



Figure Drawing: Design and Invention

Michael Hampton

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Figure Drawing: Design and Invention is an instructional figure drawing book geared towards the novice and experienced artist alike. This book emphasizes a simplified understanding of surface anatomy, in order to clarify the mechanics of the figure, facilitate invention, and ultimately create a skill-set that can be successfully applied to other media. In addition, this book focuses very strongly on practical usage, making sure the artist is able to assimilate the steps presented here into a cohesive working process. (Fourth printing, September 2011)

Figure Drawing: Design and Invention Details

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asuka says

Would highly recommend, the techniques they teach are overall very helpful and useful for me. I learned a lot from this book, it covers basically everything from construction, portraits, bodies to feet. This is helpful for beginners I think, and the explanations are easy to understand.

Ben Turner says

Michael Hampton's book on figure drawing is a must read and an amazing reference book. It is a fantastic book for artists who are looking to become more than novices, and who want to be able to create drawing poses using only their knowledge of anatomy. While it is a little bit confusing (I would recommend Chris Hart's books for absolute novices) it gives a great deal of information without being a medical textbook, and without being dull. It gives artists (like me) who have difficulty finding practices a big inspiration, and a creative mindset that allows novices to get over their fears of messing up proportions and spending hours on small details. A must read for artists who know the basics, but want a little more in-depth knowledge, so they can visualize the poses they want to create.

Tazio Bettin says

One of the very best books on anatomy I've ever stumbled upon. Wonderful for understanding the structure of the body, though maybe not as good as Burne Hogarth's when it comes to gesture and pose.

KC Lee says

This is my favorite book on the construction of the human body. It teaches anatomy without being overwhelmingly complex like many anatomy books are. Bones and muscle groups are broken down into comprehensive shapes. Clear, color-coded demonstrations are labeled and often accompanied by written explanations. It also touches on important things like weight, rhythm, and more. I owe much of my knowledge and drawing technique to what I learned from this wonderful book and recommend it to anyone and everyone looking to learn how to draw people.

Fotis Mallinakis says

It's was a great book that shows you the fundamentals for drawing the human figure, and many other complex forms. It's simple, intuitive and the drawings help you understand a lot. Some chapters like the Head or the Anatomy are simplified therefore the author mentions you should engage in further study for a complete understanding of these chapters. But this simplification helps you conceive the essence of the

figure!

Beatriz says

Read it at a slow pace while working on my art.

The most amazing approach to anatomy I've seen! Learn so much from it, highly recommend it to anyone who's starting to draw or even already neck deep in the art world. You can never have too much anatomy knowledge.

Parka says

(More pictures at parkablogs.com)

The approach covered is primarily concerned with the use of line, development of form, and the simplified design of anatomy. It doesn't go into contour drawing, shading and expression.

The many illustrated examples are aimed at helping students develop a feel for the form and volume of figures they draw. To that aspect, I think it does a very good job.

The use of simple geometric shapes as drawing guides are simple to understand. Not only that, Michael Hampton also builds onto those simplified mannequins with lots of clearly illustrated muscles. The muscle groups are visualised very distinctly in the examples. They are colour-coded to bring attention those that affect form when the body is in different positions.

I like the part on finding landmarks — bones that are near the skin. Colour-coded and shown very clearly, with rotating views from front to back.

The book does have head drawing but the focus is on the form rather than the details of the features, although the examples do show the details. It still covers enough for anyone to draw a decent head.

One thing that's missing is the mention of figure proportions, like how many heads tall a body, length of an arm, etc. That I think will complete the book. There's nothing on bones and you won't learn how muscle works, but this isn't an anatomy reference book. That said, having an anatomy reference book to go along will be extremely helpful.

This is a useful book for artists learning to create and pose their own figures. Recommend for beginner and intermediate artists.

J.T. says

Helped me tremendously with my figure drawing. I'd give it six stars if I could.

Oscar says

An absolute keeper; I plan to have this guy handy on a nearby shelf whenever I am drawing.

Dave says

For anyone who has ever wanted to draw better, this book is a must. I pick up this pick and reread it as often as possible.

Sonya Ball says

I found this to be an excellent guide to drawing the human figure, with practical exercises and good anatomy references this is one of the best books I've read on figure drawing, and it has helped my drawing immensely.

Daliamon says

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Daisy says

This is the best drawing book in my collection so far. It mainly focuses on anatomy drawing fundamentals, varying from the use of lines to anatomy in general. Almost everything beginners need to know about drawing anatomy is covered here, in an efficient and well-organized way.

This book is very friendly and accessible for beginners who are willing to learn about anatomy. Unlike other anatomy art books that might confuse beginners by directly showing references to the real human body, the author of this book, Michael Hampton, simplifies human body parts into shapes, and makes them into different colors, which clearly demonstrates concepts and helps beginners to learn more efficiently. It is much easier to understand and memorize how to draw anatomy through the use of the concepts introduced by this book on gravity, volume, form, fluency of lines, perspective and proportion. This teaching method really helps beginners have a deeper understanding of anatomy, instead of copying real-life photos of the nude body.

This book is organized in a good way, too. Starting from a basic introduction of gesture drawing, the first part highlights intuitive, quick sketching without worrying about proportion. While drawing these quick sketches of the human body, the author also gives helpful information on the use of lines, such as when to

use curved and straight lines. Along with some knowledge of bones like the ribcage, pelvis, and spine, these chapters also guide beginners in learning about the parts of the body by demonstrating the importance of volume and forms. The rest of the book focuses mostly on muscles, which is made very easy to understand after learning the information contained in the previous chapters. The last few chapters involve a small portion of drapery, as well as some notes on light and shadow, wrapping up the whole book.

Overall, it is a perfect book for beginners who are seeking to learn introductory anatomy. People should keep in mind, however, while the lack of real-life reference in this book may make learning the fundamentals easier for beginners, the next stage of learning may require a book that shows what body parts look like in reality. Drawing the human body is complex, so it is almost impossible to explain the whole subject in one book, but I believe this book would provide beginners with more confidence to further explore the subject of drawing anatomy.

L says

Quite good, as long as you can think for yourself. Watch the video lessons too, there are 8 of them. This book is for intermediate artists who can at least draw from life and have a basic understanding of perspective and form. Do not attempt to read this if you're completely new to art.

Randall Newnham says

Drawing has been a lifelong interest of mine, but until recently, I was barely able to draw much more than a stick figure. Around a year ago, I decided to seriously devote effort to learning to draw. It's a great skill to have, requires little in the way of materials and can be fun. Since that decision, I've purchased and used about 10 books to drawing, mostly figure drawing. This was the last book on the subject I purchased, and, I am convinced, the last one I need. Hampton lays out what you need to become a better artist. I believe that anyone who is interested in the subject could pick up this book, and within a few hours see a marked difference in their skill at drawing. What I found the most helpful is that on sections where he is going over muscles and shapes, he uses color to call out what he is talking about. If you are interested in any type of drawing that involves the human figure, definitely take a look at this book.
