

**LECTURES ON ART,
DELIVERED BEFORE THE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
IN HILARY TERM, 1870**

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Lectures on Art, Delivered before the University of Oxford in Hilary Term, 1870 by John Ruskin

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JOHN RUSKIN

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DELIVERED BEFORE THE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
IN HILARY TERM, 1870**

LECTURES ON ART

*DELIVERED BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
IN HILARY TERM, 1870*

BY

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Lecture 1.

INAUGURAL.

THE duty which is to-day laid on me, of introducing, among the elements of education appointed in this great University, one not only new, but such as to involve in its possible results some modification of the rest, is, as you well feel, so grave, that no man could undertake it without laying himself open to the imputation of a kind of insolence; and no man could undertake it rightly, without being in danger of having his hands shortened by dread of his task, and mistrust of himself.

And it has chanced to me, of late, to be so little acquainted either with pride, or hope, that I can scarcely recover so much as I now need of the one for strength, and of the other for foresight, except by remembering that noble persons, and friends of the high temper that judges most clearly where it loves best, have desired that this trust should be given me; and by resting also in the conviction that the goodly tree, whose roots, by God's help, we set in earth to-day, will not fail of its height because the planting of it is under poor auspices, or the first shoots of it enfeebled by ill gardening.