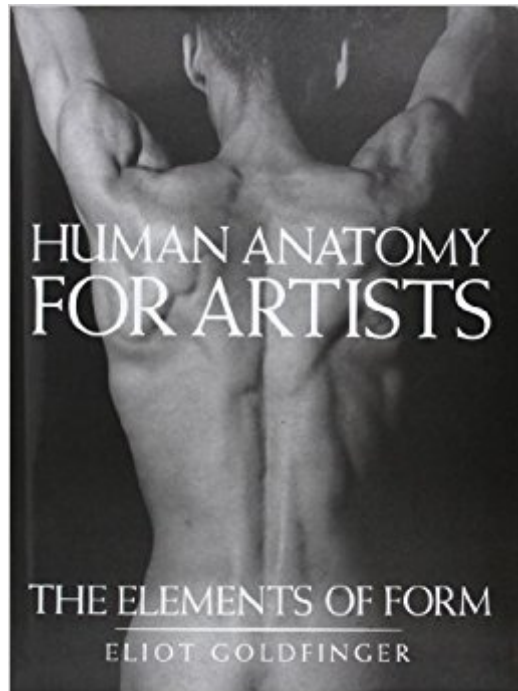




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# **Human Anatomy For Artists: The Elements Of Form**



## Synopsis

The power of the image of the nude--the expressivity of the flesh--has inspired artists from the beginning. An understanding of human form is essential for artists to be able to express themselves with the figure. Anatomy makes the figure. Human Anatomy for Artists: The Elements of Form is the definitive analytical work on the anatomy of the human figure. No longer will working artists have to search high and low to find the information they need. In this, the most up-to-date and fully illustrated guide available, Eliot Goldfinger--sculptor, illustrator, scientific model-maker, and lecturer on anatomy--presents a single, all-inclusive reference to human form, capturing everything artists need in one convenient volume. Five years in the making, and featuring hundreds of photos and illustrations, this guide offers more views of each bone and muscle than any other book ever published: every structure that creates or influences surface form is individually illustrated in clear, carefully lit photographs and meticulous drawings. Informed by the detailed study of both live models and cadavers, it includes numerous unique presentations of surface structures--such as fat pads, veins, and genitalia--and of some muscles never before photographed. In addition, numerous cross sections, made with reference to CT scans, magnetic resonance imaging, and cut cadavers, trace the forms of all body regions and individual muscles. Information on each structure is placed on facing pages for ease of reference, and the attractive two-color format uses red ink to direct readers rapidly to important points and areas. Finally, an invaluable chapter on the artistic development of basic forms shows in a series of sculptures the evolution of the figure, head, and hands from basic axes and volumes to more complex organic shapes. This feature helps place the details of anatomy within the overall context of the figure. Certain to become the standard reference in the field, Human Anatomy for Artists will be indispensable to artists and art students, as well as art historians. It will also be a useful aid for physical and dance therapists, athletes and their trainers, bodybuilders, and anyone concerned with the external form of the human body. With the renewed interest in figurative art today, this will be an especially welcome volume.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Brilliant.... Exquisite drawings.... Detailed descriptions.... Beautiful and extensively labelled photos of models."--American Artist"Very thorough and well presented."--C. Moone, University of Colorado at Denver"Extremely detailed and well illustrated. The drawings of bone structure, isolated muscle, muscle groups, followed by corresponding photographs is very useful. Section on mass conceptions compared with photographs is excellent as well. I can't imagine a more detailed reference for figure study."--Alan Hall, Mohave Community College

Eliot Goldfinger, a renowned sculptor and illustrator, developed the anatomy program at The New York Academy of Art and has been an instructor at The Art Student's League in New York City.

really needs to separate the ebook from regular book reviews. The regular hardback is an easy 5 stars. In the Kindle version, the images are a little too compressed, and although they get the point across, are too low resolution for this kind of technical book. Just zooming in a little bit on a hi-rez tablet, and you see texels and compression way too early in the illustrations, and you can hardly make out the muscle fibers, etc. that are so clearly illustrated in the original image. This anatomy book, originally a fairly large and heavy technical AND illustration hardback is a standard in the film/game industry, and the illustrations, are expertly rendered with painstaking detail by the author. ought to give these types of technical books, or any illustration book for that matter, a MUCH higher memory allowance than they are allowing these days. I was hoping this book was available as an ibook where visual quality would probably be given a higher priority, but is not yet available (11/2015), hence buying the version.

