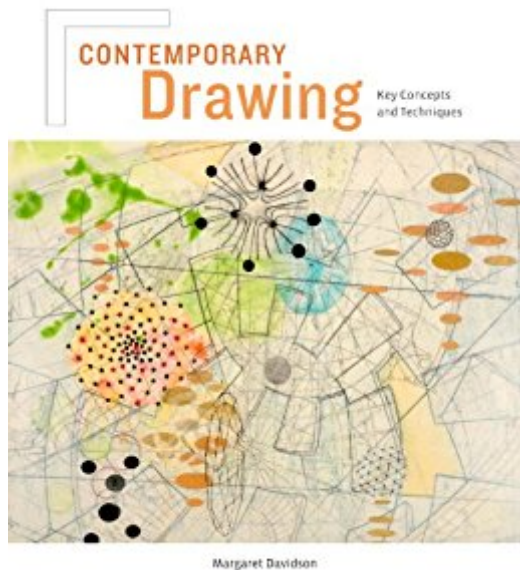




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Contemporary Drawing: Key Concepts And Techniques



Synopsis

Drawing is experiencing an unparalleled surge in the art world. Passé notions that once defined drawing as being a preparatory stage for painting or sculpture have long since been cast aside. Drawing is now fully recognized as its own art form—in the biennials, art fairs, museum exhibitions, and beyond. Drawing has come of age. Contemporary artists are increasingly discovering that drawing is something unique and different from painting. It is an intense, sensitive, compelling, personal, and utterly direct art form, one with its own concepts, characteristics, and techniques. In addition, contemporary drawing is not governed by any particular imagery, but rather encompasses a variety of approaches, including realist, abstract, modernist, and post-modernist. Contemporary Drawing delves into the essential and far-reaching concepts of this medium, exploring surface, mark, space, composition, scale, materials, and intentionality in turn. Key techniques, such as using nature to induce marks and working with a checklist to determine a drawing's problems, are introduced throughout. Plus, an in-depth chapter examines a number of artists, such as William Kentridge and Gego, who are breaking traditional boundaries that separate one artistic discipline from another. Lushly illustrated by a wide range of highly accomplished contemporary artists, Contemporary Drawing offers a broad perspective on this expansive and energized field of art. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Wonderful and insightful book! Margaret is wonderful!

This is probably a great book if you have never read a contemporary drawing book. I did not find it very original. It is a nice looking book though.

Ok for beginners. It has good illustrations. I was expecting to have more details on composition and other topics that would give me an overall view of contemporary drawing.

There is much to admire in this book ... BUT why do we have to put up with so much artwork from the author? Other excellent examples are available. It's irritating, and seems unnecessarily egotistical.

Margaret Davidson's New Book, "Contemporary Drawing: Key Concepts and Techniques" is an amazing work. It does something few books of this type do -- it explores new ideas in original ways. First, it elevates the status of drawing. Ms. Davidson shows us that drawing is not an art form second to painting, but an art form in its own right. Second, she talks about formal issues that, as far as I know, have not been covered in as much depth in other drawing guides. For example, the first two chapters of the book, "Surface" and "Mark", talk about the interrelationship between the paper and the drawing instrument used. I particularly liked her discussion of Georges Seurat as the first artist to fully employ the texture of the paper. This is a book I will be enthusiastically recommending to all my students. Subsequent chapters correspond to other formal issues contemporary drawing artists must think about, like space, composition, scale, and even intentionality. In so many places I am exposed to new concepts I had not thought about before: mark-making by fire (!), gravity, or propulsion; drawing on both sides of translucent paper, the modern compositional structure of "overallness"

"Contemporary Drawing: Key Concepts and Techniques" by Margaret Davidson is the singular, freshest and most original book ever written on the significant subject of Drawing. Her primary assertion is that drawing has now evolved, becoming its own, new art-form. And when evidence of the artist's hand is painfully missing in the artwork of a Post Modern world, Ms. Davidson rightly points-up the value of everyone's individual, artistic "mark." Margaret nails it with her wide-ranging exploration of media and tools, and a large variety of drawing techniques. So whether it be wet or dry media, natural or man-made tools, she leaves no stone un-turned as she provides a road-map for drawing in a new era. Extraordinary in its conception, "Contemporary Drawing" is an engaging read. Her subject is clearly presented and beautifully illustrated with far-ranging examples of contemporary drawings - black and white as well as colored, large and small; and everything from minimalist and abstract to the more realistic and traditional approaches. Full of inspiration, you will want to keep this one handy for frequent referrals. It belongs in every artist's collection. Of particular interest to myself was her chapter on "intentionality - the defining principle that enables us to move from the student to the professional realm, from the ordinary to the inspired. This book will broaden your possibilities for creative expression. "Contemporary Drawing" is an exciting breath of fresh air for this ages-old subject - one that thrills me every time I open its pages.

Well done. Thoughtful. Excellent selection of work and artists. Really good reproductions. Glad to have it in my library.

So very encouraging to see a book on contemporary drawing published by such a mainstream art-how-to publisher as Watson Gutpill. Davidson explores what modern and contemporary drawing can be and do in a very earnest and thoughtful manner. I might disagree with a point here and there... the focus is more left-brained than I might prefer...and the text could use a bit of additional editing... but this volume stands as an important contribution to the literature about contemporary drawing nonetheless. Highly recommend!

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