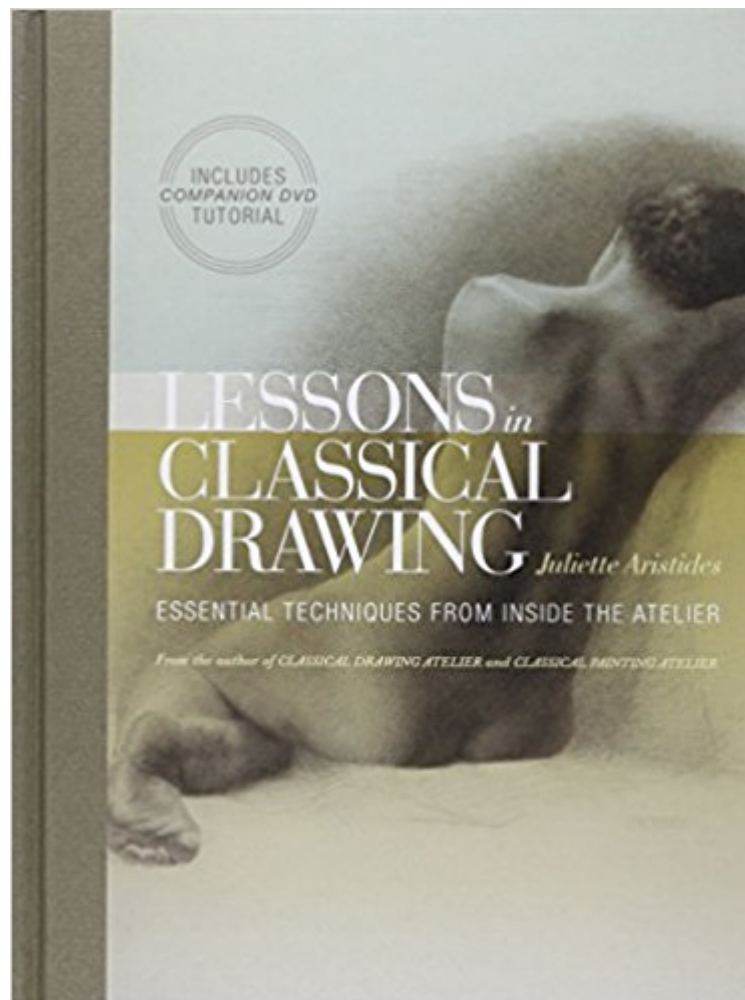




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# Lessons In Classical Drawing: Essential Techniques From Inside The Atelier



## Synopsis

The practice of drawing is distilled to its essential elements. In this elegant and inspiring primer, master contemporary artist and author Juliette Aristides breaks down the drawing process into small, manageable lessons; introduces time-tested principles and techniques that are easily accessible; and shares the language and context necessary to understand the artistic process and create superior, well-crafted drawings. The companion DVD enclosed inside, beautifully filmed in Florence, Italy, provides real-time drawing lessons so that any gaps in the learning process are filled in with live instruction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

JULIETTE ARISTIDES studied at the National Academy of Design, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and various private ateliers. She is currently the instructor of the Aristides Classical Atelier at the Gage Academy of Art in Seattle, Washington. In 2003, Juliette was awarded the Elizabeth Greenshields Grant. Her work can be seen at the John Pence Gallery in San Francisco and the Art Renewal Center Living Masters Gallery, [www.ArtRenewal.com](http://www.ArtRenewal.com).

Aristides goes chapter-by-chapter through every stage of the drawing process from planning and measuring to blocking the major shapes to final touches. Many beautiful illustrations help to get through the slower parts. The thorough instructions, explanations, and technical tips are the reason I would recommend this book to a beginner (like myself). The book uses art historical references and classical design principles to demonstrate how and why the works of great masters have survived many changes of taste and remained relevant. The book contains a lot of practical information about

drawing supplies and techniques; very clear explanations of sight-size method, measuring (with a knitting needle or a piece of paper), identifying main lines and angles in the drawing, using plumb line to establish a vertical, and so forth. The book is printed on glossy paper with high-quality illustrations. There's also a DVD with drawing lessons. This is third Aristides book I bought, in part because reading her books is like talking to a like-minded person.

This book does extremely well in providing a thorough overview of the underlying principles of drawing. It progresses logically, is easy to understand, and is well illustrated with examples that make the concepts clear. You will find yourself immediately able to apply the ideas to your own drawings. Where this book really stands out is in the area of structure- that is to say, the "how to" when it comes to laying down the foundations of good proportions, values, etc., in the beginning stages of your drawing, so that in the later stages your foundation is solid. This is very helpful for those of us mere mortals who struggle with things like getting size and value relationships correct. I have many drawing books in my collection, but I find this one to be arguably the best when it comes to structure.

This book is outstanding in learning classical drawing!! There is a DVD that is included with this book which really makes it a great value and it helps in showing technique! I can't even begin to express how useful this has been in helping me with tone and value within my drawings. I wished I would have picked this book up before I started my drawing class because it would have saved me a lot of frustration. I was making the same mistakes over and over until I watched this dvd and could clearly see what I was doing wrong. Now I must try and undo what I thought was correct and relearn. I wished I would have been taught this way of drawing from the very beginning! Buy this book and dvd, you will not regret it!

I couldn't finish it. The tone was so overbearing and the language was not inviting. I felt like the author was trying to prove that art is a science. While true, I wasn't reading for that proof - I wanted a guide on how to improve my craft. I feel like this could be very discouraging for many artists and I ended up putting it down in distaste.

This is the most accessible book on classical drawing that I have ever read. I own all 3 of this author's books. This book is a whole new level of growth from Ms. Aristides. I feel with this volume her skills at teaching have exceeded her exceptional gifts in drawing. The lessons here will be

familiar to advanced students while still offering many valuable new insights. But it's not too over-the-head for a beginner to benefit. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn from a master. The DVD really helps to underscore the lessons in the book and get a better understanding of the author's voice. For those who are serious about improving their drawing skills, I could not recommend any book more highly.

I was really expecting a lot out of this book, Atelier is impressive and I have books on painting that I was very impressed with by other Atelier artists. But, I was not really very impressed with this one. It was just too much theory and not enough instruction. The author is eloquent and writes beautifully about her experiences in art, perhaps some artist would find this the perfect book about classical drawing. This book is like going out to dinner at a fine dining restaurant. It's pretty, it tastes good, but they never give you enough food.

Juliette is a fantastic teacher and this like her other books is wonderful. The DVD was very good as well. In fact we actually used it for one session of a Classical Drawing class. My instructor knows Juliette but has never seen this book or the DVD. It was very inspirational. I am a devotee of learning classical methods which are not easily found in our part of NC. This book helps me augment my training.

If you are interested in Atelier education or fine drawing this is a great book to get. Aristides is an amazing artist and teacher, she runs her own Atelier program at Gage in Seattle and I hope to study with her there in the near future. I love the sections on Light and Shadow and The Illusion of Depth. This really covers a broad area of knowledge in a small span of time. It also includes a DVD in the back that is a very helpful aid to use with the book. The binding is very strong and well done for a book that costs \$20. I haven't left my house without it since it came in the mail. If I'm out and about and I have a few minutes and I'm not sketching, then I'm thumbing through and absorbing this book. I highly recommend it.

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