



Freehand: Sketching Tips and Tricks Drawn from Art

Helen Birch

Download now

Read Online →

Freehand: Sketching Tips and Tricks Drawn from Art

Helen Birch

Freehand: Sketching Tips and Tricks Drawn from Art Helen Birch

Creating stylish sketches by hand is easy and fun with this inspiring guide. *Freehand* breaks down basic drawing techniques into bite-sized chunks, and reveals their practical application in dazzling examples by today's coolest artists. Over 200 innovative works of art demonstrate all the fundamentals—line, tone, composition, texture, and more—and are presented alongside friendly text explaining the simple techniques used to achieve each stylish effect. The final section of the book offers aspiring artists essential reference materials to hone their drafting skills and practice what they've learned. Petite in size but comprehensive in scope, this hip handbook will teach artists of all skill levels how to find their personal drawing style and start making amazing sketches.

Freehand: Sketching Tips and Tricks Drawn from Art Details

Date : Published September 10th 2013 by Chronicle Books (first published September 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9781452119779

Author : Helen Birch

Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Art, Nonfiction, Drawing, Reference

 [Download Freehand: Sketching Tips and Tricks Drawn from Art ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Freehand: Sketching Tips and Tricks Drawn from Art ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Freehand: Sketching Tips and Tricks Drawn from Art Helen Birch

From Reader Review Freehand: Sketching Tips and Tricks Drawn from Art for online ebook

Mel says

I have to say this book was only okay. There were a few interesting things contained in it but for the most part it was kind of a disappointment. I got a few interesting ideas from it and there were some nice drawings. I was disappointed in the majority of this though and found it fairly remedial. I also was annoyed and the amount of digital drawings and manipulations in it. This would probably be a better book for the beginner and also someone interested in digitally manipulating their drawings in photo shop or illustrator. There were a few good tips though and it was a very easy book to read.

Antoinette Perez says

Really neat little book packed with fresh, contemporary art inspiration. Each piece has a short analysis of composition, technique, and form.

Miriam says

To me "freehand" and "sketching" both mean creating art with your own physical hands, in a minimally planned way (maybe you think about the result before you put pen to paper, but you aren't extensively planning and making drafts on graph paper and underdrawing. Or acquiring things to paste into your image).

But I am clearly an old fogey who does not know what words mean these days.

These are more like "finished art pieces with a hip, casual feel, often completed with digital software." As far as looks go, some were interesting, some were poor, most I could take or leave.

I don't see this book as being helpful for someone who wanted to become better at sketching. The tips are either ridiculously obvious (composition makes a big difference) or weirdly specific (layer torn papers in different patterns to create depth). This was basically just a fun little book to glance through.

Laura says

3.5 stars. This in my opinion is more a book to inspire you to maybe try a new medium or a new technique. The subtitle says "Sketching Tips and Tricks Drawn From Art". They are drawn from art, and she shows you the art on the opposite page, but I'm not sure I'd call this a book of sketching tips and tricks. It's less about drawing and more about mixed media and digital art, and ways of combining the two.

If that's what you want, then great, this book will inspire you to do that, but if you want sketching tips and tricks, try Sketch!: The Non-Artist's Guide to Inspiration, Technique, and Drawing Daily Life. *That* is a great book about sketching. This one, not so much.

Elizabeth says

A bit heavy on the digital drawings- which is fine, but I was hoping for more sketching and hand drawing examples. Loved the size, the photographs, and the simple instructions and text.

Jamie says

While I loved the small format and seeing all the art within, this isn't a how-to book in my opinion since the "tips and tricks" are really only related to the specific pieces of art featured. Still, it was fun to flip through.

Jordan says

This is an extremely misleading title. From the title, one might expect a book about sketching. Problematically though, there's a lot of art in here that most people really wouldn't consider "sketching" including digital editing, collages, and paper cutting. On top of that most of the "tips" included with the artwork were not really helpful at all, more like just straight up commentary on the art. This is really a showcase of artists masquerading as a book that will teach you tips for sketching. And yes, some of the art was interesting (and some... not so much) but I really felt like this book had an identity crisis.

