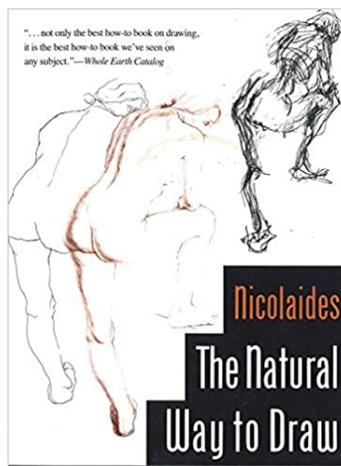


# The Academy Library

Welcome to the 'Academy Library'.

This 'library' consists of a collection of recommended books that you will without doubt find useful in your art journey. Some books contain reference material on subjects such as colour theory, drawing or the in's and out's of oil painting, some providing exercises that you can follow to improve your understanding and skill. There are also books that explore the spiritual aspects of the artist's expression and another that challenges our modern day views on the depiction of the human form. As you will discover this library covers many subjects relevant to the artist in the twenty first century, not excluding how to remain creative among the distractions and challenges presented in a modern lifestyle. You will find Ben's personal comments about each book italicised, following the books description.

*We hope you find inspiration among these pages and return here often as we add to the Academy Library.*



## Nicolaides The Natural Way to Draw

Nicolaides (1891- 1938) was among many things a successful art teacher, who became 'second father' to many of his students. Dying in 1938 he left behind a solid system for teaching art and a large devoted following of students. A few of these students compiled students notes and the nearly finished book; with respect to the plans of Nicolaides to make this publication. Topics covered include gesture, contour drawing, drapery, light and shade and much more. Exercises accompany explanation making this book a must for any art student.

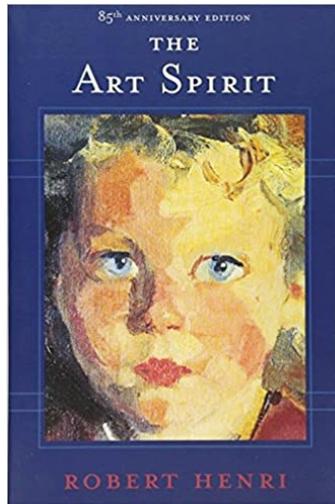
***"The best book I've come across to teaching how to keep movement and life in one's drawing and painting"***



## Cours de dessin Charles Bargue and Jean-Leon Gerome Drawing Course

Between 1866-1871 the Charles Bargue and Jean-Leon Gerome drawing course was published with the aim of providing excellent drawings for art students to copy, improving their ability to see as an artist, problem solve and above all draw well. The course necessitates starting at the beginning and working through the plates as they reveal greater challenges to the student. This book provides clean replicas of the lithographs used in the original course for today's student artist to copy. There are 70 drawings from classical sculptures, 57 lithographic reproductions of old master drawings and 60 life drawings of the male nude.

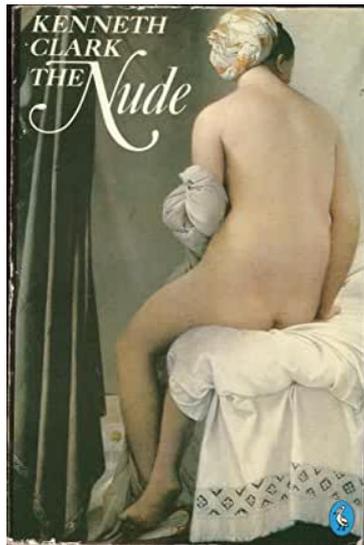
***“An excellent resource book with clear Bargue plates a student can use for copying.  
A must have on your bookshelf”***



## **The Art Spirit by Robert Henri**

Robert Henri (1865-1929) led the Ashcan School movement in art (USA) and attracted a large and devoted following of art students. Forbes Watson describes Henri as an inspired teacher having an extraordinary gift for communication and an uncontaminated devotion to art. This book is not does not read cover to cover as you might expect rather each opinion is presented as Henri explains “as a rough sketch to stimulate independent thought”. Let this book live on your bedside table and read it often.

