugly realities of colonial life (particularly for women) and offered instead an image of the empire as a contented family.

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Please join us. Light refreshments will be served.