

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06944-1 - Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy by the President

Joshua Reynolds

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Art and Architecture

From the middle of the eighteenth century, with the growth of travel at home and abroad and the increase in leisure for the wealthier classes, the arts became the subject of more widespread appreciation and discussion. The rapid expansion of book and periodical publishing in this area both reflected and encouraged interest in art and art history among the wider reading public. This series throws light on the development of visual culture and aesthetics. It covers topics from the Grand Tour to the great exhibitions of the nineteenth century, and includes art criticism and biography.

Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy by the President

As well as being the most distinguished painter of his generation, Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723–92) was also the author of several works of art criticism and guides for artists, some of which originated as lectures delivered to the students of the Royal Academy by him as their founding president. This work, first published in 1778, collects six of the addresses given to the Academy on ‘Prize Day’, between 1769 and 1776, prefaced with the first address by Reynolds to his fellow artists of the newly founded institution in 1769. Each discourse was later printed and distributed to those present at Reynolds’ expense. They present his views of the purpose of art, and in particular the necessity of intellectual dignity in what he calls the ‘great style’ of the Florentine Renaissance masters. The discourses also demonstrate his wide reading among the aesthetic theorists of his own and earlier ages.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06944-1 - Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy by the President

Joshua Reynolds

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06944-1 - Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy by the President

Joshua Reynolds

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy by the President

JOSHUA REYNOLDS



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06944-1 - Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy by the President

Joshua Reynolds

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108069441

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2015

This edition first published 1778

This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-06944-1 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with,
or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06944-1 - Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy by the President

Joshua Reynolds

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



S E V E N
D I S C O U R S E S
D E L I V E R E D I N T H E
R O Y A L A C A D E M Y
B Y T H E
P R E S I D E N T.



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06944-1 - Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy by the President

Joshua Reynolds

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06944-1 - Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy by the President

Joshua Reynolds

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

S E V E N
D I S C O U R S E S
D E L I V E R E D I N T H E
R O Y A L A C A D E M Y
B Y T H E
P R E S I D E N T.

Omnia fere quæ præceptis continentur, ab ingeniosis hominibus fiunt: sed casu quodam magis, quàm Scientiâ. Ideoque doctrina & animadversio adhibenda est, ut ea quæ interdum sine ratione nobis occurrunt, semper in nostra potestate sint; & quoties res postulaverit, a nobis ex præparato adhibeantur.

AQUILA ROMAN. *de Fig. Sententiar,*
apud Junium.

L O N D O N :
Printed for T. CADELL, in the Strand, Bookfeller
and Printer to the ROYAL ACADEMY.
M D C C L X X V I I I .

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06944-1 - Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy by the President

Joshua Reynolds

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

T O

THE KING.

THE regular progress
of cultivated life is
from Necessaries to Accom-
modations, from Accommo-
dations to Ornaments. By
Your illustrious Predecessors
were established Marts for
Manufactures, and Colleges
for Science; but for the Arts
of

D E D I C A T I O N .

of Elegance, those Arts by which Manufactures are embellished, and Science is refined, to found an Academy was reserved for Your Majesty.

HAD such Patronage been without Effect, there had been reason to believe that Nature had, by some insurmountable impediment, obstructed our proficiency, but the annual improvement of the Exhibitions which Your Majesty

D E D I C A T I O N .

Majesty has been pleased to encourage, shews that only Encouragement had been wanting.

To give Advice to those who are contending for Royal Liberality, has been for some years the duty of my station in the Academy; and these Discourses hope for Your Majesty's acceptance as well-intended endeavours to incite that emulation which Your Notice has kindled, and direct

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06944-1 - Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy by the President

Joshua Reynolds

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

DEDICATION.
reſt thoſe ſtudies which Your
Bounty has rewarded.

May it pleaſe Your MAJESTY,

Your MAJESTY'S

moſt dutiful ſervant,

and moſt faithful ſubject,

Joshua Reynolds.