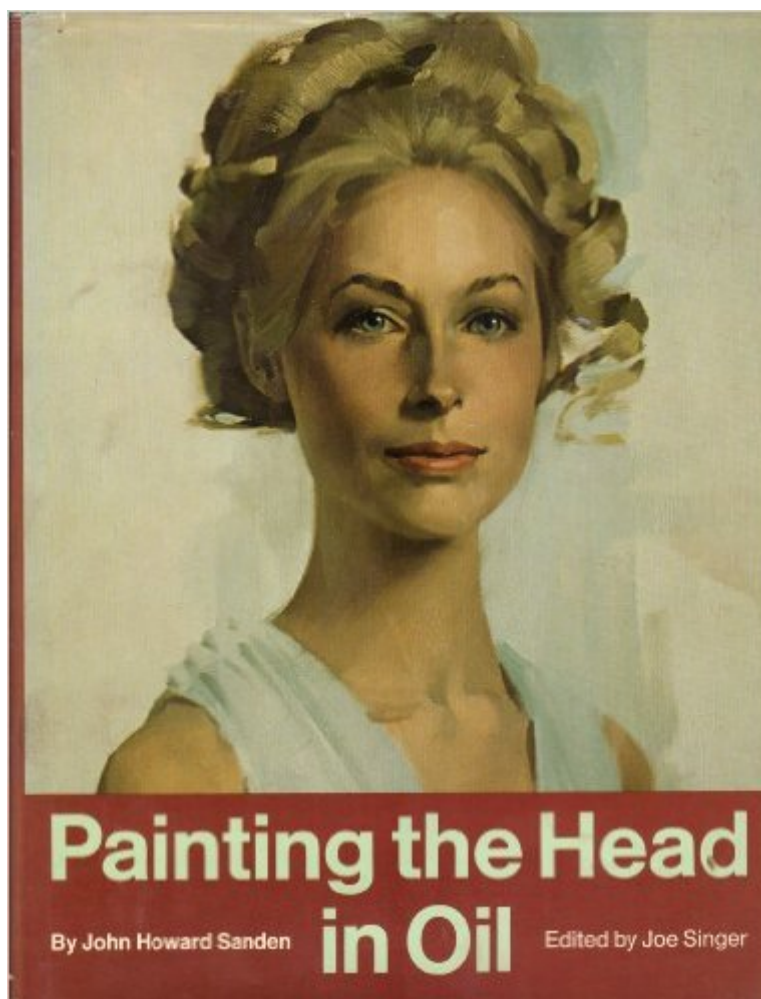


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# Painting The Head In Oil



## Synopsis

Well illustrated. Includes step-by-step demonstrations. Edited by Joe Singer. 152pp. Index.

Bibliography. Includes values, composing the portrait, principles of portrait painting and more.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 152 pages

Publisher: Watson-Guption; 1st edition (January 1, 1976)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Whether a beginner or experienced oil painter, this is a must-have book for your art techniques library. Sanden begins with general oil painting information about materials and equipment. He reviews his color palette in detail, discussing warm and cool, earth colors, and mixing your own flesh tints. He covers the basics of drawing the head and then talks about value, light, halftone, and shadow. Sanden's in depth color review includes hue, value and intensity, color mixing recipes and charts which you can make on canvas paper to keep for future reference. He shows you how to set up your palette, and gives clear and concise step-by-step painting instructions. After a review of general painting procedures, he paints (with examples) the head, including the mouth, teeth, chin, ears, forehead, hair, eyes, eyeglasses, and nose. Explanations are very clear and easy to follow. Lastly, he tells you how to capture the essence of your sitter. There are several color examples of his work throughout the book, as well as, black and white ones. He also discusses dark flesh tones, sitters attire, and the background. He encourages the painter to reduce the portrait into five parts: the light side of the face, the dark side of the face, the hair, the costume, and the background; to simplify. I use this book with my oil painting classes.

If you're seeking guidance on painting portraits, Sanden's method, or using his portrait oils this is NOT the book for you. You'll want his newer "Portraits from life in 29 steps." Unlike the newer book,

there are no full portrait demonstrations in this book, only segments on the nose, mouth, etc. and these are in black and white like the majority of instructional illustrations in this book. This book does however list the basic colors and the relative proportions used to create Sanden's Pro Mix set. 90 black and white plus 42 color illustrations. Brief discussions on many aspects of the portrait painting process but very little advice on color or painting itself. In short it's more of a guide for the artist who knows how to paint but can't seem to produce a good portrait than it is for less experienced painters. A dated book but one offering as much or similar advice to newer books - it would earn 4 stars if it weren't for the lack of color plates in the instructional segments.

this book gives you step by step instruction and teaches the basics as well as advanced ways to get portraits the way they should be. it includes the artist's palette and pictures of demonstrations. he explains the colors of his palette as well as showing you how to make it with a chart for future reference. The darks, shadows, and light, the way in which he uses it to get the true illusion of 3 dimensional picture. i recommend this book to all artist alike.

This is an excellent and really not all that advanced book on painting portraits. It is not for beginners in art but if you have a good foundation in drawing etc you will find this very instructive and easy to understand. I really like how he shows you how to set up your palette, and the demos are very clear and simple to understand. One nice thing is that the paints mentioned in the book are actually still for sale!! You can get the kit at Jerrys Artist Outlet and other supply houses if you want to use the mixes he mentions in the book. I highly recommend it!

This book was, I believe, the first published by Sanden - the first printing was 1976. I recently purchased the book used to see if I might develop a few skills to improve on my efforts at portraiture. I found the text full of detail and philosophy on painting. For this novice painter it was a bit overwhelming at first; however, with repeated readings and practice the text became a good guide for developing painting and portraiture skills. In addition to the attention to drawing, brush stroke and painting instruction, I found most useful the detail given to the palette of colors used by the author. Here he describes in detail his formulation for the Pro Mix Color System - a set of colors now commercially available but well within the novices ability to mix from basic colors found in their own paint box. I plan to keep this book in my library for I find myself repeatedly returning to it for instruction and inspiration.

I've only started to go through the book, but I can see already that it will prove helpful. It is a nice companion to his 29-steps book on portrait painting. Many of the images in this book are in black and white. I find this doesn't bother me at all because it helps to see the tonality.

This book is excellent for showing you how to mix flesh tones for light, medium and dark complexions. It also teaches, step by step how to paint the lights, shadows, and highlights. Finally, this book gives excellent close up photos so that you can see brush strokes. Highly recommend for beginner or advanced painters.

I'm not sure why this book is still out of print. The dated look is to be expected, but the advice is rock solid and will never change. As a painter, this book has changed my perspective on portraiture for sure.

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