

Art of the novel - critical prefaces

Scribner - The Art of the Novel: Critical Prefaces



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Notes: 1

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The Art of the Novel: Critical Prefaces by Henry James, Paperback

Oh, do something from your point of view; an ounce of example is worth a ton of generalities; do something with the great art and the great form; do something with life. Thomas Pinney London, 1963 , pp.

Art of the Novel

It illuminates the human scene, gives it a meaning and enables us to see it better than through our senses, which are apt to mislead us. The Art of the Novel, p. What defined art, increasingly in the nineteenth century, was its detachment from the world, or its apparent lack of a specifiable purpose.

Henry James

In his theoretical and critical essays James insists now on the freedom, now on the form, depending on the writer he criticizes or the audience to which he addresses himself. In that period, artists were regarded as creative geniuses involved in the production of beautiful artefacts. For the compilation of this list—which includes eighty-one articles, essays and reviews—I am much indebted to A Bibliography of Henry James, by Leon Edel and Dan H.

The Art of the Novel: Critical Prefaces

Tell me what the artist is, and I will tell you what he has been conscious. The implications of what he goes on to say for the relation between the novel and morality are discussed below: There is one point at which the moral sense and the artistic sense lie very near together; that is in the light of the very obvious truth that the deepest quality of a work of art will always be the quality of the mind of the producer. They are but windows at the best, mere holes in a dead wall, disconnected, perched aloft; they are not hinged doors opening straight upon life.

The Art of the Novel: Critical Prefaces, James, Blackmur, TÃ³ibÃ¡n

Indeed, James was to go much further than this in a letter to the English novelist H. Friedman, Norman 1975 Form and Meaning in Fiction, Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press. His personal experience helped him to understand theirs, but at the same time their writings helped him to define

his own conception of art and to improve his craft.

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These apertures, of dissimilar shape and size, hang so, all together, over the human scene that we might have expected of them a greater sameness of report than we find.

Henry James

You each have an impression coloured by your individual conditions; make that into a picture, a picture framed by your own personal wisdom, your glimpse of the American world. French Poets and Novelists, p. Essays of George Eliot, ed.

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