THE MEANING OF PICTURES: SIX LECTURES GIVEN FOR COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART; PP.1-160

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649645107

The Meaning of Pictures: Six Lectures given for Columbia University at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; pp.1-160 by John C. Van Dyke

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JOHN C. VAN DYKE

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Trieste

THE MEANING OF PICTURES

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SIX LECTURES GIVEN FOR COLUMBIA UNI-VERSITY AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

BY

JOHN C. VAN DYKE AUTHOR OF "ART FOR ART'S SAKS," "NATURE FOR ITS OWN SAKS," MC.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

NEW YORK CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS 1903

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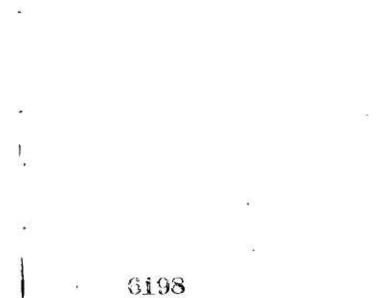
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WILLIAM CRARY BROWNELL



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PREFACE

JUST how we should look at pictures, just how we should judge of them, is not for any one person to say. We all have our different ways of estimating art; and art is capable of being estimated in different ways. In these lectures I have endeavored to set forth the various points of view. The painter's conception has received perhaps the primary attention, but I have given the public's conception of the picture also. Nor do I mean to apologize for arguing both sides of the case. Art might be better understood, if there were less special pleading and theorizing about it. It is so largely dependent upon the individual make-up of the artist, that any precise theory about it must fall short of the mark. Instead of quarrelling over terms and trying to put the opposition in the wrong, it would be better frankly to examine the product in the light of the producer's intention and draw our conclusions from that. We should not always agree, but that is all the more reason for tolerance and liberality.

J. C. V. D.

RUTGERS COLLEGE, November, 1903.

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