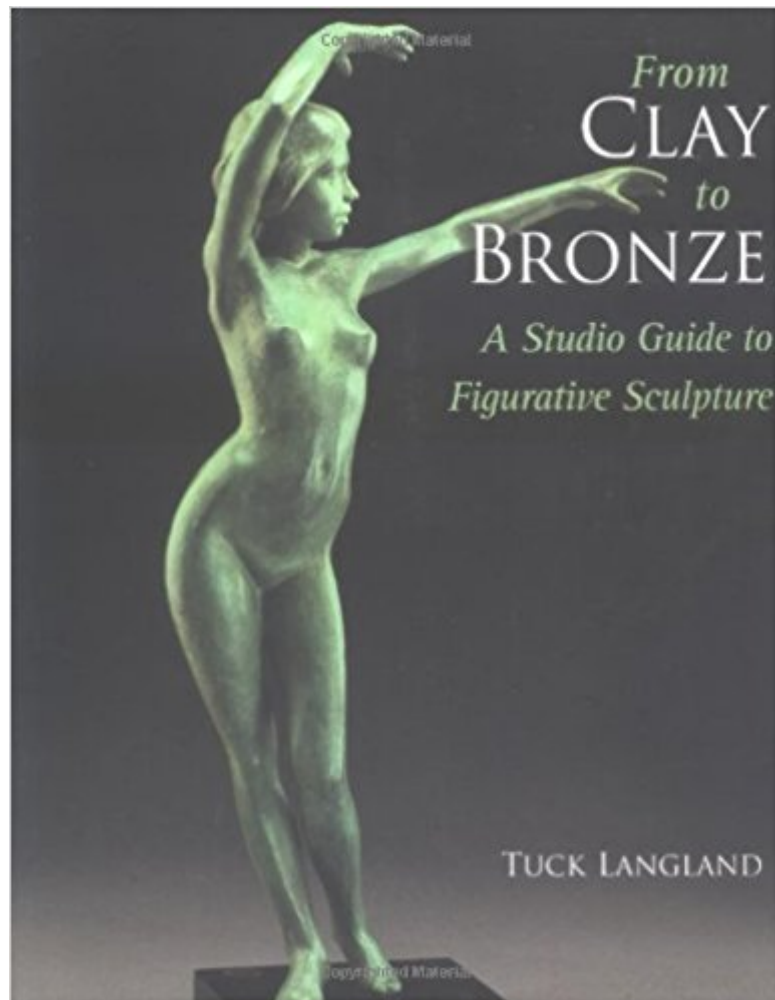




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From Clay To Bronze: A Studio Guide To Figurative Sculpture



Synopsis

Going beyond theory straight to hands-on practice, this studio workbook is devoted to the creation of a large, realistic bronze figure, from initial studies through the complex processes of enlarging, modeling, molding, casting, and finishing. First the book deals with preparing the clay, building the armature, developing the figure study, and enlarging it. Then casting is explored, plaster waste, flexible molds, systems of lost-wax casting, metal chasing, welding, mounting, and patinas. Tips on the maintenance and restoration of bronze sculpture are included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tuck Langland, professor of sculpture at Indiana University, has exhibited widely and earned numerous awards and commissions for his work on five continents. He lives in Granger, Indiana.

I have sculpted for the past 15 or twenty years and bought this book specifically for the page that dealt with plaster piece molds. Unfortunately, piece mold making is a lost art and few books even attempt to describe them, never mind explain how to make them. I'm still not sure how to tackle piece molds of fully articulated figures, but relatively solid pieces, like the portrait head illustrated in the book, would be reasonable to attempt. After receiving the book from , I was pleasantly surprised by the thoroughness of the book on a host of topics. Trust me, for anyone who is starting out, you can save yourself years of trial and error by referring to this book. In the chapter titled "modeling the figure" Langland explains the importance of building up slowly in "strings" that follow the forms of the muscles and stresses the importance of creating a solid pelvis, rib cage and head making sure that

they align properly with the spine. I found myself nodding in agreement at countless points reading the book. It is remarkable how many processes and artistic concerns he manages to thoughtfully and clearly address throughout the book. As an example, Langland describes three methods to mark locations where holes will be drilled through a base to facilitate mounting a bronze sculpture. Now, this sounds like a very straightforward thing to do, but in practice it is a little tricky. Typically, underneath a bronze sculpture, a foundry will drill and tap two or more holes that can receive screws that pass through counter-bored holes in a stone or wood base. How would you locate hole centers in a blank base so that they will match the existing hole pattern in a bronze sculpture?

Quite informative.

I have been sculpting only a short time. This book has become a great resource for me to consider having some of my work bronzed. I had no clue as to where to call or what to ask. After finishing this book I was very comfortable calling a local foundry and getting quotes via the formula the author suggested. He also shows how you could, (if you had time and resources), make your own bronze casting at home. Either way the steps are useful for when you are prepping your piece for the foundry. Also included is a nice full-color section on patina's for bronze and the effect each chemical has on the metal. A refreshing component to this book is the authors use of wit and light-hearted look at this art form. It makes the reading very enjoyable and easy. If you are an artist that wants to take your work to the next level then I highly recommend this book!

What I like about this book is that Langland is not a dictator in his instruction. He usually offers multiple ways to do a task, and has listed other books for additional ideas. He encourages artists to come up with their own solutions if his options don't exactly fit the bill. The only drawback to the book, is he does not show how to model a head, face, figure, in any kind of detail. For that, you need to look elsewhere. If you want to cast in bronze, or some other plastic material, then I recommend this book.

Buy this book. It has most of the information you are looking for and you will not be disappointed.

Great for someone beginning!

For those wishing to start sculpting, like myself, this is a good "how they do it" book. Add this one to

your collection.

I have just discovered clay sculpture, and didn't have a clue about the process. This book gave me a clear understanding of the process of completing a sculpture from clay to bronze, and the steps involved. I recommend it as a reference for any beginner...

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