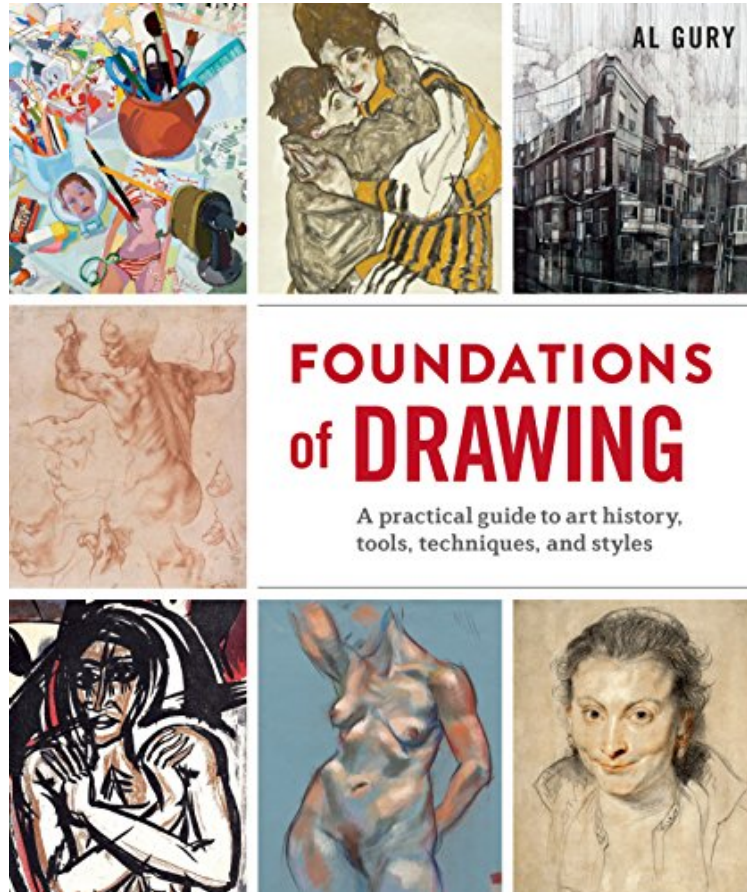


Foundations of Drawing: A Practical Guide to Art History, Tools, Techniques, and Styles

Al Gury

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Al Gury : Foundations of Drawing: A Practical Guide to Art History, Tools, Techniques, and Styles before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Foundations of Drawing: A Practical Guide to Art History, Tools, Techniques, and Styles:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable read for the beginner and experienced artistBy toReadistoEscapeThis ARC was provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Typically when I choose a drawing book I am looking for tips on how to improve my drawing and practice ideas. However I was pleasantly surprised by the historical information this book provided. I learned a lot of interesting facts I was not aware of. The book contained wide variety of full color reproductions of art work. The book does go into detail on the technical aspect of drawing. Explaining different techniques and proving tips. However, I would have liked more step by step illustrations to practice on your own. I am a beginner so I was only able to complete two lessons. There is a lot of knowledge to be gained from reading this book. The artwork displayed is very enjoyable. The detailed description of drawing tools is helpful for the beginner. But the technical drawing instructions are geared more towards the experienced artist. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A MUST FOR BEGINNER OR SEASONED

ARTISTBy gayle pace**MY THOUGHTS**Drawing is a wonderful way to express how you see an object, a person, scenery or anything your eye sees. This book is a good feel to it since it gives you detailed information and sketches and at the same time let's you see things with your own eyes and then put it on paper. No two pieces of drawing will be exactly the same since everyone puts their own touch on the work. Mr. Gury gives some wonderful history and the eras of art that have emerged through time. He shows you the different choices there are out there in tools, mediums, and papers. He shows how to use different methods on shading according to different locations and times of the day. The book has some wonderful pictures in it to go with the history of drawing. I was extremely interested in the portrait drawing part of the book along with the different mediums you can use along with the correct papers for doing it. He gives you choices, He doesn't tell you that a certain one is the only right one to use. This book is for everyone, whether you are a beginner or one who has been drawing for a long time. The history alone is well worth the read. It would be perfect to put with your art books on your shelf as a reference book when you get stuck on a variety of issues in drawing. If you are just beginning this book gives such a variety of information along with examples of how to go about achieving your ended piece. I especially liked the step by step instructions on portrait drawing. SO if you have had a desire to draw beyond doodling, then expand on that doodling with help from this guide. This is the book for good instruction along with wonderful history of drawing and art.I received a copy of this book from Blogging for Books and the author and voluntarily decided to review it.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Getting started with a pencilBy Lisa AhlstedtSome people are gifted artists and are effortlessly able to create artistic masterpieces. For the rest of us, Foundations of Drawing gives not only a history of art, but useful information on the tools and techniques necessary to bring out your creative genius.Lavishly illustrated with many examples, the author begins with the encouraging reassurance that "anyone can learn to draw." The book then traces the history of drawing, from its supposedly romantic beginnings when young woman traced the outline of her war-bound boyfriend, to the more likely origins of cave paintings from over 700,000 years ago. The author notes how Picasso and other artists were influenced by these early cave drawings and made "conscious decisions to adopt alternative methods of drawing." That's always been my explanation, too . . .After tracing the development of drawing through the centuries and various artistic movements, there is a discussion of the various materials that can be used for creating your masterpiece. In addition to giving a description of each type of material, the author also offers advice on how to use each one. The majority of the book is devoted to Essential Drawing Skills and Demonstrations, including techniques such as blending, texture and working with light and shade. Step-by-step instructions show how to begin and progress through such projects as drawing still lifes, animals and the human figure. After your work is done, there is information on using fixatives and storing your work.Whether you've always wanted to learn to draw, or are merely interested in art and art history, this book offers a great deal of in-depth information on the subject. Even if you don't plan to start drawing yourself, seeing how artists go about their work is fascinating.Disclaimer: I received a copy of Foundations of Drawing from Blogging for Books in exchange for this review

