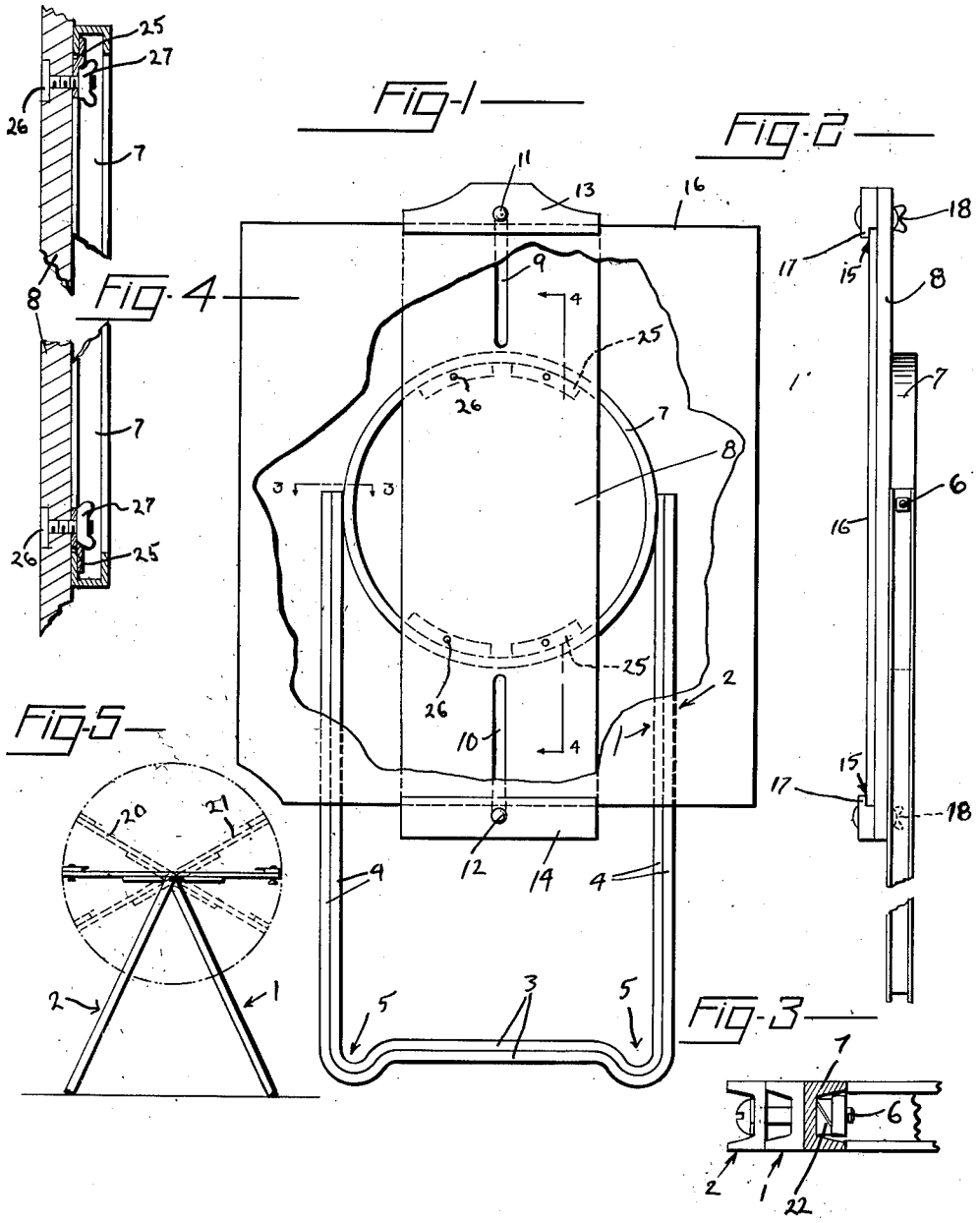
Feb. 19, 1952 L. SCHEU 2,586,097

WATER COLOR SKETCHING EASEL

Filed March 1, 1946



Patented Feb. 19, 1952

2,586,097

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,586,097

WATER-COLOR SKETCHING EASEL

Leonard Scheu, Laguna Beach, Calif.

