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The Complete Sketching Book



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“One of the best books of its kind, and at a good price. Hamilton...starts with the bare essentials of sketching and then builds the studentÃ¢â ¬â„¢s confidence by advancing through exercises in lighting, perspective, and still lifes and on to larger outdoor scenes.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Library Journal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hamilton has struck middle ground with this book, and considering the alternatives, it is just where he should be. Books like Cathy Johnson’s Sketching and Drawing (LJ 3/15/96) can be so eager to prove that anyone can draw that they teach little beyond rough scribbles. Hamilton, on the other hand, starts with the bare essentials of sketching and then builds the student’s confidence by advancing through exercises in lighting, perspective, and still lifes and on to larger outdoor scenes. One of the best books of its kind, and at a good price.Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book is great for the beginner, and probably experienced, sketcher. I am a beginner and the short, yet detailed, examples and explanations are wonderful. My first attempt, after following the directions, was a success! I started very small and have been expanding since the first sketch. My husband and I make it a nightly thing to sketch! He is more experienced. But he also finds the book helpful. I brings you to the basics.

This is not photo realistic drawing. In fact it’s the complete opposite. Hamilton’s style is loose and minimalist. His drawings are a bit like charcoal. He draws with quick, fluid coarse strokes. He uses very soft pencils B 3B & 6B and sometimes HB. There is not a straight line to be found, shading is done with quick scribbles and often overlaps it’s boundary. Perspective too is often a bit wonky but none of this detracts from the drawing. With the simplest strokes and very little fine detail he produces drawings that come to life and appear rich in detail, though if you look closely there is not much there. His style is about understanding what it is to look at, say a chair, and convey that rather than draw an accurate picture. This may appear to be sloppy or lazy, but it’s very hard to do. Fine technique as used in photo realism can be learned just by practice. It’s essentially mechanical, what Hamilton shows in his sketches is deeper and harder to learn.If you want to learn this fluid relaxed style where the lines more often suggest the image rather than portraying it with accuracy, this is a wonderful book. Hamilton can draw! It’s worth owning this book just to enjoy the drawings and you could do worse than simply copying his drawings and paying attention to what each line contributes.BTW, I am not against photo realism, it’s a style that offers many interesting possibilities but this is not what Hamilton is about.People have mentioned the book is skimpy on detail. This is quite true. I bought this book when starting to draw and found it frustrating but when I picked it up again some time later, it was an eye opener. His comments are more like tips, hints and insights which are very valuable to someone with some experience but not nearly enough for a rank beginner. Primarily this is a sequence of drawings of graduated difficulty and complexity with notes.One caution: Hamilton has several books out which have essentialy the same content. If you like this book and feel you want more of his work, check the contents carefully before you buy.

I’m very pleased with the book, have been doing some sketching and waiting for my class with begins 14 April 17. As always your folks have good products at a very fair price.Rex Mills

This book is a pleasantly composed item with very beautiful sketches. The author gives very good information and examples on materials and techniques used, and it is clear that this book helped me, but only a little....I loved the fact that it was not overpowered with text and I would probably be able to copy the sketches in the book fairly well. Unfortunately I don’t think this book helped me produce my own sketches from my personal observations. I thnk it is too advanced for the first-time drawer, or the drawer with a minimum of skill and even less confidence...

Excellent Condition - Thank you!

Good book

John Hamilton gives us an easy to follow path to sketching. He sheds light on overlooked subjects and suggests low cost materials. By simplifying materials and methods, Hamilton makes art easily accessable to many. He also suggests sketches which can be produced in little time. Since purchasing this book, I have enjoyed completing small sketches of subjects around my home. I feel as though I’m rekindling talents that I’ve neglected without spending a lot of time or money, including the low cost of this book!

I will not go so far as to say that you will learn the basics from this book, but is it certainly to good reference book on technique

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