

## Ornaments

another Lecture by Cynthia

Some Definitions

Ornament:

About Drawing

No one can become an ornamentist who has not perfect mastery over the pencil. So long as he has to think of the means by which the end is attained, the whole energy of the mind is not directed towards the realization of his mental conception, for part of the brain-force is extended upon the means by which the idea is being realized in form.

More About Drawing

Having knowledge of the art of drawing, possessing the power to delineate objects, or express thoughts in forms, enables me to make shapes at discretion without even the slightest expenditure of thought.

About Ideas

I am never at a loss for an idea; but when in ordinary mood,

About Understanding

In order that I enter the spirit of someone other than me, I often find it necessary to inform myself of the religion, mode of government, climate, and habits of a people; for it is only by understanding their faith and usages that I can comprehend the spirit of their ornament, and become for a time one of them in spirit.

About Gestation

Even things with which we are familiar may at a particular time present themselves in a new aspect, and furnish an idea which may be of value.

About Humor

Humor finds expression in grotesque forms. --Dresser

About Style

It is possible to learn the special features and peculiar qualities of all styles of ornament while learning to draw; and it is easy to draw forms which will give knowledge of historic ornament. Take the lotus flower. While practicing the drawing of this subject you should acquire knowledge of the manner in which this flower was used in ornament. Read up what is known of its symbolic significance and the manner it has been used by other ornamentist.

About the Beginning

The amazing repetition of symbolic associations through time and in all of Europe pottery, figurines, and other cult objects has convinced me that they are more than "geometric motifs"; they must belong to an alphabet of the metaphysical.

#### About Symbols

They represent the grammar and syntax of a kind of metalanguage by which an entire constellation of meanings is transmitted.

#### References

The Language of Ornament