This book is a reference guide to the human anatomy for artists. The approach here is a part-by-part look at the different section of the body. Each area focused has illustrated muscles and bones with accompanying photo of a model by the side. We can clearly see where different layers of muscles are attached to the bones. The photo reference is very useful and provides clarity than using

illustrations alone. The downside is the author isolates the parts too much. If the topic is on the arm, only the arm is shown with very little of the shoulder. Amazingly, there are no full body illustration showing the muscles. The only full body illustrations show the schematic form, e.g. muscle boundaries. So while every part is explained and illustrated well, it's still a bit difficult to get the whole picture. Most of the examples are static. The body is not doing anything. Again, it's hard to see how the body really works when placed in different positions like walking, sitting or twisting. Well, this is a reference book, for bodies in different positions, it's better to get a figure drawing book that focuses on poses and gesture drawing. Also, a great bulk of the examples are for male bodies. It would have been perfect if more female bodies were included for comparison. The accompanying text is comprehensive in explaining the structure and how the parts work. Ultimately, this is a very useful reference guide for any artists who wish to look up any part of the body. It's recommended for beginner to advanced artists. 4.5 out of 5 stars. (More pictures are available on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

'Human Anatomy for Artists: The Elements of Form' by Goldfinger is just perfect, especially if you want to know where the muscles actually attach to bone, something many anatomy books for artists simply don't cover. The Goldfinger book, for each muscle or group of muscles, has one or more side-by-side series of illustration and photos that shows:- the naked bones in a given area with highlights that show you the surface areas where an individual muscle attaches, even if that muscle is an underlying muscle that normally is completely covered by surface muscles.- the muscle or muscles in question attached to their bones in isolation (no other muscles illustrated).- all the muscles in the given area to show the relationship between them and the muscle that is the subject of the series, even if the muscle in question is virtually covered up.- a photo of a well-toned human model in the same pose as the illustration series with labels to the various muscles.- one or more cross-sections (up to five or more) of the area being illustrated with each muscle labeled to show clearly how the muscles overlap and lay across each other and the underlying bone.- if necessary, the model will be shown in a pose that shows how an underlying, virtually hidden muscle is important to the artist when the subject is in a certain pose (e.g., an underlying muscle can lift and change the form of the surface muscles when it is in contraction and/or the body is in a certain pose).- a series of 'mass' diagrams that may be of use in building a 'shorthand' for the muscle or group in question.- It's not just a picture book. It has a lot of descriptive text for each of the series of illustrations, and covers aspects important to artists, such as the different types of muscle fibers, etc. I counted at least 17 of these series dealing just with attachments to the clavicle, but I might

have missed some since the organization is by area (trunk, neck, upper arm, forearm, etc.) and there are a lot of attachments to the clavicle from more than one of these areas. Also, there may be more than one series dedicated to a given muscle or group of muscles so that it is shown from back, front, side, and/or above, sometimes. The illustrations are as good or better than the best I've ever seen in any other anatomy book, especially ones for artists, which can be sketchy to a degree. I really don't think you need a library of anatomy books if you get just this one.

I like the book itself which I had checked out of the library. I bought the Kindle edition which used to be really cheap.. Anyway I'd recommend getting the actual book and not the Kindle edition, which isn't even cheap now. It's hard to navigate and the pictures are too small. Even though I've got the Kindle edition I'm still checking out the library book when I need it.

A must have!

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