

Wilhelm HELMSTEDT

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# A poetic German artist

**WHIFFMAN'S GALLERY**  
**W**E are familiar with the ethereal, mystical quality of the paintings of Wilhelm Helmstedt, one of Germany's leading contemporary artists. He has been in South Africa for six months and it is interesting to see how the country appears through the eyes of this poetic painter.

First, it is apparent that this competent analyst, like other artists freshly in this country, finds that the new palette required is a problem.

The red of his Karoo lacks that earthy quality which we all know, but somehow it does not matter very much—the atmosphere and the sense of timelessness is there.

Otherwise one can revel in the strong draughtsmanship amplified with lovely washes in water colour and oil. One cannot recall the angle from which the artist has seen "Lion's Head," for it is obviously the artist's abstract impression of the mountain.

Nevertheless, one feels that it is the "Lion's Head," surely a test of the artist's skill. The atmosphere in "Scottburgh" and "Near St. Johns" is superb.

There are also some very interesting life studies, which serve to underline the sound drawings of the other works.

H.E.W.

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