

THE GIFT OF SEEING

Of course knowledge of things, acquired experience, has an influence upon the artist's vision. But this influence is favourable only when it aids and deepens his powers of vision, not when it confuses him and obscures the clarity of his view.

Pictorial observation demands a different expression and is possessed by a different logic than that of scientific perception. Painters who forget this fact in their efforts to be original and to provide theories which they do not understand with incomprehensible illustrations, only bore the observer.

The gift of seeing bears fruit in perception and knowledge. But the depth of perception, the extent of knowledge depends upon the extent of the gift of penetrating vision.

Observation means something more than to take the surface aspect of things for their being. The invisible can also be visioned and the soul of things expressed.

Soul is just as real as the form which it inspires. It was a very incomplete "Realism" which left it out of account.

That which is imaginary can only be painted when the artist has visioned it.

In a work of art it is only the perfection of the objective representation which can have a transcendental effect.

Translated by E. T. Sch.