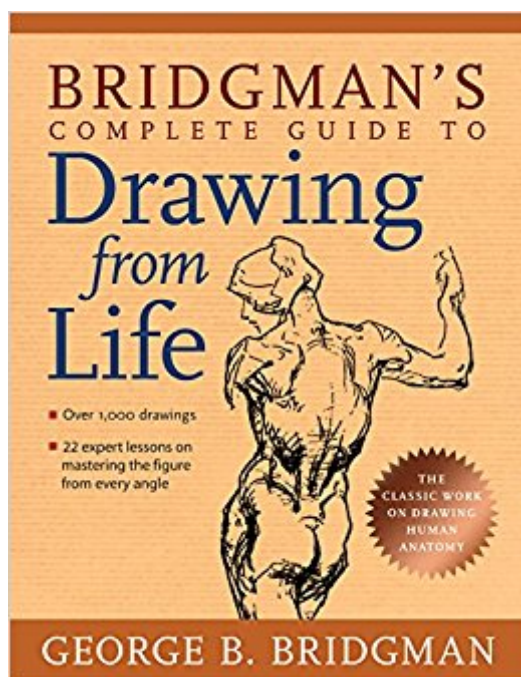


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# Bridgman's Complete Guide To Drawing From Life



## Synopsis

The timeless classic on drawing human figures is back! Following impressive runs by Sterling's previous editions comes a new, redesigned version of George W. Bridgman's landmark work. It combines six well-known books by the celebrated artist and lecturer, who taught figure and anatomy drawing for many years at New York City's Art Students League. This edition preserves Bridgman's lessons and original sketches, but now features a nostalgic, eye-catching cover that distinguishes it from the competition. In its sleek new format, this comprehensive guide will certainly continue its reign as one of the premier figure-drawing publications of all time.

## Book Information

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Figure Drawing

## Customer Reviews

It's rare to find good, comprehensive books on drawing the anatomy. Each of these the first, the return of a classic; the second, a focused study; and the third, lessons from the masters deserves a place on library shelves. Bridgman was a legendary teacher at New York's Art Students' League. There, he originated a system of drawing known as "constructive anatomy." In 1952, his seven books on anatomy were gathered into one volume, which became a standard work at art schools and universities. Published now for the first time in paperback, it holds up as an indispensable volume, with more than 200 illustrations of hands and hundreds of images of arms, shoulders, heads, torsos, legs, knees, and feet. Fairley's book concentrates on those troublesome extremities hands and feet. Sketchbook exercises are followed by eight detailed painting demonstrations in

watercolor, oil, and other media. Fairley then continues on to portraits in which variations in age, skin tone, composition, mood, and movement are integrated. Advanced students will find Hale and Coyle's *Anatomy Lessons from the Great Masters* a rich source of inspiration. Hale, like Bridgman, was one of the great teachers at the Art Students' League. His student, Coyle, gathered together Hale's famous lectures to produce this compendium. Hale drew on principles found in 100 masterpieces by such artists as Leonardo, Michelangelo, Rubens, Raphael, Dürer, Titian, and Rembrandt. In 1995, Giovanni Civardi's trilogy *Drawing Human Anatomy* (Sterling, 1995), *Drawing the Female Nude* (Sterling, 1995), and *Drawing the Male Nude* (LJ 3/15/96. o.p.) reached a high standard for good, basic books in this genre. These three surpass Civardi's works and are highly recommended for serious artists and comprehensive library collections. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Praise for previous editions of Bridgman's *Complete Guide to Drawing from Life*:

"[A] classic. . . . a standard work at art schools. . . .

indispensable." •Library Journal --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Bridgman is one of those go-to artist's reference books that can be very insightful when trying to get the head around drawing the shapes in the human body. There are other books that are also helpful and it is best to look at ideas from multiple perspectives, however, Bridgman is one of the more important contributors to our understanding of drawing the figure. He learned his skills from Jean-Léon Gérôme at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and subsequently taught life drawing at the Art Students League of New York for 45 years. The twentieth century was a golden age for life drawing techniques and we are very lucky that teachers like Bridgman chose to share their great experience. He was famously a hard task-master who expected great things in his students and apparently his students adored him. His students included some some artists who went on to become very famous names. Norman Rockwell wrote glowingly of his studies with George Bridgman. Other famous students were Robert Beverly Hale and Kimon Nicolaïdes, both of whom went on to produce life drawing books that have become standard references. Jackson Pollock's sketchbooks include many drawings made from studying Bridgman's book. I have been an art teacher for many years and Bridgman's *Complete Guide to Drawing From Life* has always been one of those books I highly recommend for all art students.

It's basically a compendium of all of his works and books into one and then some more added that I

didn't even know about too I read this book. Starting with this alone is a good first step, but I ask that you explore more of his books. But if you want to save time and money then buy this one. You won't regret it either way.

I am largely self taught though I attend a weekly figure drawing group. I use figure drawing books in lieu of an drawing instructor. I find that Bridgman is referenced in most other figure drawing books that I have read.I am happy that I now own what I consider the source of figure drawing books. The soft pencil drawings are elegant and rhythmic. The lack of detail in hands and faces is at once exemplary and frustrating. I want to see more detail but am shown, by his examples,that the suggestion is often the key to successful drawing.I find the explanation of drawing some body parts, the human head, for example, to be impossible to understand. But I got the book for the number of elegant drawings on almost every page. The drawings are the reason why this remains a classic figure drawing book.

That book is just a masterpiece of anatomy and structure. All Frazetta muscle structures are felt in every page.

I found this book very helpful for learning structure and anatomy for figure drawing. The book outlines the various structures of the body, as well as their shapes and proportions. The book also explains how to draw the various body parts in different positions and lighting conditions. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who would like to learn how to realistically draw the human figure.

Very good- especially for starting life drawings- gives a good feeling of the solidity of the form but the drawings are not finished drawings. However in terms of understanding the form and what's underneath it was fabulous!

No problems with seller. The book itself..... it's OK. I will buy other artists' anatomical books for clarity.

It's an awesome book, with great anatomy lessons! Not a good book for starters, but its great for those with some experience!

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