



# Art Recreations; being a complete guide to pencil drawing, oil painting, water-color painting, crayon drawing and painting, painting on ground glass, Grecian painting, antique painting, etc

L. B. Urbino

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*L. B. Urbino*

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HIS art, by which we imitate the beauties of the exterior world, and transfer to paper or canvas the creations of our imagination, is not only a pleasing accomplishment, but of practical utility in every department of human life ; and while, as in every branch of study, all cannot expect to attain to equal excellence, there is no one who does not possess within him a germ which, with proper cultivation,

(15)

will develop itself in some degree of artistic beauty. As in music, so in drawing, to become a master of the art requires a life-long labor and constant application; and yet it is within the reach of all to acquire such a knowledge, and such an experience, as to produce pleasing effects, to cultivate and elevate our tastes for the beautiful in nature and art, and decorate our dwellings with representations of the outer world, and make permanent with the pencil the dreamy imaginations which float in the ever-active mind.

Drawing should become an essential element in our  
popular education, for while it conduces to our pleasure  
and amusement, practical advantages naturally flow from  
it; and although in an elementary treatise like this it  
is impossible to enter into the minute details necessary  
^ for high proficiency in the art, yet it is believed the  
attentive student will find here an incentive for further  
study, and that, by following the concise but systematic  
directions here given, he will, although a beginner, be  
enabled to produce pleasing pictures with a true artistic  
effect, and lay the foundation for a thorough knowledge

of the principles of drawing. Success in any thing is  
in proportion to the exertion put forth, and the student-

artist who, with fixedness of purpose, and with patience, applies his mind and hand to the work may feel assured of the most gratifying results; and each successive difficulty overcome, and every new idea gained, add knowledge, experience, and encouragement.

A perfect muscular control of the hand is of the first importance in drawing, as accuracy of outline and delicacy of expression can only be obtained by having the fingers in complete subjection to the will, so that the slightest volition will be properly interpreted by the pencil. This requisite facility in the use of the pencil or brush can be acquired only by patient practice, the length of time necessary for its attainment being in some degree dependent upon the natural ability, taste, or "genius" of the learner. Of equal importance, and as absolutely indispensable, is correctness of eye in determining distances and measurements—an attainment which can be carried to a wonderful degree of perfection. Thorough practice in making straight and curved lines demands the first attention of the beginner. Commence with short horizontal lines<sup>^</sup> gradually increasing the length, making the lines in a distinct, bold; and rapid manner, first from left to right, and then vice versa, thus • .

next, straight lines touching each other at different

angles, thus : lines, thus;

then perpendicular

Too much practice cannot be given to these lines, and the difficulties at first experienced in drawing straight, continuous lines will gradually diminish. When these right-lines, horizontal, perpendicular, and at various angles, can be drawn with accuracy and with freedom of pencil, then practice the following, which is a combination of them all, thus : nations will suggest them-inventive mind, and the astonished in his practice in variety of forms and almost tions can be produced from It may be well to copy some posed of straight lines ; but one is to draw from the ...

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