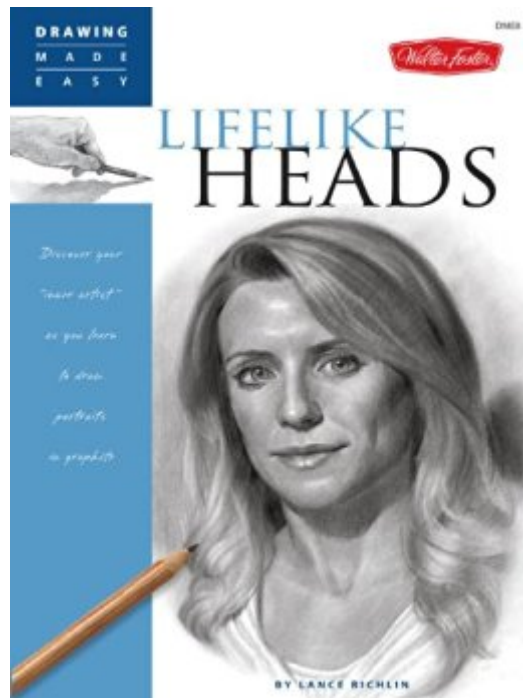


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# Drawing Made Easy: Lifelike Heads: Discover Your "inner Artist" As You Learn To Draw Portraits In Graphite



## Synopsis

Learn to draw amazingly realistic portraits in seven easy stages This book is the perfect guide for creating lifelike representations of the human head in graphite. Experienced artist Lance Richlin begins by explaining drawing tools and materials, shading techniques, and the important anatomical structures of the head. Following these basics, he shows how to light the subject, block in and render each feature of the face, and address a variety of expressions-from subtle smiles to toothy grins. Then he guides the reader through four impressive projects, showing how to develop a lifelike head drawing in seven simple stages: the lay-in, plumb lines, volume, outline, tonal pattern, value, and finishing. Readers also will find an in-depth troubleshooting section to help them identify and solve any problems that lessen the realism and accuracy of their drawings. In an age full of technological shortcuts, this book emphasizes drawing from life and seeks to preserve the methods of the old masters.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm a decent artist who can't seem to get to that next level. Been searching for books that would inspire and push me. This has done it. In a meagre 64 pages I have been given all the tools to push

my portrait drawing ability to that next level. There are exercises along with some positive words that have given me a goal to pursue. I own over 100 books on various aspects of art instruction and this is among the best. I bought a couple other of the made easy series and they seem to be just as good. This has undoubtedly been a very good investment. Highly recommended.

This is the best portrait drawing book on the market. It is the only instructional book on classical portraiture that covers both the basics of proportions, anatomy, rendering as well as more advanced tips and techniques. The step by step examples are easy to understand, and the writing is witty and sharp (actually, hilarious at times). As an art student, the instruction really clarified some of the confusion and frustration of trying to make a portrait look realistic without looking flat and stiff. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, this book is a must have!

I am just thrilled with this little book. First of all, because it's so small and light--this is one drawing book you can toss in your briefcase or purse so you can sketch away at lunch. But most of all because it's truly helpful. The pictures are clear, and I loved the way Richlin explains how to achieve them. He goes through what material to use, how to create different facial expressions and how to highlight your subject. Each individual feature is examined. For example, he shows how to light the nose from all different angles. Then he shows you how to pull it all together, in four basic stages, until you have finished the portrait.

I have been drawing for a loooooong time, but my portraits always lacked a 3 dimensional quality. Lance Richlin's excellent book provides detailed instructions on how to achieve very realistic results both from life and from photographs. My portraits have improved significantly using his methods. Another reviewer says that there was little in the way of instruction. What book were you reading?? The whole book is a systematic approach to achieving realistic portraits. I think it is far more likely that the reviewer was unwilling to try new methods - in this case - classical drawing. My number one criteria for an art instructor is this - do I like their artwork? Is it realistic or does it have some quality that renders the drawing flat, lifeless, affectless? I have looked at hundreds of art books in my lifetime and very few have made it to my shelves for this very reason. This book made me \*want\* to draw, to experiment, to improve. More than a year after my purchase, I am still using it as reference and inspiration. Additionally, the text was humorous and light. The instruction was easy to follow and made perfect sense. The book itself was beautifully printed.

What I expected was a book about how to draw portraits. What I got was a "pamphlet" about how to draw portraits. What content is there is very good but it is lacking information because the book is also too short. For instance, there is not enough information about drawing eyes. What few examples are there do not go into enough detail about all of the little intricate details about eyes. This would have been an outstanding book if it were printed in a larger format with more pages of instruction and examples that you can see without using a magnifying glass!

I was very excited to get this book. I have dabbled in portrait drawing a bit and thought that this book would help me to bridge to the next level. I couldn't have been more wrong. First off the book is short, really really short. Because it is so short only a few details are given and even fewer examples. He actually gives more examples of what NOT to do rather than what to do. A large portion of the book is an anatomy and physiology class over the various muscles in the face, the parts of the eye, and etc. This is fine and all but the book is too short for this much (mostly useless) information. Second this book is NOT for beginners. The author uses artistic terms that I had to google. The worst was that these terms were of techniques which he didn't explain. Also at the beginning of the book he gave a long list of supplies you are going to need but he hardly ever tells you when to use what so it's a guessing game to choose the correct pencils, etc. I was really hoping for a some good segments on drawing hair which is my problem area, he gave two examples (with very little, if any, explanation) and one was Elvis hair, not very useful at all. IF you are already a portrait artist that is looking to sharpen up some facial details, work on proportion and shading (the only elements that he goes into detail on) then maybe this book could help you out. For everyone else save your money and look elsewhere.

I wanted to review this book because I hope I have something to contribute, opinion-wise. As some of the reviewers have said, this book is quite short (it IS a Walter Foster book after all). It doesn't go into anything in a lot of detail or depth. However, there is very little talking in this book, and it has a ton of examples and tends to explain with its pictures. It does have a few cool aspects to it, particularly where it shows you some finished drawings (by skilled amateurs I assume) that are quite good, but have some problems with them (tone, contrast, etc). So it shows you what the problem is and then how to go about fixing it. Pretty cool, actually. So, yes this book is short and sweet, but honestly if you just want a good, down and dirty reference to refresh your memory about certain aspects of drawing, and maybe just want some examples of different kinds of shading, facial features, etc. this book might hit the spot. Keep in mind, I'm giving this book 4 stars for what it is, not

what it isn't. It DOES pack a lot of info into 64 pages, and for that, I think it deserves 4 stars.

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