EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS
BY WALLACE L. DEWOLF AT
THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
JANUARY 5 TO JANUARY 28, 1917
THIS collection of pictures contains subjects from the Canadian Rockies, Estes Park, the Mojave Desert, and various places in California, as well as some local landscapes.

The pictures representing the Mojave Desert were painted in the early winter of 1916, just after severe and unusual rainstorms. The rivers were high, and the low levels were covered with water. Under these conditions it was often difficult at a distance to distinguish water from the borax and alkaline deposits of the ancient dry lakes and ocean beds that are found so frequently in the desert.

In his great work on The Desert, John C. Van Dyke asserts that nowhere in the world are subjects so paintable, so beautiful, or so fascinating as in this region, where nearly every kind and color of sand, desert, mountain, and rock formation is found. Nowhere are the sunsets more beautiful or more brilliant. The mountains and rocks, polished smooth by centuries of sandstorms, reflect the hues of the sunset and paint the sands of the desert with copper, rose, and violet. Under the noon-day sun the long mountain surfaces lie flat and formless, the desert sands are dull yellow or gray; but at evening the ranges return to their majesty and beauty.

The lava, granite, porphyry, and volcanic formations vary in shade from gray to red or black, and the stratified rocks are of almost every form and color. The low formations, called buttes, which rise above the mesas, represent the oldest of desert rocks, while the steep, rugged, saw-toothed, and needle-shaped masses are geologically the more recent. At Needles and in the grotesque Snaggle-
Tooth Range every conceivable form of dome, castle, spire, colonnade, and needle can be seen.

In speaking of these formations, Van Dyke makes the following startling assertion:

“You shall never see elsewhere as here the dome, the pinnacle, the minaret festooned with golden fire at sunset and sunrise; you shall never see anywhere as here the sunset valleys swimming in a pink and lilac haze, the great masses and plateaus fading into blue distance, the gorges and canyons banked full of purple shadow.”

The effect of desert sunsets he describes in the following beautiful language:

“The sun is setting, and the light falling more obliquely seems to bring out the shadows in the canyons and barrancas. Last of all the colors come slowly back to their normal condition. One by one they begin to glow on chasm, wall, and needled summit. The air, too, changes from steel-blue to yellow, from yellow to pink, from pink to lilac, until at last with the sun on the rim of the earth, the mountains, the air, the clouds, and the sky are all glowing with the tints of ruby, topaz, rose-diamond—hours of splendor, of grandeur, of glory.”

“The high range along the western side of Arizona, and the basins and tall spires in the Upper Basin region, all show these warm fire-colors under heat and sunset light, and often in the full of noon.”

“They (the sunbeams) stain the ledges of copper with turquoise, they burn the buttes to a terra-cotta red, they paint the sands with rose and violet, and they key the air to the hue of the opal.”

“In sublimity—the superlative degree of beauty—what land can equal the desert with its wide plains, its great mountains, and its expanding canopy of sky?”

In the paintings of “The Needles” and “A Bend in the Colorado” the Colorado is shown pink or red in color. This river, called by the Indians “The River of Blood,” is described by Van Dyke as the largest river west of the mountains, and yet the least known. Of this river Van Dyke says:

“There are miles upon miles of mesas stretching upward from the stream that no feet have ever trodden and that possess not a vestige of life of any kind.”

“You may see on the face of the globe numerous muddy Missouri, blue Rhones, and yellow Tiber; but there is only one red river, and that the Colorado.”
CATALOGUE

1. THE QUIET WATERS OF THE COLORADO
2. CLOUDY DAY, MOJAVE DESERT
3. SNAGGLE-TOOTH RANGE, MOJAVE DESERT
4. THERE'S A LONG, LONG TRAIL A-WINDING
5. DESERT WASTES, DAGGERT, CALIFORNIA
6. A BEND IN THE COLORADO
7. CALICO MOUNTAIN, MOJAVE DESERT
8. THE WHITE DESERT, DAGGERT, CALIFORNIA
9. RECEIVING WATER
10. CLOUDS AND DESERT HILLS
11. THE SKOKIE MARSH AT GLENCOE
12. AFTER SUNSET ON THE SKOKIE
13. THE BREATH OF AUTUMN
14. THE MARSH AT UNDERCLIFF
15. BIRCHES AT EAGLE RIVER
16. SUNRISE ON MT. MEEKER, ESTES PARK
17. MORaine LAKE AND VALLEY OF THE TEN PEAKS, CANADIAN ROCKIES
18. MY GARDEN IN WINTER
19. SUNRISE, LAKE LOUISE
20 VIEW FROM MISSION RIDGE, SANTA BARBARA
21 POPPY FIELD, SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
22 POPPIES AND EUCALYPTUS
23 IN THE MORNING, SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
24 PINES AT ESTES PARK, COLORADO
25 SAN ANTONIO FROM OAK KNOLL
26 MOONLIGHT AT RIDGEVIEW
27 A LONE TREE IN THE DESERT
28 THE NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA
29 LAKE LOUISE
30 BIRCHES AT EAGLE RIVER
31 MOONLIGHT IN THE GARDEN
32 SPRINGTIME IN ARIZONA
33 LIVE OAK, OAK KNOLL, PASADENA
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