Hiram Powers And His Ideal Sculpture

Donald M Reynolds

Are you sure you want to remove Hiram Powers and his ideal sculpture from your list? Hiram Powers and his ideal sculpture. by Donald M. Reynolds. They are available to the reader in the Hiram Powers archives at the National Collection of Fine Arts; Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C." Series. Outstanding dissertations in the fine arts. Sculptors like Hiram Powers could hardly keep up with the demand for ideal busts. Still, even as Powers churned them out, his ambitions for the busts were high. Powers called his sculptures 'unveiled souls.' The ideal bust shed the body to reveal what was within. Why did we create a form of sculpture that gives us only the head, neck, and shoulders? Perhaps it is because man is made of dust but pointed to the stars. Our heads drag our cumbersome bodies around town. Powers continued to sculpture portraits throughout his lifetime. His patrons were visiting Americans and Europeans, some of noble heritage or of great repute. It was in the area of ideal works, however, that he made his reputation. He began creating such works as his bust Ginevra soon after arriving in Florence and followed this with his first full-length sculpture, Eve Tempted. A detailed account of the life and career of Hiram Powers (1805-73), the first American-born sculptor to win international fame. Drawing mainly on his correspondence, volume one focuses on the artist's life; and volume two consists of a catalogue of his work and contains more than 225 illustrations. Corrects numerous errors of fact that have been perpetuated about Powers.