

**BRYN MAWR NOTES AND  
MONOGRAPHS I. THE ESTHETIC  
BASIS  
OF GREEK ART OF THE FIFTH  
AND FOURTH CENTURIES B.C.**

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I

**THE ESTHETIC BASIS  
OF GREEK ART**  
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In R.D.  
D.F.

# THE ESTHETIC BASIS OF GREEK ART

OF THE FIFTH AND FOURTH CENTURIES B.C.

By

**RHYS CARPENTER**

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<p data-bbox="414 557 578 583" style="text-align: center;">FOREWORD</p> <p data-bbox="253 600 739 852">The present monograph is a critique not of artistic taste but of artistic behaviour. It makes no attempt to eulogise or appreciate or evaluate ancient Greek art, but solely to examine Greek artistic procedure and by such an examination to arrive at some fundamental esthetic problems and principles.</p> <p data-bbox="253 857 739 1269">Such a study, since it tries to be fundamental, must aim at a method sufficiently general to be applicable not to Greek sculpture only, but to sculpture in all times, and not to Greek architecture alone, but to architecture the world over. The chapters which deal with these arts overpass, therefore, the boundaries of Hellenic antiquities and attempt an esthetic critique of sculpture and architecture as human (and not merely as Grecian) artistic activities. But the starting-point for theorising has always been Greek practice.</p>	
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	<p>Those who are familiar with the little of value which ancient esthetic speculation offers, will perhaps have noticed that the best of this speculation comes, not from the philosophers, but from the practicing artists themselves and from the historians of art. I have tried to follow and incorporate every such hint or indication of the intellectual attitude of the ancient artists toward their craft.</p> <p>The bibliography of my subject is very nearly negligible. One debt (outside of Greek archacology altogether) is, however, a heavy one; and I wish to acknowledge great obligation to the keen and serious dialectic which distinguishes Geoffrey Scott's <i>Architecture of Humanism</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R. C.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bryn Mawr College</i> <i>September, 1921</i></p>
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