

**PRACTICAL ESSAYS ON
VARIOUS BRANCHES
OF THE FINE ARTS**

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Practical Essays on Various Branches of the Fine Arts by John Burnet

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JOHN BURNET

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VARIOUS BRANCHES
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CONTENTS.

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— II. The Rudiments of Drawing—the Human Head—with
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FINE ARTS.

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ON VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE
FINE ARTS.

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TO

CHARLES FOX, ESQ.

THESE ESSAYS ARE INSCRIBED,

IN TESTIMONY

OF

THE AUTHOR'S REGARD.

P R E F A C E.

THE following Essays were originally written for a Periodical, the early numbers of which are now out of print; as they were published not consecutively, nor all falling into the same hands for perusal, their effect must have been materially impaired. I venture now to publish them in a compact form, so that the little merit they may possess may be more conclusive. Though published without a signature, I am gratified to find so little to erase, when now given to the public with my name, having always considered that when professional men write anonymously upon Art, their contemporaries should be even more leniently dealt with than when writing without a mask. I have added a few explanatory notes to make some passages more intelligible; for though Fine Art can never alter, yet fashion may overlay it with absurdities, and a few years may

remove from the scene of action the men who were the perpetrators of such absurdities.

Through the whole tenour of these short Essays, it will be perceived that I have always advocated the necessity of allowing artists to be the best judges of Art, as they must have given more attention and study to the subject than any other class. Since their original publication, Art has been deprived of one of its greatest ornaments,—the late Sir David Wilkie. I have, therefore, availed myself of the opportunity to extend the article on “Fancy Subjects, and Scenes of Familiar Life,” by adding a critical inquiry into his principles and practice, which an uninterrupted friendship, from our first entering the Academy together till his death, gave me every means of being acquainted with.

May, 1848.