From a leading art instructor at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, a complete survey of drawing as an art form covering its history, materials, and key techniques, alongside step-by-step demonstrations. Foundations of Drawing is a comprehensive and authoritative overview of the history, aesthetics, methods, and materials of the drawing medium. Throughout, clearly defined demonstrations provide easy access to the practice of drawing as well as the history and development of core drawing techniques. Richly illustrated, the book contains reproductions of the finest master drawings from the fifteenth century to the present. Unlike other drawing instruction books that focus on step-by-step lessons exclusively, Foundations of Drawing provides readers with the context and background to help understand just why these materials and methods are so vital for successful drawing.

Artists and Illustrators Magazine: Book of the Month"A solid understanding of drawingnbsp;is a must for artists and books introducing the basics abound, but Gury'squo;s latest goes several steps further. In its pages you will find an overview of drawing as an art form covering its history, materials and key techniques. And, alongside step-by-step demonstrations, there are reproductions of the finest master drawings from the 15th century to the present."mdash;Artists and Illustrators Magazine"Al Gury has taken a lifetime of experience as an artist and teacher, and distilled it into an engaging exploration of drawing from every possible perspective. Foundations of Drawing takes the reader from the personal to the historical, from techniques to the aesthetic, and then ties it all together with in-depth drawing demonstrations. This book is the perfect companion for anyone interested in understanding drawing from A to Z." mdash;Ross Lance Mitchell, Director of Barnes-de Mazia Education and OutreachAbout the AuthorAL GURY chairs the painting department at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, where he also teaches drawing. Gury exhibits his work at the F.A.N. Gallery and has shown at the National Academy of Design in New York, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and numerous other galleries and museums around the country. He is the author of Alla Prima: A Contemporary Guide to Traditional Direct Painting and Color for Painters: A Guide to Traditions and Practice. He lives in Philadelphia, PA.Excerpt. copy; Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.INTRODUCTION Foundations of Drawing is a guide for teachers, students, artists, and the general reader to

the traditions and practice of drawing in Western culture. This overview of the history of drawing and of drawing materials, concepts, and techniques provides a practical look at the art of drawing and will be a useful text for anyone who is interested in learning about drawing, returning to drawing, studying drawing, or teaching drawing as well as for longtime practitioners of the art. The book takes the point of view that clear information on the history, materials, and techniques of drawing creates the ability to understand drawing, make choices, and chart one's development in drawing with a sense of confidence. Foundations of Drawing focuses on classic drawing mediums such as pencil and charcoal while also presenting an overview of a broad range of other materials, including chalk and oil pastels, watercolors, and acrylics. Not all materials are discussed in depth, but the essential ones are presented. Traditional materials and methods are illustrated through examples of old master and contemporary drawings as well as through demonstrations of basic concepts. The essential elements and concepts of core drawing genres—still life, interiors, portraiture, life drawing, and landscape—are presented for foundational drawing study and portfolio-making. More experienced artists can use Foundations of Drawing as a sourcebook and a point of departure for further personal growth and artistic exploration.

Drawing is an essential part of a portfolio for art school admittance. Drawing shows whether or not the applicant has a basic ability to understand visual organization and use the formal principals of shape, form, line, light, and perspective. It also shows whether or not the applicant can visualize creative ideas and concepts.

What Is Drawing? For many centuries, drawing has been a practical approach to visualizing and planning everything from human figures in an oil painting to designing machine parts, buildings, and textiles. Simple materials such as graphite pencils, charcoal, and ink have been the primary means for doing the great majority of drawings. The term drawing now encompasses a wide range of traditional and nontraditional mediums, approaches, and aesthetics. Modern technology has created new versions of old materials and has sometimes even replaced them. For example, fine-point marker pens have added to or replaced older dip pens and ink bottles for some artists. Some artists rely on and cherish traditional materials and methods, while others draw only on computer screens. And some artists draw experimentally using materials their Renaissance ancestors would think very strange: blood, tar, food, and computer drawing pads. Also, the aesthetics of drawing, which traditionally focused on a figure, an object, or a scene, now include abstract and conceptual forms having little to do with nature and more to do with how the artist personally interprets the world. Once thought of as the province of trained artists or skilled amateurs, drawing is now recognized as part of the language of children, the mentally disabled, and self-taught or outsider artists. Prisoners and victims of social injustice draw in order to document their social and political experiences.