



Fun With A Pencil

Andrew Loomis

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Andrew Loomis (1892-1959) is revered amongst artists - including comics superstar Alex Ross - for his mastery of drawing. His first book, Fun With a Pencil, published in 1939 is a wonderfully crafted and engaging introduction to drawing, cartooning, and capturing the essence of a subject all while having fun. With delightful step-by-step instruction from Professor Blook, Loomis's charming alter ego on the page.

Fun With A Pencil Details

Date : Published April 2nd 2013 by Titan Books (first published May 8th 1939)

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Author : Andrew Loomis

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From Reader Review Fun With A Pencil for online ebook

Kalin says

I love Andrew Loomis. All of his books are brilliant. Reading this book was an excellent first step into understanding how cartoons can be created by breaking them down into simple forms and exaggerating their various proportions. I loved the section on facial expressions and how he encourages drawing from the imagination through the use of the basic construction framework. He also shows how the framework of a cartoon relates back to a traditional figure which piqued my interest for further understanding.

This book was also my first look at the Loomis method of constructing the head, which I will be learning more about as I read his other books. My main criticism is that this book is labelled as a book for beginners, however the content gets increasingly more difficult towards the end of the book when Loomis dives into complicated perspective and shadow construction drawings with little explanation to aid in understanding them. There are so many lines in these drawings that any beginner would have no idea what they are looking at. Aside from that, the content in this book is still 5 stars and the book's main focus is on having fun, which should be the reason you started drawing to begin with.

Loran (Algonquiins) says

Fun with a Pencil is a really awesome introductory drawing book for people who have little to no experience with figure drawing or basic techniques. Anybody could pick up this book and get a great grasp for how to start drawing and where to progress from there. Andrew Loomis's lessons are classic and simple to follow and provide enough structure to even encourage those people who don't think they can draw at all. The only downside to this book (and most of Loomis's books) is his personal style is extremely specific and a tad outdated and it can make modernizing some of his figure and facial drawings difficult. Also his technique is extremely realistic so if you are looking to do something more like animation then this might not be the best instructional book for you to start with. That being said anything Andrew Loomis does is classic and provides a pretty solid foundation for those who don't know where to start. I personally was way too advanced for this particular book and found it to be a little too silly and immature for the kind of art I create so I had to give it a lower rating. It's still a great beginner's book though and I don't regret my time with it.

Jasmin says

In my opinion, the book "Fun With A Pencil" is probably the perfect resource for people who are interested and wants to learn how to draw. It contains step by step photos on every chapter and makes it easy to follow the steps. It also contains many tips and techniques which I find useful as an artist.

Ajoy Sarkar says

Very good book for learners.

Violet Marcelo says

He's a master illustrator but he's racist, propagates stereotypes and if you actually did the lessons in this book, you'll realize that it's way too hard for beginners!

Xanthippe says

Loomis was an illustrator par excellence, and a marvellous teacher. Be forewarned, however: as a previous reviewer stated, some of the content might be considered culturally insensitive. The antiquated race categories 'negroid', 'mongoloid', and 'caucasoid' are referenced here, and non-whites are drawn always in caricature fashion--pretty ghastly. There's a great deal to appreciate in this (or any) Loomis book, however.

His approach to drawing the head is easily grasped and fun, and he gives the reader scads of angles and ideas for creating variety. Loads of content on creating the figure is provided, also, from structure, to point of gravity, to in-action. I found the bit on foreshortening the figure quite fascinating, but I rarely use the technique he outlines, as it's a bit tedious!

Really, everything you're likely to draw (except nature--apart from the human animal, of course) is covered here--furniture, entire rooms (another maddening but technically precise technique), shadows (excellent!), folds in clothing... The ratio of cartoon to realism is approximately 75 to 25, by my reckoning, yet all techniques given apply to any style.

Fantastic for the beginner, or for a long-time dilettante such as myself.

Meidhita says

It's fun to "interact" with pencil. But still it's not as easy as it is in the book.

I've tried, hard enough. But still, it's the practice you need, not the theory.

However, i recommend this book for those who doesn't have time for a drawing class. But try as the book say. Don't just stare at the book. it won't help you out.

Brian King says

Fantastialy authentic, endlessly useful

Andrew Loomis was one of the biggest influences in commercial art. His guidance will never be missed as long as you can find his books. This one is fun, but loaded with practical information on how to upgrade your feeble attempts to draw what want to illustrate your ideas. Andrew seems to genuinely want you to become proficient and maybe even even excellent as an artist if you catch the drawing bug. And you just might.

JP says

~3.5 stars

A pretty good book with some fun lessons rooted in simple geometry and clear instructions. The perspective lessons at the end are a bit more complex, but they're still good instructions. I'd say back this up with other books on the fundamentals (including perhaps Loomis' other books on figure drawing), since formulaic lessons can become a crutch, but this book is still rooted in a lot of those basics, so you won't be lead astray.

It's unfortunately got some racist caricatures that don't at all age well, with a couple bits that might be sexist by today's standards, but maybe I shouldn't be that surprised, since this book is nearly 80 years old, and some of the 20th century's more brutal, trying lessons hadn't been learned yet (WW2 and its horrors were only just getting started, and the Civil Rights movement was still 15 years off) I call these things when I see them, but I wouldn't throw the baby out with the bathwater with these older texts.

It's a quick book too, especially if you're just doing an initial read through. Less wordy and more pictorial than Loomis' other books. It's old, and I can think of some professors and professionals who might tsk at some of these formulas, but it still has some really good nuggets of knowledge.

Alien Citizen says

racist crap...well, racist anyway. This one includes lots of fun instructions on how to draw stereotyped forms of all sorts...from the librarian with glasses on the nose to the African-American man with lips the size of Australia. Yes, this book was written in the early 60s, I think. If that's enough excuse for you then enjoy the read...it's not for intermediate or advanced artists.

Joey says

best artbook volgens munchy

Camilasc says

Deceptive title.

This book is a gross liar in that it presents itself as a drawing book for "rookies".

Make no mistake, the drawing principles exposed here are extremely hard, and 70% of the illustrators of today do not draw this good...even those who went to art school.

This book covers how to draw with volumes , keeping proportion, technical perspective and shadow and light. Heavy emphasis is on the human figure (the most rewarding and challenging of subjects). All the

principles are very HARD things to do, and mastering these concepts will require much* further practice after copying everything from the book.

All in all, a great tool for the artist that wants to move from the low intermediate to high intermediate.

-1 star for pointless racism (if you wanna draw the receding hairlines of middle aged white men, oh boy, do you have diversity *there* :/...).

Chris Jones says

Great introduction to cartooning and drawing in general. All Loomis assumes is the person can pick up a pencil and draw a few shapes, but he quickly builds on basic shapes to constructing frameworks and figures. I've drawn for a long time and still found his methods useful and helpful. Loomis wrote in the 30s/40s so the books can be difficult to find but many libraries carry them.

????? ??????? says

It's a true helpful guide for the beginners, who have interest in illustration. The way of showing the basic techniques is so easy indeed.

And yeah, making lines & images on paper with a pencil is always fun to me. :)

Angel Arturo says

While the principles seem simple, they are actually very powerful tools to learn how to correctly draw from life. I've always struggled with "seeing" the world as shapes and the examples were good enough to let me draw accurate representations of objects and people I see in my daily life. Now the struggle comes to draw from imagination.