Caroline says

As a newbie watercolour painter I found this one of the most exciting books I have read so far about drawing and painting. It's a small book, but it is packed with quirky and original contemporary artworks. There is a write up given on various aspects of each picture - on the methods used, the materials used, and an analysis of what makes each picture work so well.

Most of all, this book can be used as an inspirational source book. I have marked a whole load of images that have given me ideas to experiment with in my own dabbings. It has also given me ideas that will hugely change how I work - for example...

*There were several images that combined physical materials with using Photoshop. I have for years used Photoshop with my photography - but this book suggests all sorts of amazing ways it can be used with drawings and paintings too. I found the examples given hugely inspiring.

* Collage - some wonderful examples were given. I can't wait to try some for myself.

* How to make small intricate drawings. Draw them big, scan them, then print them small. (Why did I never think of this!)

And there were loads of other suggestions too, including more traditional advice about things like stretching paper and the various mediums available. This advice was fairly cursory though. The main emphasis of the

book is about really broadening your horizons and different and unusual ways of doing things.

Finally, I just loved the artworks. What a wealth of marvellous images...

Kaye Blegvad (Each cat head is drawn on different coloured paper)

Kate Pugsley "Nerves" (Collage - the teeth are added in a different type of paper.)

Caitlin Foster (Note the strobe-like, rippling effect of patterns like this)

Sara Landeta (A painting within a painting.)

As you can see from the last pic - where relevant, close ups are given of details.

When I first saw this book I was disappointed because it was rather small (18cm x 13cm). But it was like the Tardis - as I read it, it grew bigger and bigger. It was packed with so many good ideas! The book has also given me the names of several artists whose work I want to explore further. Definitely a great read for people who want to experiment with different ways of approaching their art.

Elizabeth A says

This little book might be good for the absolute beginner, or in an art classroom, but in my opinion it is mis-titled. I expected to see art drawn "freehand", but much of the art was digitally manipulated in some manner. And while the art is fun to look at, the written blurbs that accompanies each piece of art is rather rudimentary and not really informative.

Chris says

Good overview of a wide array of artistic tidbits, such as "Suggesting Time", "Negative Space", "Damp Ground", "Aerial Gaze", "Complementary Colors", etc. Feels more scattershot than I was expecting for some reason.

Lisa Vegan says

Nifty little book that got me inspired to get out my colored pencils, but while some might find the instruction

helpful I can't say it had practical use for me. I think I just can't learn art this way, and perhaps it's just that I didn't put any concentrated effort in trying. What's lovely about the book is the art; I loved a lot of it. For artists or people who want to dabble in many artistic media, I think there are some good ideas and helpful tips. I did make note of the art apps mentioned and I have started to check them out. Fun book! It's a friendly size for carrying around, which I did. I was hoping for more pure colored pencils (only one example where that was the only technique used) and watercolors. For people who want to play with a bunch of kinds of art, especially in each art piece, this is a really good book for ideas and inspiration.

3 ½ stars

Am Y says

This is a collection of inspiring art ideas and techniques - great for when you need inspiration on how to execute your next art project.

The book is organised thus: a picture is accompanied by text explaining how the artist has done that work, the effect achieved, and how you could use this technique in your work too.

I found myself thinking *what a neat idea - why didn't I think of that?!* on some of the tips, as I slowly ploughed my way through this small but thick tome. I also foresee myself going back to this book time and again for inspiration, each time I feel like creating something.

The only negative points for me were:

1) The misleading title - this isn't just about sketching, nor does it include detailed sketching instructions. Rather, the book features all sorts of art media (e.g. collage, paper cutting, painting, digital art, etc) that have some element of sketching in them. Sometimes the sketching bit is very minimal.

2) There was an error with one of the featured artworks. On page 90, the text accompanying the art piece describes a completely different artwork from that shown. I was left boggled before I realised that the wrong picture must have been used. This was such a major error - why wasn't this book properly checked before going to print?

Still, gripes aside, this book is something I'd invest my money in, solely for its usefulness.

???? says

Magnificent.

Susie says

the writing itself was not perfect but I look forward to referencing the diverse means of drawing shown in this little gem of a book.

Susan says

Not something to buy necessarily but great for inspiration.