Application March 1, 1946, Serial No. 651,321

3 Claims. (Cl. 248—197)

1

This invention relates to a watercolor sketching easel, and has for one of its objects the provision of an easel that is adapted to support a sketchboard horizontal and at any desired angle relative to horizontal.

Another object of the invention is a watercolor sketching easel that is light, rugged, stable, and that is adapted to be collapsed to compact form disposed substantially in one plane.

A still further object of the invention is a watercolor sketching easel that provides a horizontal plane to work upon, irrespective of the fact that the ground supporting it may be inclined, and which easel includes a sketchboard support that is adapted to be quickly swung to different positions for changing the angle of the sketchboard.

An additional object of the invention is the provision of a watercolor sketching easel that is compact, light, strong, adjustable to carry different sized sketching boards, and that provides for instant swinging of the sketching board to any desired angle about a horizontal axis and for holding such board in the desired angle.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the description and drawings.

Ordinarily watercolor sketching and painting involves the laying of washes in which horizontal and tilted positions of the sketchboard is essential. At times the sketchboard must be tilted to a greater degree than at other times and usually the tilting must be done instantly and the board must remain in the desired tilted position. The board must be stable in its tilted or horizontal positions and free from wobble. The easel of this invention is adapted to hold the sketchboard stable in horizontal or various tilted positions, and at the same time the operator may instantly change the tilt of the board. Also the easel of this invention is light in weight, cheap to make, extremely rugged, and compact, all of which are essential to a sketching easel, inasmuch as the artist many times must carry the easel and his other materials over rough terrain.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a front side view of an easel illustrative of the invention, which easel is shown in collapsed position, the sketch board being indicated in dot-dash line.

Fig. 2 is an edge view of the easel of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged, fragmentary, sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged, fragmentary, sectional view along line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

2

Fig. 5 is a greatly reduced view showing the easel set up and showing in dash lines various positions of the support for the sketchboard relative to horizontal.

In detail, the easel illustrated comprises a pair of generally U-shaped legs generally designated 1 and 2. These legs are preferably of the same shape, each including a closed end portion 3 and sides 4. The ends of the closed end portions 3 may be slightly projected outwardly, as at 5, relative to the sides 4 adjacent thereto for a purpose later described.

The free ends of legs 1, 2 are pivotally secured together by bolts 6 (Figs. 2, 3) and the leg 1 is slightly smaller than leg 2 so that it may be swung to a nested position within the U of leg 2 and coplanar with the latter leg as seen in Figs. 1, 2.

Between the free ends of the legs is an annular member 7. The bolts 6 extend through said member at diametrically opposite points on the latter thereby pivotally supporting said members between said free ends for swinging about the axis of said bolts. Thus member 7 may be swung to coplanar relationship with the legs when the easel is collapsed.

An elongated board 8 is secured to the annular members 7 in a position extending transversely of the axis of bolts 6 and across one side of said member in a plane substantially parallel with the plane in which said member is disposed.

The board is slotted longitudinally at 9, 10 at opposite ends for bolts 11, 12 that extend through said slots respectively. Clamping elements 13, 14 are respectively secured to bolts 11, 12, which elements are in the form of strips extending transversely across the board 1 on the side of the latter that faces outwardly of member 7. These strips are preferably rabbeted at 15 (Fig. 2) along their adjacent edges for receiving opposite edges of a sketching board 16 (dot-dash line Figs. 1, 2). The shoulder 17 defining one side of the rabbeted edge holds the sketchboard to the board 8 and thumb nuts 18 on bolts 11, 12 may be tightened when the sketchboard is clamped between elements 13, 14 for holding the latter in clamping postion.

As seen in Fig. 2, the legs 1, 2 may be swung apart for supporting the board 8 between the upper ends thereof. The projections 5 engage the ground at spaced points to prevent any tendency of the legs to rock on the ground should the latter be uneven. The board 8 and member 7 may be swung as a unit oppositely between the free upper ends of the legs to various inclined

positions relative to horizontal as indicated in dash lines 20, 21. Any desired degree of incline of board 8 (and consequently the sketchboard thereon) is possible between and beyond the positions indicated in dash lines. The legs 1, 2 alone limit the degree of inclination, but the sketchboard is practically never swung to these maximum limits.

