

ART AND ART STUDIES

A Visit to the Several Studios in the Valley City.

AN ART ASSOCIATION ANTICIPATED

Oil and Water-Colors—Celebrated Artists of Grand Rapids—City Parlor Studios Fashionable. But Lately—Talks With Painters.

A striking glance at the homes of the people of our city would lead one to conclude that little attention was given here to art. Yet, in these busy towns with its great factories, crowded streets and thoroughfares, a considerable number of people have given up their lives to the study of this very subject. Many others, also, who would come under the head of amateurs are much interested in art, and the results of their study are occasionally seen in our store windows, and seldom fail to attract a crowd of admiring people. It is to be regretted that the local artists do not find a club for the exhibition of their work under more favorable circumstances. There is an art loan in Grand Rapids, both for artists and connoisseurs. This was attempted a year or two ago with very promising effect, but lately all interest in this direction seems to have died out.

Yesterday afternoon a reporter for the TRIBUNE-HERALD made a visit to the studios in the city, and after clambering up numerous flights of stairs and wandering through labyrinthine of corridors, at last succeeded in unearthing the rather uninviting nooks of these studios. The artists have at least one exposure of the finer artistic spirit, namely, sky high studios, and if they are so unfortunate as to never reach a higher plane in life, their present latitude may be a welcome one. There are about twenty professional artists in this city and as many amateurs, besides innumerable so called connoisseurs. The interiors of their studios present much the same appearance as the old Florentine studios. Most of them have the floors covered with a conglomeration of materials while every inch of the wall is taken up with sketches, studies, landscapes, and portraits in oil, water-color, pastel, crayon and charcoal.

Some of the artists were found giving instruction to classes of pupils; others busily engaged in painting; and others were not found at all. There seems to be much enthusiasm among them, and on many of the walls were seen pictures that showed true talent, and promised much for the painter. There is a remarkable decrease in the chromo style of painting which was prevalent a few years ago, and the artists are depending more on nature and the products of their brains for subjects. Several sketching classes are being formed to make short trips out of town this summer—one of the most profitable as well as pleasant ways for the student of art to pass a week or two—and many have signified their intention of joining such classes. Grand Rapids is proud of her three great artists, who rank among the best in America, the names of Fred Church, Larry Earle and Will Howe being prominent in art circles. There are two or three young artists in our city today that give promise of rivaling them, and these celebrities must watch their laurels. Among the studios visited was that of Miss Mary Jones, who has just returned from New York, where she has been studying this winter. This young lady is far advanced in her profession and anticipates spending the summer in sketching, returning east next fall. The reporter was shown some magnificent pastel portraits which she had just completed.

At Mrs. J. Clements' studio in the Roseman block were seen some fine studies of fruit, the painting of which this lady makes a specialty. She has a number of excellent paintings by well known American artists which are a testimony of her profession and her artistic taste. She has just completed some portraits in oil, her studio containing some striking studies in black and white.

The catalogue of the spring exhibition of the National Academy of Design mentions that Mrs. Kate S. Torrey has a head study there. She has done some fine portrait work in oil and water-color studies are of an excellent character.

The decorative work of Mrs. Coppens is admirable, especially in brass repoussé. At present Miss McCall's time is quite taken up with teaching drawing in the public schools.

Will Horner has given up his studio, and is spending the short winter he will remain in this city in sketching. This gentleman will soon depart for Paris, where he intends to study under his old teacher, Carolus Duran. In France the painting season is between October and June, and Mr. Horner will pass the time until October in taking orders for portraits in England. He says he has been very successful in and Grand Rapids, and has had many orders in Detroit. He has not done a single "Ship A-hoy" for a large price in his studio.

Fisher has been prevented by illness from doing much work, but he has been painting orders for several parties. His water-color is at present engaged in freshening up his studio.

Mrs. Horton will probably spend the winter in Dakota sketching. He has been considering a more extensive work in painting and is at present engaged upon a study of the Northwest. His studio is open at St. Paul. Next winter he expects to open a studio in Chicago, from which place he has received many orders for portraits.

There are a number of private parties in our city who have valuable collections of paintings by both modern and ancient masters which might be persuaded to give an exhibition of them, and certainly for a public benefit, besides giving instruction to young artists, many of whom do not often have a chance of seeing excellent works as Col. Geo. D. Briggs and others are fortunate enough to possess.

Had News For The Sports. A syndicate who were planning for a league base ball exhibition game in this city have run aground, and see failure staring them in the face owing to the league rule forbidding its clubs participating with each other in exhibition games. The St. Louis or Chicago club may be secured to take a hand in contest with a league club, but as the syndicate would be very heavy, the boys anticipate dropping the entire affair.

At The Museum. So phenomenal has been the success of the Japanese Village at the Museum the past week, that it will be retained another week and the show materially strengthened by the addition of new trunks and stage people. Bill Jones will start with a outfit, and therein, the living skeleton will display feats of strength. On the stage a fine entertainment will be presented.

Final Reunion of the Season. An excursion down the river will be given on the 10th inst. by the Grand Rapids Boat Club. The boat will leave her dock at Waterloo-st. at 5 o'clock this afternoon. Fare for the round trip 25 cents. Music by Wilkinson's band.

