

## PLAGIARISTS

With perceptive eyes wide open,  
narrow minds philosophically shut—  
totally focused on long-tutored skills,  
engrossed in expressing inborn creativity  
while oblivious to obvious appropriation—  
draftsmen, painters, sculptors, photographers  
observe intently and creatively copy  
the exquisite display of natural beauty  
in nude models, en plein air landscapes.

Such artwork may praise the Maker.

But if these meticulous investments,  
energized hours of compositional design  
are frank, thoughtless, dishonest borrowings—  
no proper credit offered the original Artist,  
which they so furiously demand from others  
daring to freely imitate their own works—  
then, in their blissfully artistic ignorance,  
these creators, in the image of the Creator,  
are merely skillful, talented plagiarists.

— *David L. Hatton, 5/11/2016*