

Fuseli - a visual counterpoint

Emmanuel Büttler, University of Bern, emmanuel.buettler@unibe.ch

Aphorisms

“The epoch of rules, of theories, poetics, criticisms in a nation, will add to their stock of authors in the same proportion as it diminishes their stock of genius: their productions will bear the stamp of study, not of nature; they will adopt, not generate”.

“The rules of art are either immediately supplied by Nature herself, or selected from the compendiums of her students who are called masters and founders of schools. The imitation of Nature herself leads to style, that of the schools to manner.”

“He is a prince of artists and of men who knows the moment when his work is done. On this Apelles founded his superiority over his contemporaries; the knowledge when to stop, left Sylla nothing to fear, though disarmed; the want of knowing this, exposed Cæsar to the dagger of Brutus.”



“The three witches appearing to Macbeth and Banquo”, 1800-1810, private collection



“The three Witches”, 1783, Kunsthaus Zürich



“The Shephard’s Dream”, from ‘Paradise Lost’ 1793, Tate Gallery



"The Nightmare", 1781, Detroit Institute of Arts



«The Apparition appears to Dion wielding a broom», «Spectrum Dioneum», 1768, British Museum

- <https://www.kunsthhaus.ch/fr/bruch-planen/ausstellungen/fuessli/>