Public Boarding Stable. F. R. Patterson has opened a private boarding stable corner Fulton and Ransom-sts., where he is prepared to care for horses and carriages in the best style. Telephone connections.

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COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Week Pass

When an individual that the American... The winter season has set in and ladies will be looking for Parasols. We have our new attractive line of parasols... The children cry for the "Sunny South," at Heath's.

Don't fail to see the new styles at Heath's hat store. No objectionable characters allowed at the Grotto, 9 Canal-st.

You can only find the Boston Hat at Heath's. H. W. Stewart has a piece which will be sold today at a great bargain. Call and see it.

Heath is sole agent for the London Hat. See it. Buy a real nobby tailor made business suit equal in style, fit and finish to those made by the best tailors charge \$30.00 for it.

Compton Bros. The children cry for the "Sunny South," at Heath's. Wall Paper Wall Paper. We are showing a large and elegant line of new wall paper and decorations. Those desiring any wall paper should not fail to see our line.

Harry Hubbard will be found at the Grotto, 9 Canal-st. The "Breeze" Spring Hat, at Heath's. Mrs. L. P. Coffin, of No. 9 Ransom-st., brought with her from New York some new and lovely imported wraps which she would be pleased to show.

Imported Thüringer beer at The Grotto, 9 Canal-st. Nothing like the "Correct Style," at Heath's. An Artistic Prose. Those R. Nash, the artist, who has been frescoing Sweet's Hotel, has finished his contracts there and invites public inspection of the work.

Landlord N. C. Johnson will take pleasure in showing visitors around. Mr. Nash will remain in the city a week and can be found at Sweet's by those wishing his services. Don't fail to see the new styles at Heath's hat store.

Great Bargains in Carpets. Good Hemp Carpets, 20c. Yard-wide Cottage Carpets, 25c. Heavy Ingrain Carpets, 30c and 35c. Extra Heavy Ingrain, 40c and 50c. Extra Super Ingrain, 60c. Extra Super strictly all wool, 75c. Yard-wide Oil Cloths, 25c and 30c per cent. off these prices.

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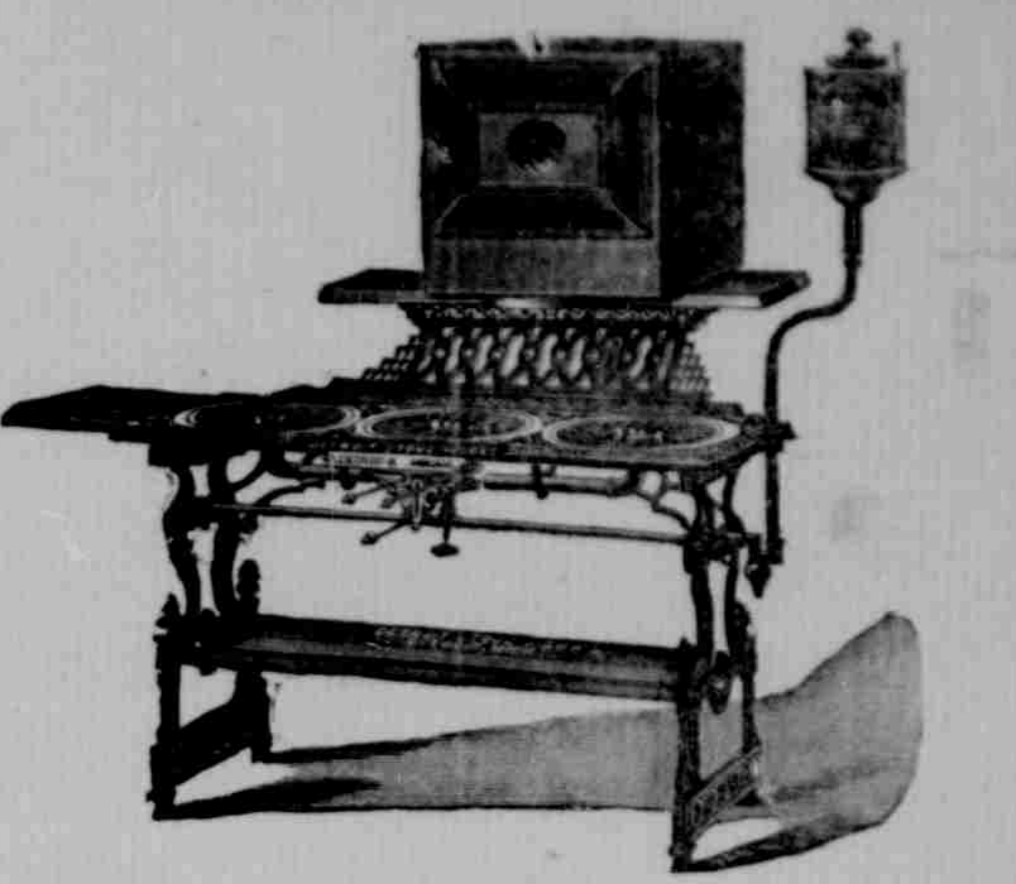
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