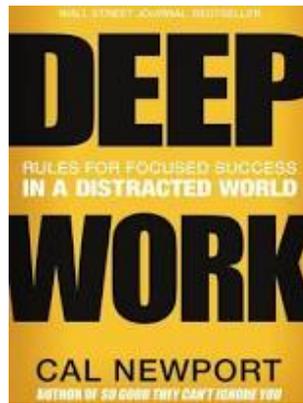
***“One of my all time favourites. Full of vital and inspirational writings and thoughts on art and painting. I keep it next to my bed to dip into often. A little goes a long way and it has enriched my life no end”***



## The Nude Kenneth Clark

For many years whilst working in the arts, Clark had contemplated writing a big book about one of the great subjects of art throughout the centuries, that is how artist responded to and depicted the nude. In the 1950's he retreated to a hotel in the hills of Florence to write 'The Nude'. Clark was considered by many the premier art historian of his generation, a title well deserved and evident in his writing. He makes reference to how artists throughout the centuries have treated the nude, and could be criticised for his own biases remaining unhidden.

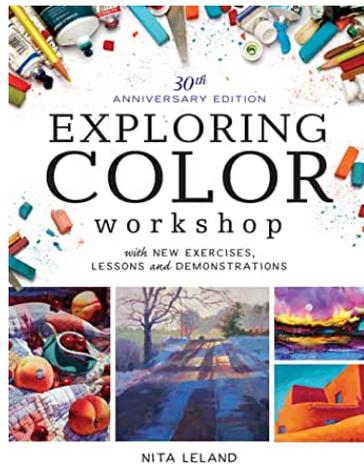
***“Always having a fascination with the nude and how it's perceived through art history – my interest has been recently renewed by being recently introduced to this excellent book by Kenneth Clark. I haven't finished it – however I think it's a must read for any modern figure painter”***



## Deep Work by Cal Newport

Ever felt so distracted you can't stick with the job at hand? Newport suggests tools for living in this modern world, full of distractions and interruptions. Learn how to get in the the mind set that enables you to start doing productive, deep work and learn to identify shallow work, and how get to the elusive important stuff.

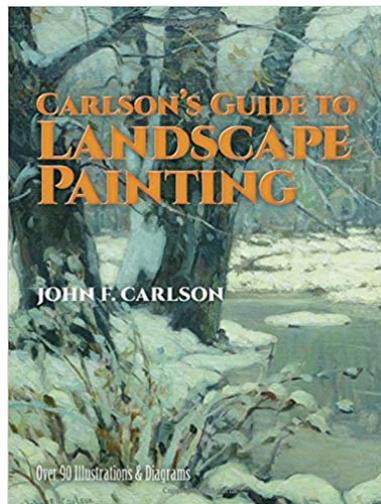
***“I got a lot out of this book. It made me realise the destructive nature of social media if its not handled with awareness and care – having a not so good impact on the deep work that is needed for good drawing and painting. Useful tools and suggestions to navigate your way through this minefield and get deeply creative”***



## Exploring Colour Workshop by Nita Leland

Leland describes “Colour is a journey not a destination” . Colour theory is explored in a very practical way in this book as the theory is entwined with exercises, demonstrations and explanations. Topic covered include the language of colour, complementary colours, hue, the colour wheel, temperature, glazes, light and weather effects, shadows and much more. Concepts go way beyond the basics.

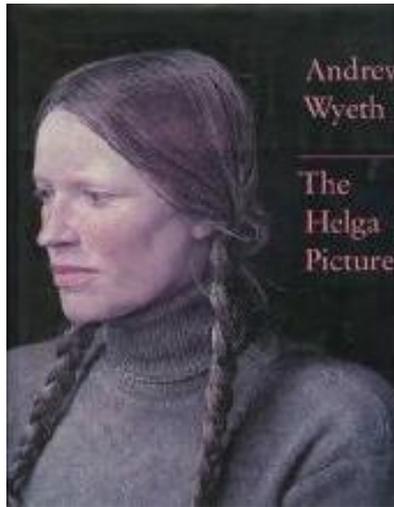
***“Another favourite of mine. Nita give a well-rounded explanation of colour and how it works – with plenty of exercises to do yourself to deepen your practical understanding”***



