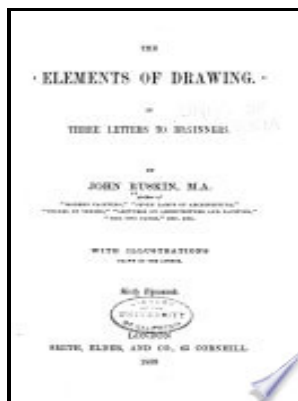


Elements of drawing in three letters to beginners

Smith, Elder and Co - 10 Essential Drawing Materials and Tools for Beginners



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Notes: CSAC Binding?; Half bound in tan leather; blind tooling to boards; marbled boards.

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The Elements of Drawing; in Three Letters to Beginners

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By full size, I mean the size which they would really appear of if their outline were traced through a pane of glass held at the same distance from the eye at which you mean to hold your drawing.

10 Essential Drawing Materials and Tools for Beginners

Labor on, therefore, courageously, with that only. Take a rule, and draw four straight lines, so as to inclose a square, or nearly a square, about as large as a , Fig. All these exercises are very irksome, and they are not to be persisted in alone; neither is it necessary to acquire perfect power in any of them.

10 Essential Drawing Materials and Tools for Beginners

Thus it is always dangerous to assert anything as a rule in matters of art; yet it is useful for you to remember that, in a general way, a shadow is darker than the dark side of the thing that casts it, supposing the colors otherwise the same; that is to say, when a white object casts a shadow on a white surface, or a dark object on a dark surface: the rule will not hold if the colors are different, the shadow of a black object on a white surface being, of course, not so dark, usually, as the black thing casting it. Practice only will enable you to do it well; the best artists cannot always get gradations of this kind quite to their minds; nor do they ever leave them on their pictures without after-touching. Have ready a piece of blotting-paper; dry your brush on it, and with the dry brush take up the superfluous color as you would with a sponge, till it all looks even.

The elements of drawing in three letters to beginners : Ruskin, John, 1819

Neither must you suppose yourself condescending in doing this. The only way to ascertain the ultimate truth in such matters is to look for it; but, in the meantime, you will be helped by noticing that the cracks in the stone are little ravines, on one side of which the light strikes sharply, while the

other is in shade. If you desire only to possess a graceful accomplishment, to be able to converse in a fluent manner about drawing, or to amuse yourself listlessly in listless hours, I cannot help you: but if you wish to learn drawing that you may be able to set down clearly, and usefully, records of such things as cannot be described in words, either to assist your own memory of them, or to convey distinct ideas of them to other people; if you wish to obtain quicker perceptions of the beauty of the natural world, and to preserve something like a true image of beautiful things that pass away, or which you must yourself leave; if, also, you wish to understand the minds of great painters, and to be able to appreciate their work sincerely, seeing it for yourself, and loving it, not merely taking up the thoughts of other people about it; then I can help you, or, which is better, show you how to help yourself.

Ruskin, John: The elements of drawing: in three letters to beginners (London, 1857)

Try whether it does or not: and if the patterned drapery confuses you, keep for a time to the simple white one; but if it helps you, continue to choose patterned stuffs tartans and simple checkered designs are better at first than flowered ones, and even though it should confuse you, begin pretty soon to use a pattern occasionally, copying all the distortions and perspective modifications of it among the folds with scrupulous care. Ward's present address is Bedford Chambers, 28 Southampton Street, Strand, London, W. Now, remember always what was stated in the outset, that everything you can see in Nature is seen only so far as it is lighter or darker than the things about it, or of a different color from them.

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