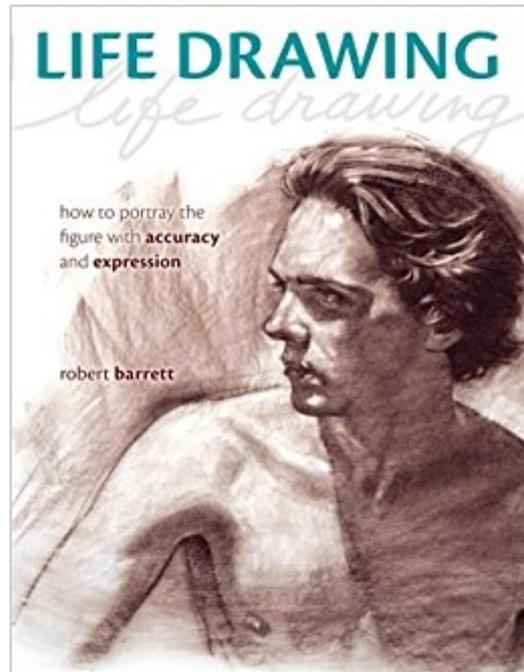


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# Life Drawing: How To Portray The Figure With Accuracy And Expression



## Synopsis

Master the art of drawing the figure. Drawing from life has been an important source of expression and satisfaction for artists through the ages. Robert Barrett, master fine artist, instructor and university professor, re-creates his studio class on the pages of this book. Inside, you'll find a complete introduction to life drawing. You'll learn not only how to accurately portray the figure, but also how to bring life and personality to your drawing subjects. Detailed lessons, including step-by-step demonstrations, cover the fundamentals of drawing and design. You'll learn: How to capture your subject's character. The basics of figure anatomy, proportion and design. How to use light and shadow to create form. How to draw drapery and backgrounds. Barrett shows you how to achieve superb figure drawings--clothed and unclothed, male and female--filled with beauty and depth of expression. Find out what artists have always known--magnificent art comes from the life all around you!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The following is a book review from the British publication "Artist's and Illustrator's" - July 2008 Life Drawing Robert Barrett Another month, another life drawing book. Thankfully, Robert Barrett has chosen to recreate his studio classes on paper, and in doing so offers a novel spin on well-worn subject matter. The usual sections on useful materials, proportions and anatomy are all dealt with confidently but it is when he digs up less obvious considerations that this book really shines. The chapter on hard and soft edges is worth the cover price alone. After showing how to delineate between subject and background with ease, Barrett's demonstration portrait then emerges from a

charcoal haze over seven easy steps. The book's tagline talks of portraying figures with "accuracy and expression" and by placing the emphasis on the latter quality, "Life Drawing" has resuscitated a tired book genre. David & Charles

Robert Barrett's wonderful book is playing a large and inspiring part in the educational program I run here at my studio. It is well organized and covers so many approaches with clarity and precision that I can think of no other single book on drawing the figure that is as effective overall. Bob writes well and draws even better. William Whitaker

Barrett demonstrates and describes his approach to constructive figure drawing from start to finish. The book also covers the usual topics of proportions, anatomy, gesture, shading, materials, etc. Barrett's constructive approach to figure drawing is similar in several respects to that outlined in Walt Reed's *The Figure: The Classic Approach to Drawing & Construction*. However, Barrett takes his drawings to a higher level of refinement, realism, atmosphere and detail. Civardi and others have noted that constructive drawing is just one of several approaches to figure drawing. If it's the method that you want to use, then this could be the book you are looking for. If you have other approaches in mind, you might consider Civardi *Drawing The Female Nude*, *The Artist's Complete Guide to Figure Drawing: A Contemporary Perspective on the Classical Tradition* or Sheppard *Realistic Figure Drawing*, or Andrews *Interpreting the Figure in Watercolor*.

I have the hardest time getting proportions on human figures right. This has many pages on proportions and how they change with body movement. Most books only have a page or two dedicated to basic proportions. This one had that and much more.

This well presented book develops clear chapters which demonstrate how to study figure drawing from a wide variety of approaches. It does not limit to one particular procedure but offers many ways to get into the subject, all of which it demonstrates via very fine drawings/sketches. Very strong on structural approaches.

I was a student of Robert Barrett and this book was a great purchase! It reminded me of his teachings and helped me in my constant search for improvement. It has several inspiring notes in it as well, which he was prone to use, so I love that. Good quality print, excellent contrast, the details are vivid as you look at the line and shading quality.

Barretts book on portraying the figure is the best one I have found so far (and I have been through most of them). Not that the others aren't good or that I would ever suggest anyone choose only one book as a guide. There are many different approaches to drawing the figure, and different people profit from different techniques. This book integrated the methods I had learned from others in a way that worked for me. I got that breakthrough feeling the first time I tried it. As a companion book, I would recommend The Artists Complete Guide to Drawing the Head by William L. Maughan. The Artist's Complete Guide to Drawing the Head

Len Villpu was my mentor, another famous teacher, then there was Bridgman, John Hampton, my college teachers... And so on. I was always amazed to see the figure work coming out of Brigham Young University. It was hands down the best and always winning awards. This is the teacher that makes your artist great in a very short amount of time. If you want to make art that you are proud of, figure that doesn't just look like studies. This is an art book for all ages. It is large and if you stick with it it will teach you from the very simple to the very complex.. You owe it to yourself.

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