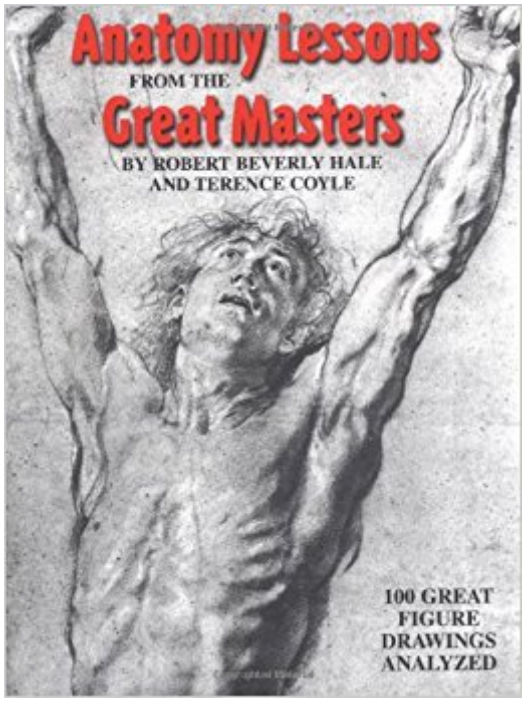
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Anatomy Lessons From The Great Masters



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Synopsis

This classic book, whose foremost author was one of the great artistic anatomy teachers of the twentieth century, is an invaluable instructor and reference guide for any professional, amateur, or student artist who depicts the human form. Revealing the drawing principles behind one hundred inspiring masterpieces, the book presents work by Leonardo, Michelangelo, Rubens, Raphael, Titian, Rembrandt, and other greats. These superb portrayers of figures knew that the secret of drawing them was seeing how underlying bone and muscle structures mold the bodyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s surface forms. Readers are shown how to learn from these great examples as the authors guide them through all the steps they would take in a life class or studio working with live models.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anatomy Lessons from the Great Masters provides an anatomical counterpart to Robert Beverly Hale’s classic reference book, Drawing Lessons from the Great Masters. Terence Coyle, who for several years assisted Hale at the Art Students League of New York, kept detailed notes of Hale’s lectures and teaching methods. He combined these notes with 100 drawings to illustrate how the great masters portrayed specific parts of the human physique. As Hale points out, master artists such as Rembrandt, Leonardo, and Raphael "absorbed the technical details of anatomy so well that these details could be set down instinctively.... If an artist has to occupy his mind with the task of clumsily grouping the elemental facts of anatomy as he draws, there can be little room left for really important matters--such as the spirit of the drawing and the artist’s expressive intent." Coyle provides several examples within the study of each anatomical area to illustrate the variety of styles

and methods employed by the masters. The book treats, in order, the rib cage, the pelvis and thigh, the knee and lower leg, the foot, the shoulder girdle, the arm, the hand, and the neck and head. A complete series of anatomical reference plates by Dr. Paul Richer is included. By applying the timeless anatomical principles the great masters have handed down to us, any artist can begin to acquire the means by which to express the "really important matters." --Mary Ribesky

