



The Art of Portrait Painting in Oil Colours

Henry Murray

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1851 edition. Excerpt: ... 20 PREPARATION FOR SECOND PAINTING. THE PREPARATION OF THE WORK FOR THE SECOND PAINTING. If the first painting have been executed with any degree of freedom, and so left to dry, without having been slightly touched here and there with a soft brush to remove any superficial inequalities which might effect the second painting, it will be necessary to examine the picture with a sharp knife, or scraper; but this operation cannot be performed until the work be perfectly dry. This may be determined by breathing on the surface, which, if dry, will immediately assume a dull and misty appearance; but if still wet, it will remain unsullied. The surface having been reduced, if necessary, a wetted sponge should be lightly passed over it; this will be dry in a few minutes, when a small quantity of poppy oil should be lightly brushed over the work, from which the superfluous moisture may be removed by the gentle application of an old silk handkerchief. The object of thus moistening the surface with poppy oil is to make the subsequent painting unite with the first, and so embody the first, second, and following paintings, that no discordant difference of execution may appear in the picture. Having passed the silk handkerchief over the surface, it will be necessary to observe that no dust or any of the thin threads of the silk adhere to the work. In finishing portraits, experienced painters omit oiling for the sake of obtaining texture; but the application of the sponge can never be omitted, because, without it, the glazes will not lie. All oil-colours sink to a certain extent, and in the progress of a picture, sometimes so much so, as to render oiling necessary in order to see the real strength and details of the work; this is termed "oiling out," I...

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