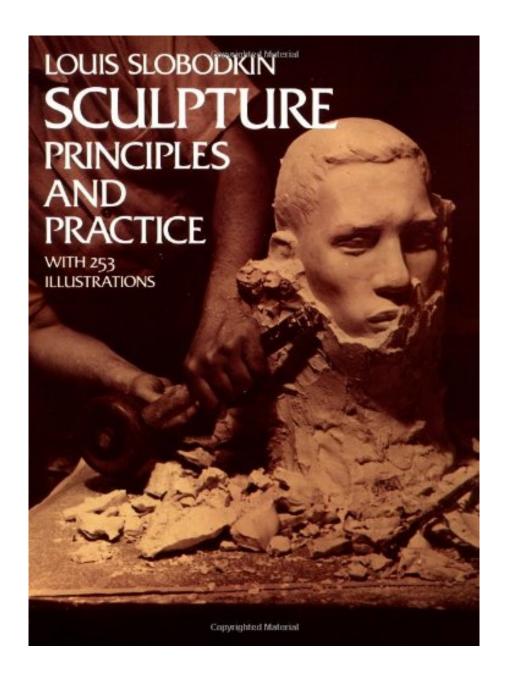


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"Instruction and appreciation become one in this book."—School Arts

Sculpture: Principles and Practice is one of the most authoritative and comprehensive books on the creation of sculpture. Unlike other instructional guides by people who have never had their fingers wet with clay, this book is the accumulation of many years of practical knowledge and experience by a noted American sculptor and art instructor.

Mr. Slobodkin starts with the very basics of the art and leaves no area uncovered. He advises the novice what type of material is best to work with, and in a step-by-step process shows how to begin with elementary forms and proceed to the more complex, used for creating human figures, portrait heads, bas reliefs, and other forms of sculpture. Helpful instruction and diagrams of the proper procedure for constructing armatures and the proper methods for the use of tools are passed on to the reader along the way.

When the use of clay and plasteline are well in hand, Mr. Slobodkin moves to the handling of more difficult materials. Plaster casting, wood carving, stone carving, terra cotta, metal sculpture, and architectural sculpture are all covered with hundreds of drawings and progressive photographs to add clarity. A most welcome aspect of this book is the author's witty and readable style. Technical passages never become oppressive, and words of encouragement and inspiration are offered frequently. One is well aware that the author was once a novice and facing the same difficulties himself. For the beginner this book is invaluable, but even those who have been sculpting for years will find the latter chapters full of helpful hints and useful information.

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Sales Rank: #564496 in Books
Published on: 1973-06-01
Released on: 1973-06-01
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: .69" h x 8.08" w x 11.08" l, 1.25 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 255 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

41 of 44 people found the following review helpful.

For beginners

By Shirley A. Potter

If you are a beginning sculpture student, this might be a book for you. Althought the information is somewhat dated (original copyright is 1949) the book is fairly direct and straight-forward in its writing style. Primary interest of the author--and the bulk of written information--is directed to modeling in clay and casting in plaster. The section on stone carving is short, but fairly complete. The woodcarving section is sketchy and, other than a good list of the tools needed, inadequate.

The sections on cast stone (concrete) and casting metal are outdated. Certain steps are still the same, but the materials currently in use are so different as to be almost another whole chapter.

A great deal of space is given to architectural sculpture, but again, the info is outdated. The book gives information on producing a stone monument, but does not address the cost factors (nor the steps in computing costs) of assembling the materials and placing the finished work. Nowadays that is of prime importance if a sculptor wants to compete for art in public places.

31 of 34 people found the following review helpful.

Good presentation, very informative

By Mary M. Earnest

I am a novice and am in the process of reading and learning all I can about the technical foundations of sculpture. I found this book very easy to understand and well organized. The photographs and illustrations are top notch and add greatly to the understanding of the subject. This book is worth its price.

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Great general guide

By Christopher Judd

I agree with the comment below - this is a beginner's book. More power to it. It was written by someone who has taught as well as practiced & focuses on the sculpting process rather than on artistic technique. Some of the mediums he covers (casting stone, glue molds) have advanced in ease of use since this book was written, but this guide has stood the test of time.

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