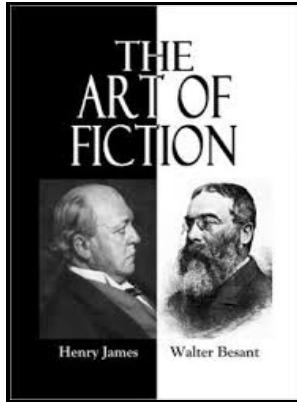


# Art of the novel - critical prefaces

Charles Scribners Sons - The Art of the Novel: Critical Prefaces

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- Notes: Written for the various volumes of the New York edition of the authors works.
- This edition was published in 1962



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But they have this mark of their own that at each of them stands a figure with a pair of eyes, or at least with a field-glass, which forms, again and again, for observation, a unique instrument, insuring to the person making use of it an impression distinct from every other.

**Henry James**

Tell me what the artist is, and I will tell you what he has been conscious.

**Art of the Novel**

The artist finds himself confronted with the difficult task of enclosing life within his frame without destroying its movement and fluidity. James regarded the novel as supreme in its importance, not least because of the possibilities it provided for larger-scale plot development and characterization. If the reader dislikes the subject, then the novel can be abandoned.

**The art of the novel : critical prefaces : James, Henry, 1843**

The truth of these portraits so much imposes itself on the spectators that they can hardly tolerate it: John Lennox commits a symbolical murder by stabbing the portrait of his betrothed, and Colonel Capadose a symbolical suicide by stabbing his own.

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