## Carlson's Guide to Landscape Painting John F Carlson

Written by a famous American painter and teacher, whose landscapes are found in many of the world's most noted museums, this book is known as one of the art students' most helpful guides. It provides a wealth of advice on the choice of subject; it tells what to look for and aim for, and explains the mysteries of colour, atmospheric conditions, and other phenomena to be found in nature. Through his profound understanding of the physical nature of landscapes and his highly developed artistic sense, John Carlson is able to explain both the whys and the how's of the various aspects of landscape painting. Among the subjects covered are angles and consequent values (an insightful concept necessary for strong overall unity of design), aerial and linear perspective, the painting of trees, the emotional properties of line and mass in composition, light, unity of tone, choice of subject, and memory work. In the beginning chapters, the author tells how to make the best of canvas, palette, colours, brushes, and other materials and gives valuable advice about texture, glazing, varnishing, bleaching, retouching, and framing. This is a book to keep, to read at leisure, and to look into for the solution of problems as they arise, when the need for an experienced hand is felt. (from [amazon.com.au](https://www.amazon.com.au))

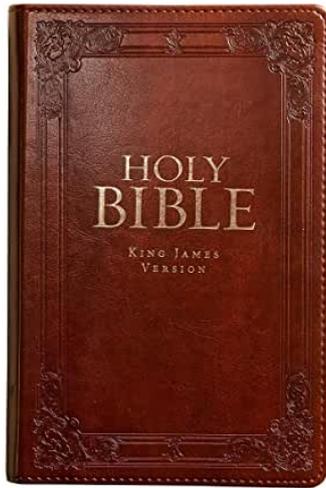
***“An excellent and must have book on all things landscape painting. Easy to read and follow and full of great painting information”***



## Andrew Wyeth The Helga Pictures

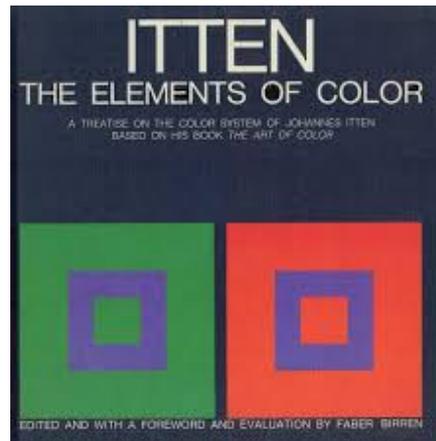
“My aim is not to Exhibit craft, but rather to submerge it, and make it rightfully the handmaiden of beauty, power and emotional content”  
Andrew Wyeth

***“Andrew Wyeth is one of my top ten favourite artists, and the collection of ‘The Helga pictures’ is a constant source of enjoyment, inspiration and learning for me in my own painting journey. He is an artist of integrity, who’s external work – his drawings and paintings – reflect his inner world of ideas, beliefs, spirituality and the unseen”***



## The Holy Bible

*“A vast and varied book filled with essential stories and epic narratives that have, and continue to inspire much of Western Art. A necessary read to understand many of the world’s famous paintings. The narratives and stories inspiring and being drawn from by the likes of Rubeen’s, Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Turner, Van Dyck, Van Eyck, Dali, Durer, Caravaggio, Tissot, Blake, Titian, Van Gogh, Vermeer, El Greco, Dore, Gauguin, Giotto, Franz Hals, Jheronimus Bosch, Botticelli, Fra Angelico, Gentileschi, Holbein, Klimt, Manet, Raphael, Repin and Velasquez amongst others”*



## Itten The Elements of Colour by Johannes Itten

Itten (1888 - 1967) was a Swiss expressionist painter, designer, writer and theorist. He has been known as much as a resourceful teacher as an imaginary artist. His main focus remained the search for the laws of colour and form, harmony and contrasts.

This book contains numerous colour plates illustrating the colour systems explored by Itten. The text is a rich feast of colour theory that expands the bounds of colour.

*“A must have for those who want to understand good colour theory”*