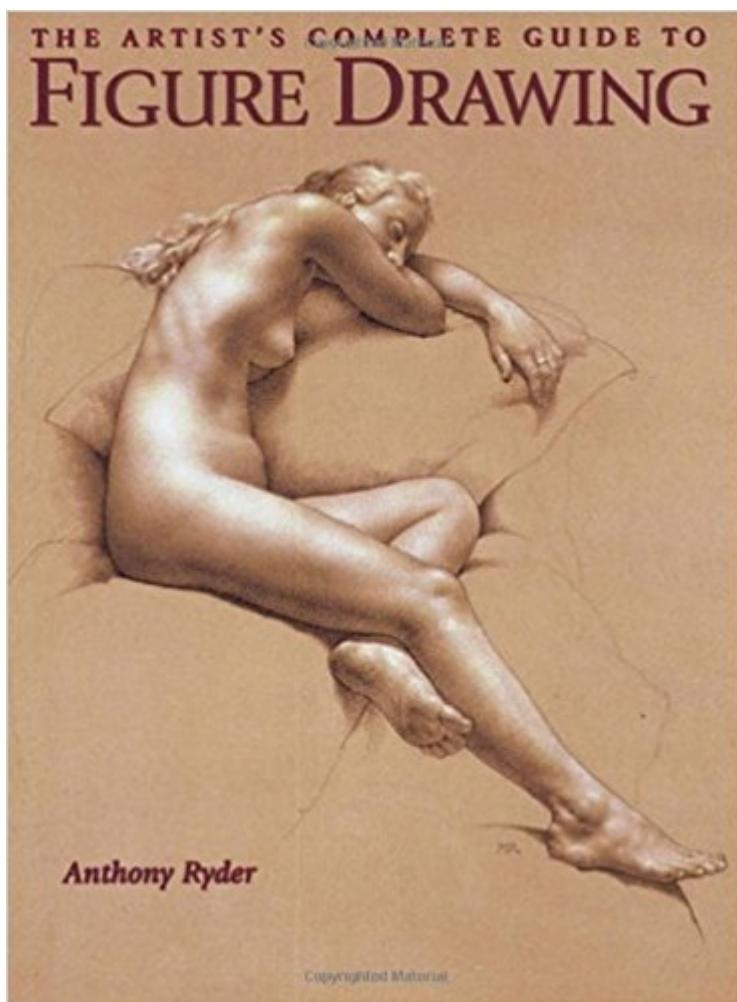


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# The Artist's Complete Guide To Figure Drawing: A Contemporary Perspective On The Classical Tradition



## Synopsis

Many of us want to learn "how to draw." But as artist Anthony Ryder explains, it's much more important to learn what to draw. In other words, to observe and draw what we actually see, rather than what we think we see. When it comes to drawing the human figure, this means letting go of learned ideas and expectation of what the figure should look like. It means carefully observing the interplay of form and light, shape and line, that combine to create the actual appearance of human form. In *The Artist's Complete Guide to Figure Drawing*, amateur and experienced artists alike are guided toward this new way of seeing and drawing the figure with a three-step drawing method. The book's progressive course starts with the block-in, an exercise in seeing and establishing the figure's shape. It then builds to the contour, a refined line drawing that represents the figure's silhouette. The last step is tonal work on the inside of the contour, when light and shadow are shaped to create the illusion of form. Separate chapters explore topics critical to the method: gesture, which expresses a sense of living energy to the figure; light, which largely determines how we see the model; and form, which conveys the figure's volume and mass. Examples, step-by-steps, and special "tips" offer helpful hints and practical guidance throughout. Lavishly illustrated with the author's stunning artwork, *The Artist's Complete Guide to Figure Drawing* combines solid instruction with thoughtful meditations on the art of drawing, to both instruct and inspire artists of all levels.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Anthony J. Ryder studied at the Art Students League of New York, the New York Academy of Art, and the *École Albert Defois* in France with oil painter Ted Seth Jacobs. He began his teaching career at the New York Academy in 1985, and has taught at the Art Students League and in various locations in the United States and France. His paintings and drawings are in many private collections. Mr. Ryder lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

I found that Anthony Ryder's approach suited me almost perfectly. His instruction is unashamedly detailed and exacting yet I always felt that I was following the approach of someone who understands people, how to draw them and how to relate to them. Particularly, how to relate to someone seeking to improve their drawing skills. The discussions about the elements that make up the Ryder approach are interesting and proceed at a leisurely pace. For me, it was like being in the studio, discussing, drawing, discussing, drawing and reflecting. Needless to say, I loved this book. The drawings are stunning and worth the price of the book alone and the instruction has benefited not just my drawing but my painting as well. I have been painting a commissioned portrait while reading this book and have applied Ryder's approach to the painting as I went along with really pleasing results regarding likeness, form and interpretation.

The Artist's Complete Guide to Figure Drawing is an excellent resource for those desiring an understanding of drawing the human form in classic, artistic realism presented on an appreciably deeper level than is often found in books or other sources addressing the subject. I recommend this book to anyone wanting to "know more deeply".

Simply the best drawing guide, ever. A must-read for the serious artist who wants to draw realistic figures or faces. Organized in a sequential manner, the drawing skills that evaded me in classes were elucidated in a clear illustrative manner. Nothing is left uncovered. This book had an immediate impact on my skill set.

Tony Ryder is the one of the best living artist in this country, and he one of the most patient, generous teachers. I bought his book long ago, before meeting him in person, and after I met him realized I could hear him in the book. It is a wonderful book to learn to draw, really draw well, from life. A must for an art library.

I strongly recommend this book to all who want to improve their figure drawing. Not really for beginners unless you are very motivated. Emphasis on modern way of dealing with drawing. Ryder is concerned with the whole drawing and teaches the "envelope" as a way of blocking the whole drawing on the page before dealing with the details. He won't talk extensively about anatomy although it is understood to be important for repair points. He is more concerned with relationships of points to each other in the body. The scale will be right if the relationship of 2 points is right. Lots of information about shading and form and beautiful drawings. And a lots more about gesture. Sorry, no shortcut, no gimmick. I love it and look at it often.....I should say that I draw from the model twice a week and this book comes in handy. I use it along with Bridgman books for anatomy and massing. He describes his method as 1. the block in 2. The contour 3. Drawing on the inside (that includes shading)

My husband loves his gift. He is an artist.

After collecting many books on Anatomy and Drawing, Ryder's book takes a new a different approach to drawing. Just as thoughtful and to the point like Andrew Loomis (a great Artist in his own right) This book does an amazing job in bringing a fresh new perspective for novice and Professional alike. I've never felt more relaxed and was deeply engaged and excited in it's simplicity. Highly recommend this book for all levels of Artist. But do take heed-if your looking for quick shortcuts from this book, you're taking the material and your time for granted.

A very thorough guide to drawing the figure. Excellent tips on beginning by blocking a shape. Continuing in detail how to shade and contour. Work thorough this book and you will learn much about drawing. I'm sketching often using these ideas and I'm improving. Would highly recommend this book.

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