

L e o n a r d o t e c h n i c a l m a n u a l s

HUMAN ANATOMY

Anatomy plates for artists



PUBLISHED BY VINCIANA

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“If the artist has no precise knowledge of the skeleton, he runs the risk of drawing bones and limbs out of place; when he first sketches the lines of the skeleton of the figure, he is able to straightforwardly draw in the muscles and garments” - thus wrote Leonardo Da Vinci (1452 - 1519). The Vinciana Publishing House, convinced advocate of the importance of knowledge of anatomy for artists, on the strength of twenty years experience in the field of teaching drawing and painting, has decided to propose a volume dedicated to the study of human anatomy. This volume, a parallel publication to that devoted to the anatomy of the horse from an artistic perspective, distinguishes itself for its special appearance. Inspired by the layout of anatomy texts of the late nineteenth century, the volume consists of 48 loose plates plus an explanatory text. Each plate is numbered and indicates both the part illustrated and its anatomic name; in this way, the plates may be used independently of the text and a reading opportunity is offered to those who wish to broaden their knowledge of anatomy. The illustrations, which are remarkable for their precision and value, are rendered mainly in ballpoint pen and are inspired by or taken from nineteenth century iconographic material. Because intended for artistic purposes, which is the priority of the volume, more attention has been given to those parts of the anatomy that are visible on the surface of the body, especially in illustrating the bone structures and muscles that contribute most to shaping the human figure. In accordance with the aims of this volume which is not meant specifically for students of anatomy, the choice of terminology is geared more towards easy comprehension and functionality than strictly scientific definition. The extremely precise nature of the illustrations, which are intended primarily for the use of illustrators and artists in general, makes the volume interesting also for those who require an atlas of human anatomy for professional use. The drawings are presented in a sequence which corresponds to the unfolding of the text, and first illustrate the pads of the head, the trunk and finally the upper and lower limbs. The bone and muscle structures of each of these parts are examined.

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THE HORSE

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After 20 years in the field of drawing and painting through publication of the Leonardo collection, Vinciana Publishing House has decided to put its experience to work by inaugurating a new line with this volume devoted to the anatomy of the horse from an artistic perspective. What makes the work stand out is its special appearance, inspired by anatomy texts from the late nineteenth century: the volume consists of 48 loose plates plus an instructional text. The structure of the book means that readers can use the individual plates without the restrictions caused by bindings; for example, one can put two plates side by side - whether these illustrate the head, the thorax, or another part of the horse - and compare bone structure against muscle structure. Each plate is numbered and indicates both the part illustrated and its scientific nomenclature. This means that use of the plates is independent from the text, and reading is a choice left open to those who'd like to improve their knowledge of anatomy. In fact, although the volume is meant primarily for illustrators and artists in general, because of its precision and the quality of its drawings it can also be of interest to anyone involved with horses or veterinary medicine. The designs, which unfold step by step along with the text, start with the parts of the horse's head, move on to the trunk, and end with the front and hind limbs. The bone structure and the muscle structure is examined for each part of the body. Every illustration printed on the 48 plates has been drawn entirely by ballpoint pen, using a patient technique that has borne excellent results especially in the representation of muscles.

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