Poor Eyesight Creates Modern Art

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Poor Eyesight Creates Modern Art
by Bernadine Landsberg

Remember how amused and slightly disgusted you have felt when you came upon some of the "modernist," "futuristic," and other "istic" types of modern art? Have you thought that you could produce a drawing or painting much more easily understood than some of those? Be disgusted at the poor artist no longer, for science says that he may be suffering from poor eyesight of some kind.

Dr. Lloyd Mills, a Los Angeles eye specialist, has made a study of the eyesight of artists. He can explain how nearsightedness or astigmatism in the eyes can make an artist draw or paint pictures which look peculiar to the rest of us.

The things which we see, explains Dr. Mills, are combinations of images produced by the central part of our eye lenses as well as the outer parts, the latter being especially sensitive to color. In order to draw a picture of things as they are the artist must preserve the normal proportions of these two kinds of sight; therefore, when he doesn't have good vision, his pictures may seem "queer."

Dr. Mills first became interested in the effect of eyesight on art when an artist came to him for treatment. The pictures produced by this man were good in color, but sometimes the proportion was distorted. This man had astigmatism and when he was fitted with glasses could see things in their true proportion.

Another common eyesight defect among artists, as well as many other people is short-sightedness. In a case of this kind, the individual can not see clearly with the central part of the eye, so must depend on the outer parts for the vision. Dr. Mills believes that Cezanne, Renoir, Gordon Craig and George Grosz, the cubist, were short-sighted, and that this defect is reflected in their work.

No Need To Slip

"Be careful or you'll slip on that rug!"

How often one hears that but does nothing to remedy it. To make small rugs, desk blotters and table covers stay in place and lie flat put a piece of old table oilcloth under the article. Since the shiny side does not slide on the polished surface, place that side down. The cloth side will prevent the rug from wrinkling.

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