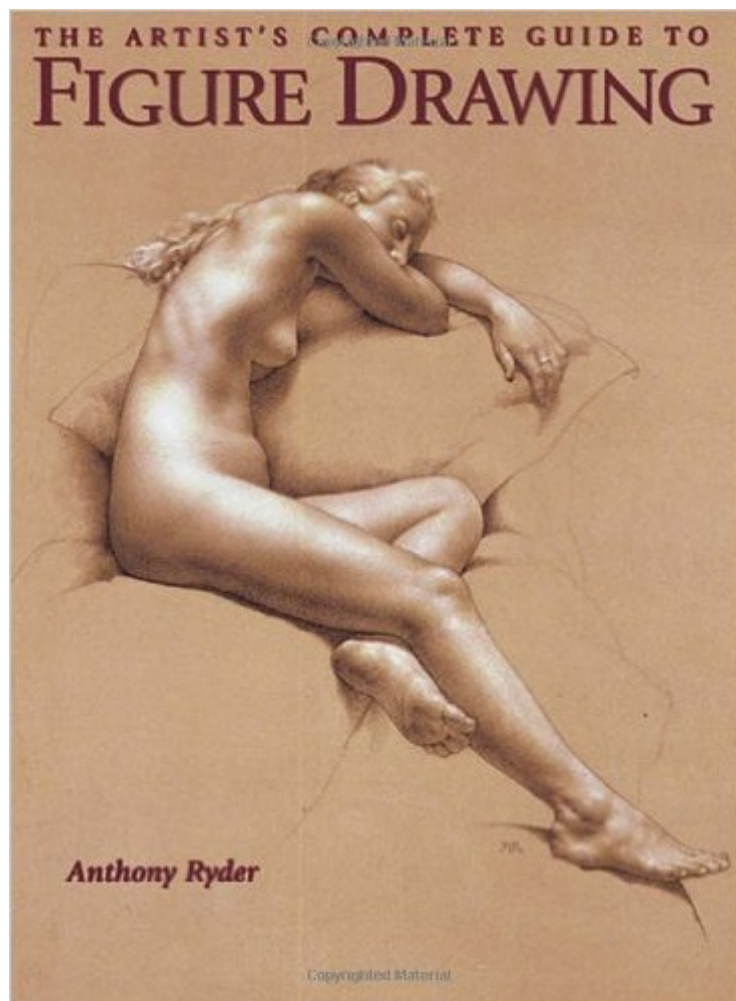


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# The Artist's Complete Guide To Figure Drawing: A Contemporary Perspective On The Classical Tradition



## 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

If you are looking for an introductory book to ease you into being a whiz in life class, this is not it. The

techniques described are time-consuming and require a steady eye and hand - not something the average beginner has a lot of, with five or twenty minute poses and a wobbly easel. But if you can get a model to hold the same pose for hours, possibly over several sessions, and you have some experience in figure drawing, then you may find this book extremely valuable. Anthony Ryder talks the reader through the techniques, step by detailed step, aiming for understanding rather than slavish repetition. His method is logical and elegant, and if understood and practised, may result in some extremely good drawings. Don't expect overnight success, however - there is a lot that is required before you can even start with this book. You'll need to know basic techniques with your media, be able to judge angles and proportions, have a good understanding of anatomy, and probably be able to handle a model in adopting the same pose session after session. There is a good reason why most of the drawings in this book are of reclining models. Standing poses simply cannot be held for the amount of time it takes to achieve the same results. You'll need at least half an hour just to achieve the basic outline, probably more. But having said all of the above, I must now state that this book is proof positive that Ryder's techniques work, are reproducible and can result in images of stunning beauty. You still have to select a model and a pose, and this is another basic skill required, but Ryder is obviously a master at this, and the book is filled with drawings of the nude that are simply breathtaking in their beauty. Model, pose, arrangement and execution are all perfect.

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