It’s rare to find good, comprehensive books on drawing the anatomy. Each of these the first, the return of a classic; the second, a focused study; and the third, lessons from the masters deserves a place on library shelves. Bridgman was a legendary teacher at New York’s Art Students’ League. There, he originated a system of drawing known as "constructive anatomy." In 1952, his seven books on anatomy were gathered into one volume, which became a standard work at art schools and universities. Published now for the first time in paperback, it holds up as an indispensable volume, with more than 200 illustrations of hands and hundreds of images of arms, shoulders, heads, torsos, legs, knees, and feet. Fairley’s book concentrates on those troublesome extremities hands and feet. Sketchbook exercises are followed by eight detailed painting demonstrations in watercolor, oil, and other media. Fairley then continues on to portraits in which variations in age, skin tone, composition, mood, and movement are integrated. Advanced students will find Hale and Coyle’s Anatomy Lessons from the Great Masters a rich source of inspiration. Hale, like Bridgman, was one of the great teachers at the Art Students’ League. His student, Coyle, gathered together Hale’s famous lectures to produce this compendium. Hale drew on principles found in 100 masterpieces by such artists as Leonardo, Michelangelo, Rubens, Raphael, D?rer, Titian, and Rembrandt. In 1995, Giovanni Civardi’s trilogy Drawing Human Anatomy (Sterling, 1995), Drawing the Female Nude (Sterling, 1995), and Drawing the Male Nude (LJ 3/15/96. o.p.) reached a high standard for good, basic books in this genre. These three surpass Civardi’s works and are highly recommended for serious artists and comprehensive library collections. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Recommended by figure drawing instructor at local college. I have to agree it looks like it will be extremely helpful in improving my drawings.

I had to purchase this book for an anatomy class in art school and I definitely like it better than other "strait" artistic anatomy books. It shows amazing artwork from historical art masters, with accompanying "traces" of key areas, pointing out the muscle groups they show, giving you a perfect

example of how to apply anatomical knowledge in art. Plus it has all the standard anatomical charts as well. Really great book. Even if it’s not required reading I would highly recommend it if you want to improve your artistic anatomy.

The imagery in this book is excellent. One does not have to travel to all the museums that contain the artwork in order to appreciate the work of the Renaissance. There is detailed bone structures and profiles as well as musculature in the appendix of the book. The book is not as detailed in anatomical references as the work of Raynes, but it is definitely a better one than "Human Anatomy ... Elements of Form" book that I returned. The book is much more affordable for those who want to be frugal with their purchases.

Anatomy Lessons From The Great Masters is the sequel, sort of, toÃ Â Drawing Lessons from the Great Masters (Practical Art Books). Again, 100 pieces of drawings from great masters are selected for analysing.Compared to Drawing Lesson, this book is much more straightforward. The book is really like an anatomy reference which points you the parts of the body to look for. This pointing and labeling of parts isn’t really called analyzing. It lacks the insight that goes into the creative process of these art masters. By comparison Drawing Lessons from the Great Masters really explores the thought process that goes into creating art.While there are the usual anatomical reference drawings at the back, showing the bones and muscles from from and back views, it’s not as comprehensive as other anatomy reference books.The good thing about this book is of course the figure drawings. Most of them are sketches. It’s really inspirational to look at the drawings created around the 15 century by artists like Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rubens, Raphael, and other masters.This book is not really an essential buy unless you’re buying for the drawings.I prefer Joseph Sheppard’sÃ Â Drawing the Living FigureÃ Â which features a similar teaching style and has beautiful life drawings.(More pictures are available on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

Very very useful book.Of course you cannot learn everything you should, simply using just this book, but it is an excellent tool in order to improve basic knowledge taken from great books, like those from Andrew Loomis.

Excellent book for the used price. Hale is one of the best teachers for new and experienced artist alike. Many fine and detailed plates.

A must have for any aspiring or professional figurative artist/illustrator. This and also Andrew Loomis books. The descriptions are excellent, the graphs and artist drawings extremely helpful. Try copying some of the plates and you will learn sooo much. Excellent excellent book.

Hale was unique. This book is as close to a top-notch artistic anatomy class as you can get without actually being in the room. Hale demonstrates how the masters portrayed human bone and muscle through a detailed examination of numerous works. By clearly pointing out how and where each artist indicated the underlying anatomical structure of his figures, Hale reveals a wide range of techniques while driving home his point that it is truly worthwhile to study this stuff until it becomes part of the artist. His mildly condescending tone is a trifle irritating at times -- but it’s easy to forgive so distinguished and generous a teacher for a lack of patience with the slipshod work of the novice.By the way: get the hardcover. This is a working book -- you’ll use it again and again, and you’ll want it in your studio as a ready reference. It’s stood the test of time, so the investment is worth it.

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