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METHOD OF MAKING REEL PICTURES IN MOTION PHOTOGRAPHY.

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Fig. 1.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 6.

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METHOD OF MAKING REEL-PICTURES IN MOTION PHOTOGRAPHY.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. BIRCH-FIELD, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city, county, and State of New York, have made a certain new and useful Invention in Methods of Making Reel-Pictures in Motion Photography, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to the method of making reel pictures in motion photography.

The object of the invention is to provide a method of producing in motion photography the operation of making articles of sculpture, clay or other forms of figures, busts, statues or the like.

Other objects of the invention will appear more fully hereinafter.

Referring to the drawing,—Figure 1 shows an article of sculpture as employed at the beginning of the process embodying my invention. Fig. 2 shows the article of sculpture during one portion of the photographing process. Fig. 3 shows the article of sculpture at the completion of the photographing process. Figs. 4, 5, 6, show the order in which the photographs of Figs. 1, 2, and 3, are projected on the screen by a projecting machine in accordance with my invention.

Heretofore it has been impossible to make reel pictures such as are used in motion photography, to reproduce the operation of making articles of sculpture, statues, figures, busts or the like. The reason thereof is apparent. The process of modeling, for illustration purposes, the bust of a well known person, is a long and tedious one, requiring specific artistic skill and ability and usually a great length of time. It would be impossible to take moving pictures of the operation on that account, as a reel of pictures so taken would be of impractical length and too expensive for commercial use, while at the same time, to correctly display the complete operation it would be impossible to omit any part of the reel. In addition thereto, the artist would be under a great strain throughout his work realizing that great speed is required of him, and that any mistake made would greatly lengthen the reel of pictures or completely spoil the same.

It is among the special purposes of my present invention to provide a method for making reel pictures for projecting in motion photography, which reel pictures, when projected, will portray the operation of molding or otherwise producing by hand or otherwise, articles of sculpture, statues, figures, busts or the like wherein the originals may be made at the leisure of the artist, and consequently wherein the full artistic genius of the artist may be applied in supplying the essential and desirable details without the strain or tension imposed by the necessity of speedy and accurate work.

In accordance with my invention I employ a completely finished article of sculpture, statue or the like, done in clay, wax, or any other desired or suitable composition or material, as shown in Fig. 1 with a consistency which will permit of its being worked or molded by hand or otherwise. The artist or manipulator then works or molds the article of sculpture, statue or the like with his hands, fingers or modeling tools, or otherwise, into a shapeless mass of material as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 while motion pictures are taken of the operation.

In order to produce the effect in motion pictures projected from the reel pictures so taken, of the operation of making or modeling the original article of sculpture, statue or the like, it is only necessary to run the reel pictures through the projecting machine in reverse order, that is, commencing with the shapeless mass of material as shown in Fig. 4 which is its condition at the end of the foregoing operation, and then projecting the motion or reel pictures in reverse order until the completed article of sculpture, statue or the like appears in the projected pictures, which is the condition of the article of sculpture, statue or the like at the beginning of the operation above described.

In this manner the operation of modeling, or making an article of sculpture or the like is reproduced in all the details thereof, while at the same time, in producing the original the artist is unhampered with regard to time and strain while the operation of making or molding the completed model or article of sculpture back into a shapeless mass may be accomplished by unskilled and cheap labor.

If desired the completed model may be inverted throughout the operation or manipulation of remodeling the same into a shapeless mass, to allow the same surface of the film negative of the reel of the pictures taken thereof to be presented to the source of light employed in the projecting machine even though the film is run through that machine in the reverse order, but my invention, in its

broadest scope, as defined in the claims, is not to be limited in this respect.

Having now set forth the object and nature of my invention, and the method or process involved, what I claim as new and useful and of my own invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is.—

1. The method of making and projecting motion pictures to portray the operation of making articles of sculpture, statuary or the like which consists in first producing the article of sculpture or statuary then working or remodeling the same into a shapeless mass and taking reel pictures of the remodeling operation, and finally running the reel pictures in reverse order through a projecting machine.

2. The method which consists in producing an article of sculpture, statue or the like, then manipulating the same by means of the hands or modeling tools into a shapeless mass and taking reel pictures of said manipulations, and finally running the reel pictures in reverse order through a projecting machine.

3. The method which consists in producing an article of sculpture, statue or the like in a plastic condition, then manipulating the same by means of the fingers or modeling tools and taking reel pictures during said manipulations and finally running the reel pictures in reverse order through a projecting machine.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of the subscribing witnesses, on this 19th day of March A. D., 1915.

CHARLES A. BIRCH-FIELD.

Witnesses:
JOSEPH S. NORTON,
WM. L. BIRCH-FIELD.