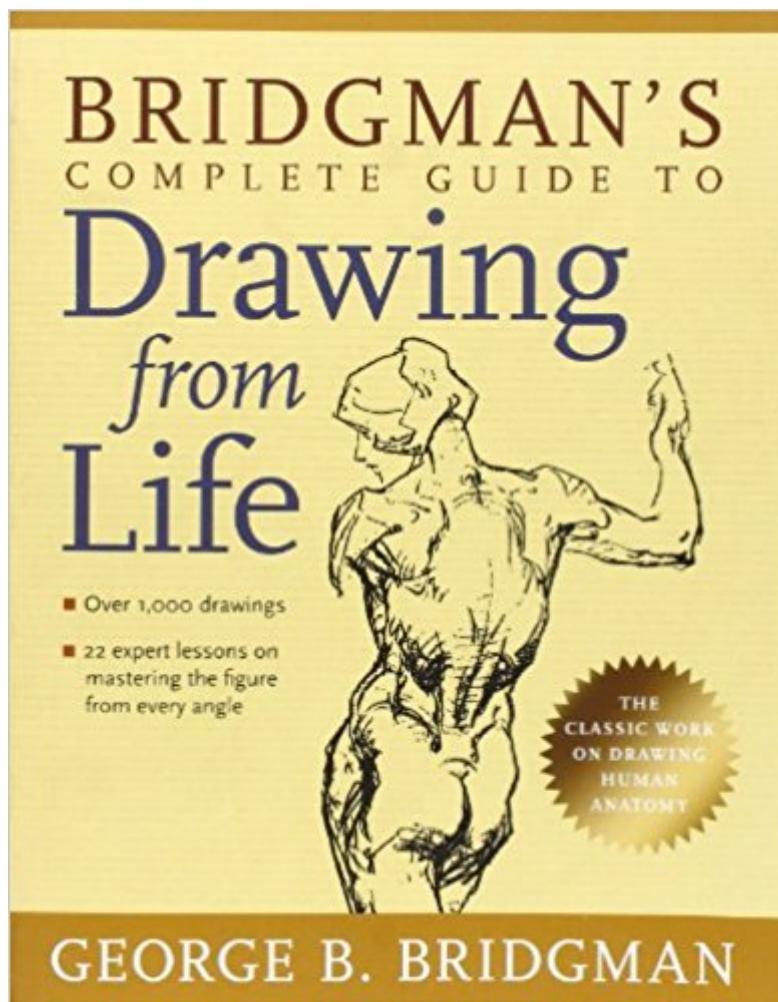


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# Bridgman's Complete Guide To Drawing From Life



## Synopsis

The timeless classic on drawing human figures is back! Following impressive runs by Sterlingâ™s previous editions comes a new, redesigned version of George W. Bridgmanâ™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 Cityâ™s Art Students League. This edition preserves Bridgmanâ™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.â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mainly for intermediate-level artists- it's a highly \*comprehensive\* way to appreciate Bridgman's work. It has a little bit of everything depicting figure construction from memory. It's also great for general improvement; a few tips & tricks- an in-depth reference for all working artists. This somewhat large-sized Complete Guide seems intended to represent the best of 6 out of his 7 individual books. Drawing the Female Form is the book that gets left out. Assembled & designed by editor Howard Simon in 1952; Bridgman passed away in 1943, so it's not Bridgman's fault if anyone has issues with the layout(!). Here's a quick breakdown of his 6 individual books, from my very favorite to least...1. Book of a Hundred Hands- His \*best\* representation of hands; if hands are your main interest, skip all else & buy 100 hands.2. Constructive Anatomy- His clearest & most detailed line work in his figure anatomy- especially with his cube-based construction of the head.3. Bridgman's Life Drawing- Like a mini Complete Guide, it's often considered Bridgman's best individual book. It

gives us full-figure movement, as well as briefly treating the figure in its essential parts.4.

I have been drawing for going on 50 years; Bridgman's Complete Guide to Drawing From Life is one of those books that was always around when I was growing up and learning to draw. I turned to this work (and many others) for reference often when I was young. Recently I purchased a new copy of this book from .com just to have in my collection of drawing resource material (and, I suppose, for a bit of nostalgia). The reproductions of Bridgman's demonstrative drawings in these newer editions are surprisingly poor I think, sometimes washed out and faded, all too often very muddled or blotchy... the same effect one would see if you used a low quality copy machine to make a copy of a copy of a copy of a pencil sketch... the publishers are obviously keeping in print a long established favorite that they know will sell and are not overly concerned with putting out a quality product. So, look for a vintage edition if you must have this book... I could not see using these current editions as a quality learning or teaching tool. From a more subjective point of view, Bridgman has never quite impressed me for learning life/figure drawing... personally I just never quite warmed up to his style. The text is appropriate to the illustrations in terms of the mechanics of the body and naming the parts that do the work, but there is little to nothing by way of drawing theory/technique, elements of what makes a successful drawing work... Bridgeman rightfully focuses in breaking down the human body as simplified shapes... although in Bridgman's drawings simplified shapes appear rather grotesque distortions. On pages 212/213 where he describes how to draw an armpit... well, I'm looking at it right now and... well... frankly it's a mess.

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