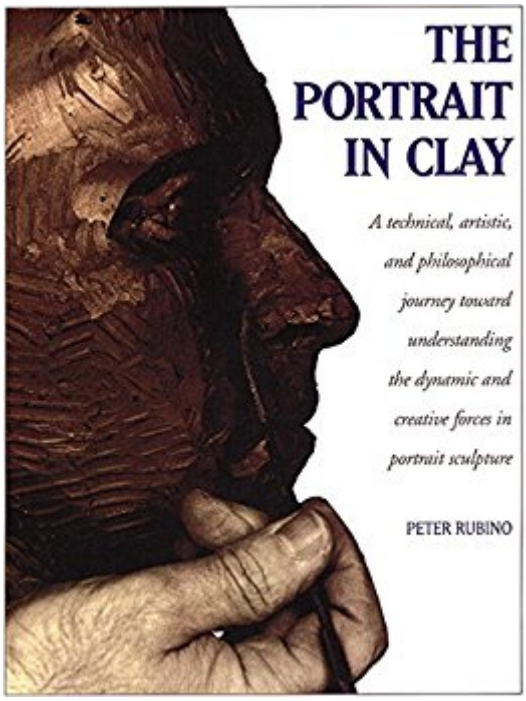
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The Portrait In Clay: A Technical, Artistic, And Philosophical Journey Toward Understanding The Dynamic And Creative Forces In Portrait Sculpture



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Synopsis

Simulating a workshop studio course, this book provides action-photography sequences that enable readers to observe every step a master sculptor takes in building a portrait in clay.

Book Information

File Size: 225571 KB

Print Length: 162 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0823041026

Publisher: Watson-Guptill (November 24, 2015)

Publication Date: November 24, 2015

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00VZZ0C0W

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #148,857 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #3 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Art > Sculpture #20 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Sculpture > Technique #27 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Art > Instruction & Reference > Figure Drawing

Customer Reviews

I was searching for a book that could help develop my limited talents. I followed Peter Rubino’s guidelines and created a very credible portrait following his step by step geometric approach. This book can make everyone better at sculpting, regardless of skill level or talent. The beginner can improve dramatically - and the advanced will find new and fascinating dimensions for creating the portrait in clay. This book is a MUST READ for anyone who’s had an interest in the art of sculpting at any level.

I have a good collection of Portrait Clay books. This is a fair one. The images contained in the book are not great. Overall, the techniques are what you would expect from a book of this type. I did not

find the book particularly helpful. It was a poor addition to my collection.

I am trying to get a hold of as many books on sculpting techniques as possible as I live 2 hours from the nearest college, so this is how I have to learn. While I also gave Katherine Dewey's "Creating Lifelike Figures in Polymer Clay" a high review, those techniques just don't translate as well into sculpture as I had hoped (though her discussions on scaling and proportion do). Peter Rubino's "The Portrait in Clay" is an excellent step-by-step beginner's guide to sculpting portraits. Its broken down into 5 sections.The first shows you the basic techniques on a generic head.The second section is a brief section on tools. Its brief because he doesn't use very many tools.The third section shows sculpting with a live model. The photos (the failing of far too many scultping books) are clear, detailed and actually show the area being concentrated on. They are not perfect, but still do an excellent job (you sometimes have to skip ahead a couple of pages to see what the current step looks like when completed).Section 4 is a detailed discussion of the individual features of the face: nose, eyes, ears, the mouth and chin. Part of what makes this book good is that during the first and third sections, he refers to these sections with page numbers so you are not just flipping around. However I think he could have merged sections 1 and 4, or at least put 4 after 1.Finally Peter details the finishing process: hollowing, firing and applying a patina. I must reserve judgement here. It reads good, but this is for water-based clay and I work in oils so I can't really comment on it.Books like this create a difficulting when attempting to rate them due to the differing abilities of the potential reader. So for this I will say 5 stars for the beginner, it has everything you need to make a good portrait in clay. You might even make a few bucks off what you learn. For the intermediate I would call it 3 stars because there is probably something in here that will make your process a little easier or more accurate. For advance artists, I doubt you will find much of value.My criticisms are three-fold. First, the artist's finished portrait created during this book doesn't look like the live model. But I think this is due more to the artist's eye than his techniques. Second, it doesn't offer any methods for smoothing the work to create more lifelike texture. And third, his patina finishes are, in my opinion, way too heavy-handed. He attempts to create the bluish effect of aged bronze, but really ends up just painting it blue.Again, a great book for the beginner, the best I've read so far.

I guess this book is okay. I ordered it to go along with a college course I was taking and the book couldn't hold a candle to my class information. It has fairly decent methods to sculpt eyes and individual features, but the book is just a plain jane, very basics book. Quite disappointed with what the book's final sculpt looks like- it would be a C probably at my school. After one semester of

sculpting I have total confidence that i could write a book at least as good as this one....I'm actually thinking about selling it back. This is not one that I would really value in my art book collection.

Great help in sculpting heads and faces in clay.

The technic was described very clearly in detail and I'm sure the book will be used a lot. Thank you.

This is the 4th copy of this book I've purchased for my classroom. My students seem to love it so much for guiding their head sculpture assignment they keep the book! Highly recommend due to the excellent instructive photos.

A good book for a novice. Step by step pictures and explanation to help build faces.

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