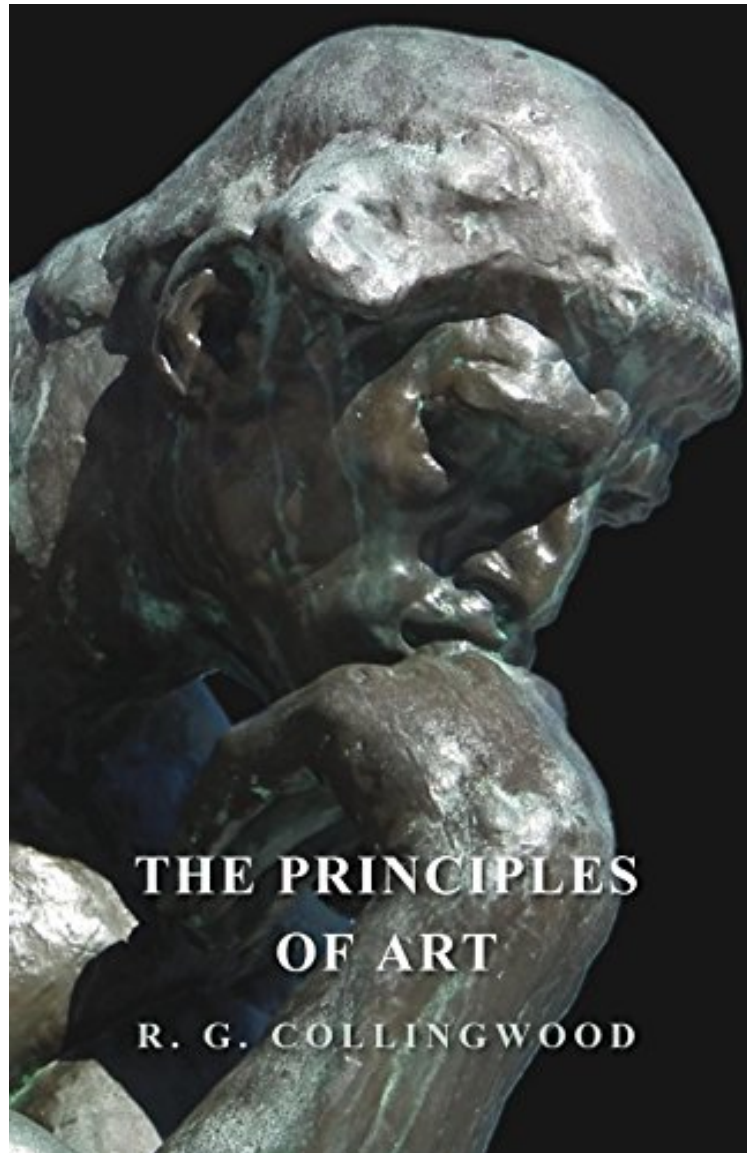


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## The Principles of Art

*R. G. Collingwood*

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**R. G. Collingwood : The Principles of Art** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Principles of Art:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. OverratedBy HHWhen Collingwood's earlier little book "Outlines of a Philosophy of Art" (1924) went out of print, he felt that the time had come for a different treatment of the subject to meet a new and different situation. Thus in the preface he writes, "[W]e have a new and very lively, if somewhat chaotic, growth of aesthetic theory and criticism, written mostly not by academic philosophers or amateurs of art, but by poets, dramatists, painters, and sculptors themselves" (p. v). Later on Collingwood declares that he does "not think

of aesthetic theory as an attempt to investigate and expound eternal verities concerning the nature of an eternal object called Art, but as an attempt to reach, by thinking, the solution of certain problems arising out of the situation in which artists find themselves here and now" (p. vi). This is a sympathetic approach, but it implies that aesthetics should be written by a philosophic artist trying to explain to himself and other artists what artists are trying to do. At any rate, in the first part of the "Principles" Collingwood demolishes certain standard views of art which he designates the craft, representation, magic, and amusement theories. Then we come to what he considers art proper, which he classifies as expression and imagination. After dealing with imagination at length, Collingwood turns to his own theory of art, in which a good deal of attention is given to the artist's relation to the community. Despite being a great stylist, Collingwood's attitude suffers from several radical defects -- for one, his identification of aesthetic appreciation with artistic activity in creation. Collingwood fails to understand that people other than artists are concerned with art, most of whom are looking for an explanation of the art objects themselves rather than the process by which they are produced. In this regard formalist theories have a leg up on Collingwood's. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 20thC. classic of aesthetics By B. MacIntyre A magisterial must-read for any arts historian or philosopher of the arts. Looks at the various arts from multiple perspectives simultaneously. Learn about the various (and controversial) roles of imagination, ideas, emotions, psyche, etc. in artistic endeavors throughout the course of artistic history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Incomplete Edition By SG1991 This is only about 20 pages of the actual book; do not buy this edition.

This early work by Robin G. Collingwood was originally published in 1923 and we are now republishing it with a brand new introductory biography. 'The Principles of Art' is an academic work on the philosophy of art. Robin George Collingwood was born on 22nd February 1889, in Cartmel, England. He was the son of author, artist, and academic, W. G. Collingwood. He was greatly influenced by the Italian Idealists Croce, Gentile, and Guido de Ruggiero. Another important influence was his father, a professor of fine art and a student of Ruskin. He published many works of philosophy, such as *Speculum Mentis* (1924), *An Essay on Philosophic Method* (1933), and *An Essay on Metaphysics* (1940).

"Collingwood is as insightful as ever; his observations and arguments have lost no validity since *Principles* was published." --Philip Chandler, *College of St. Thomas More* "Without being pedantic, Collingwood is factual and precise; both his structure and facade are built up of thousands of details, and the whole forms an integrity, a synthesis, the product of an ordered mind which puts everything in its place." --John Cournos, *The New York Times* From the Back Cover Our first business is to investigate three kinds of art falsely so called. When that has been done we must see what there is left to be said about art proper. About the Author R. G. Collingwood (1889-1943), philosopher and historian, was Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy, Oxford University. One of the most learned men of his generation, he had a remarkable breadth of interest and knowledge and originality of mind. He is the author of many notable books, including *The Idea of History*, *An Autobiography*, *Essay on Metaphysics*, *Essay on Philosophical Method*, *The Idea of Nature*, *The New Leviathan*, *Speculum Mentis: or The Map of Knowledge*, and with J. N. L. Myres, *Roman Britain and the English Settlements in the Oxford History of England* series.