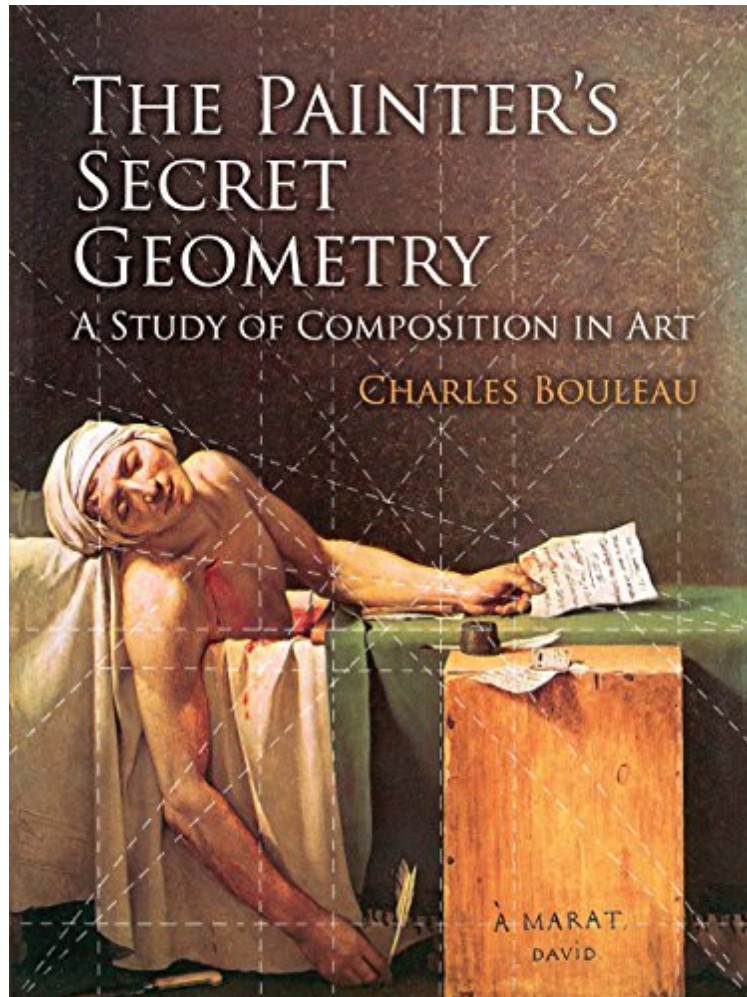


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The Painter's Secret Geometry: A Study of Composition in Art (Dover Books on Fine Art)

Charles Bouleau

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Charles Bouleau : The Painter's Secret Geometry: A Study of Composition in Art (Dover Books on Fine Art) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Painter's Secret Geometry: A Study of Composition in Art (Dover Books on Fine Art):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Welcome republication of an out of print landmark book unfortunately poorly reproduced. By JohnKRepublication of a book long out of print, and highly sought after so that many libraries having their copies stolen. The return of this book to circulation is most welcome. My rating for this book reflects the importance of the subject matter, although I do not agree with all of the assumptions or conclusions of the authors analysis. But it is important nether the less. However, the reproduction of the illustrations is the most ABYSMAL I think I have ever seen and would warrant a ZERO stars. I would have been VERY willing to paid an extra \$10-15 for the reproductions to be copied in a professional manner and printed on quality paper stock to the

enhance the readability of the lines of analysis, but more importantly to control the contrast (I.e., The blacks are extremely blocked up.). Many areas of the paintings are large blobs of grayish black with NO detail; detail I know is in the originals having seen that detail personally either from quality reproductions or from examination of the originals in art museums across the world. Assessment is based on the hierarchy of visual elements and their relative importance. The current illustrations make such determination very difficult if not impossible in many cases. The book also lacks any real discussion of visual vectorial analysis/visual dynamics or Gestalt theory. Further, any symbolic (or otherwise) intention by the artist for the use of visual armatures as compositional devices is barely touched on. However, do not let these criticisms deter you from purchasing this important landmark book. This book is essential reading for all artists and any involved in visual composition. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An ABSOLUTE Must have for anyone creating art. By Mindfree It baffles me why this information is not a standard part of the art curriculum. Before you can make art you have to understand what makes art. Just as important as the variations of edges and transitions or the shifts from cool to warmer hues, your content and ideas are so much more understood when you apply composition. The fact that our world and beyond is comprised of consistent patterns and mathematical equations lends itself to the importance of using those same factors in creating a representation of that world in any form. The artist's natural ability at pattern recognition and problem solving begs for this information. I spent a few years constantly checking this book out from my local library, each time learning more and more. The only thing more exciting than what's in this book is the fact that its information is just the tip of the iceberg. I'd also recommend looking up Jay Hambidge and his work on the Root Rectangles. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. NO IMAGES. By Moises A Quintana The Kindle version of the book has no images and for an Art Book is really frustrating.

"This is an outstanding text for teachers and students." — The Studio This richly illustrated examination of visual arts in the European tradition shows how the great masters employed the "golden mean" and other geometrical patterns to compose their paintings. Author Charles Bouleau explores a tremendous variety of ancient and modern works: the Parthenon friezes, Italian mosaics, the Bayeux Tapestry, and Gothic stonemasons' marks of France and Germany as well as paintings by Picasso, Kandinsky, Klee, and Pollock. His insightful expositions cast new light on such well-known works as Raphael's "The School of Athens," Botticelli's "Birth of Venus," Rubens' "Descent from the Cross," and Renoir's "Le Moulin de la Galette." Advancing step by step through each painter's vast body of work, the survey highlights new contributions from each period and artist. Every analysis is conducted according to strict methods, placing the work within the intellectual atmosphere of its time. Original, informative, and stimulating, *The Painter's Secret Geometry* reveals the framework of art as well as its most profound and secret poetry. This new edition of the cult classic is a vade mecum for any student of art history or artistic composition. "I found the material presented in this book to be fascinating. Though originally published in the 1960's its tenets hold up well. It would lend itself well to an art history course or to anyone interested in the concepts outlined." — Tacoma Public Library