In order to insure against accidental swinging of the member 7 and board 8 including the sketch board, the bolts 6 are kept relatively tight, and a spring friction washer 22 (Fig. 3) may be provided on the bolt to maintain the desired frictional resistance to movement of the member 7 relative to the legs, as well as to resist accidental swinging of the legs relatively.

The legs 1, 2 are preferably channel strips with the open sides facing outwardly relative to the space between the sides of the legs, and the annular member 7 is also preferably a channel strip with its open side facing radially inwardly. Nuts 23 on bolts 6 lie between the sides of the channel strip forming the annular member 7 and are held by said sides against turning.

The means for securing the board 8 to member 7 may comprise segmental clamps 25 on bolts 26 (Figs. 1, 4) that in turn are secured to board 8. These clamps may overlie one of the sides of the channel strip forming said member 8 and thumb nuts 27 on said bolts may hold the clamps in any desired frictional engagement with said sides. Thus the board 8, and consequently the sketchboard, may be revolved about the central axis of the member 7 and may be securely held to said member at any degree of revolution. Thus a wash may be started from a corner of the sketchboard and run diagonally across the latter, or the course of the wash may be changed if desired.

The channel structure of the legs and member 7 insure against twisting of said legs and said member while permitting them to be of relatively light weight material.

When the easel is collapsed to the position indicated in Fig. 1, the one end of board 8 terminates a substantial distance from the closed ends 3 of the legs, thus enabling the closed ends to function as a handle for carrying the easel, and if desired, the sketchboard may even remain secured to the board 8.

In using the term "sketchboard," I refer to the sketching paper, whether in the form of illustration board, or a block of watercolor paper, or a mounted sheet of watercolor paper, or any other relatively rigid sheet.

It is to be understood that the detailed description and drawings are not to be considered restrictive of the invention, but merely illustrative of a preferred form.

I claim:

1. A watercolor sketching easel comprising a pair of U-shaped legs pivotally secured together at their free ends and formed for swinging to coplanar nested relationship with their closed ends together and with one of the legs within the U of the other, a support for holding a sketchboard carried between said free ends of said legs

and pivotally secured thereto for swinging movement about an axis extending through said ends, means for holding said support at different positions in its swinging movement, and means on said support for releasably securing a sketchboard thereto, said support including an annular member secured at diametrically opposite points thereon to said legs and elements secured to said member engageable with opposite edges of such sketchboard and revolvable about the central axis of said member to various positions on said member.

2. A sketching easel comprising a support for holding a sketchboard, an annular member on said support, means carried by said support for releasably securing such sketchboard thereto in a position extending across one side of said support in a plane generally parallel with the plane in which said member is disposed, supporting legs for said member pivotally secured thereto at points at opposite sides of the latter for supporting said member in a horizontal plane and for swinging in opposite directions about a horizontal axis to different angular positions relative to horizontal, and means releasably securing said support to said member for rotary movement of said support about the central axis of said member at any one of said angular positions.

3. A sketching easel comprising a support for holding a sketchboard, an annular member on said support, means carried by said support for releasably securing such sketchboard thereto in a position extending across one side of said support in a plane generally parallel with the plane in which said member is disposed, supporting legs for said member pivotally secured thereto at points at opposite sides thereof for supporting said member in a horizontal plane and for swinging in opposite directions about a horizontal axis to different angular positions relative to horizontal, said support comprising an elongated strip spaced between said points carrying said first mentioned means, and means for securing said strip to said member in various positions about the central axis of said member.

LEONARD SCHEU.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
226,139	Wilkins	Mar. 30, 1880
650,504	Dyonnet	Mar. 29, 1900
694,291	Loney	Feb. 25, 1902
694,979	Mueller	Mar. 11, 1902
855,743	Anthony	June 4, 1907
986,131	Braasch	Mar. 7, 1911
987,113	Cooley	Mar. 21, 1911
2,144,856	Sawyer	Jan. 24, 1939
2,156,225	O'Meara	Apr. 25, 1939
2,375,819	Reid	May 15, 1945

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
28,918	Switzerland	Sept. 11, 1903