

INTERESTING, relates either to the nature of a subject, or the manner of treating it. A subject may be interesting by its pathos, or its relation to the spectator, or its general importance: An interesting manner of relating such a subject, is the result of feeling and sentiment, taste and judgment.

INVENTION is a part of composition, which selects the objects, &c. requisite to the subject treated.

When an artist has determined on his subject, he ought well to imprint it on his mind; to interest himself in the action; to transport himself in idea to the very transaction; to examine every article connected with it, or related to it; every circumstance or accessory which may be useful or becoming, and these he must apply to the best advantage, omitting redundancies, and confining himself to propriety, in his thoughts, expressions, and incidents.

To assist invention, are necessary, constant study, general conversation among mankind, a readiness of remark on occurrent effects, a retentive memory, a habit of rapid sketching, an acquaintance with the works of the best masters, the best histories, the best poets, and whatever is a happy effort of inventive genius.

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KNOWLEDGE is to be acquired only by reflection on good works, and a regular attention to the effects of nature, and the methods of imitation which have been
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