

# THE LITERATURE OF PRESCRIPTION

CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN AND "THE YELLOW WALL-PAPER"



*"It was not intended to drive people crazy, but to save people from being driven crazy, and it worked."*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

In the late nineteenth century, at a time when women were challenging traditional ideas about gender that excluded them from political and intellectual life, medical and scientific experts drew on notions of female weakness to justify inequality between the sexes. Artist and writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman, who was discouraged from pursuing a career to preserve her health, rejected these ideas in a terrifying short story titled, "The Yellow Wall-Paper." The famous tale served as an indictment of the medical profession and the social conventions restricting women's professional and creative opportunities.

*Literature of Prescription* will tour around the United States beginning October 2009.

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Curated by Manon Parry

