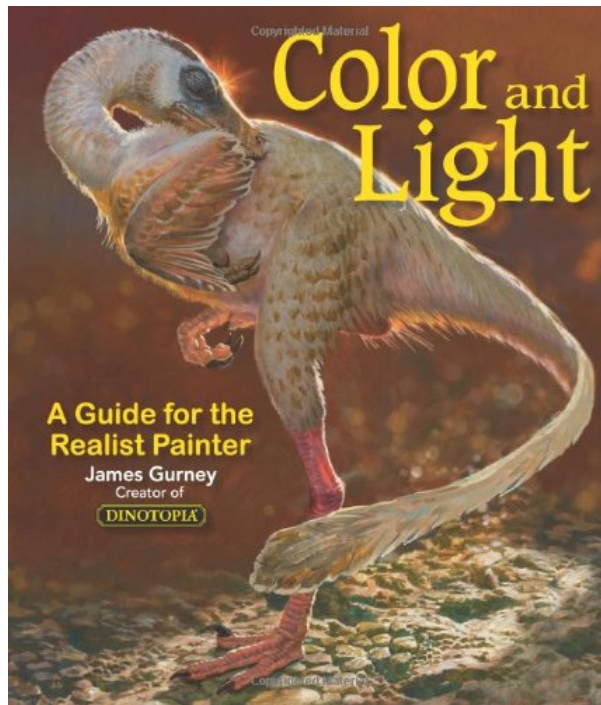
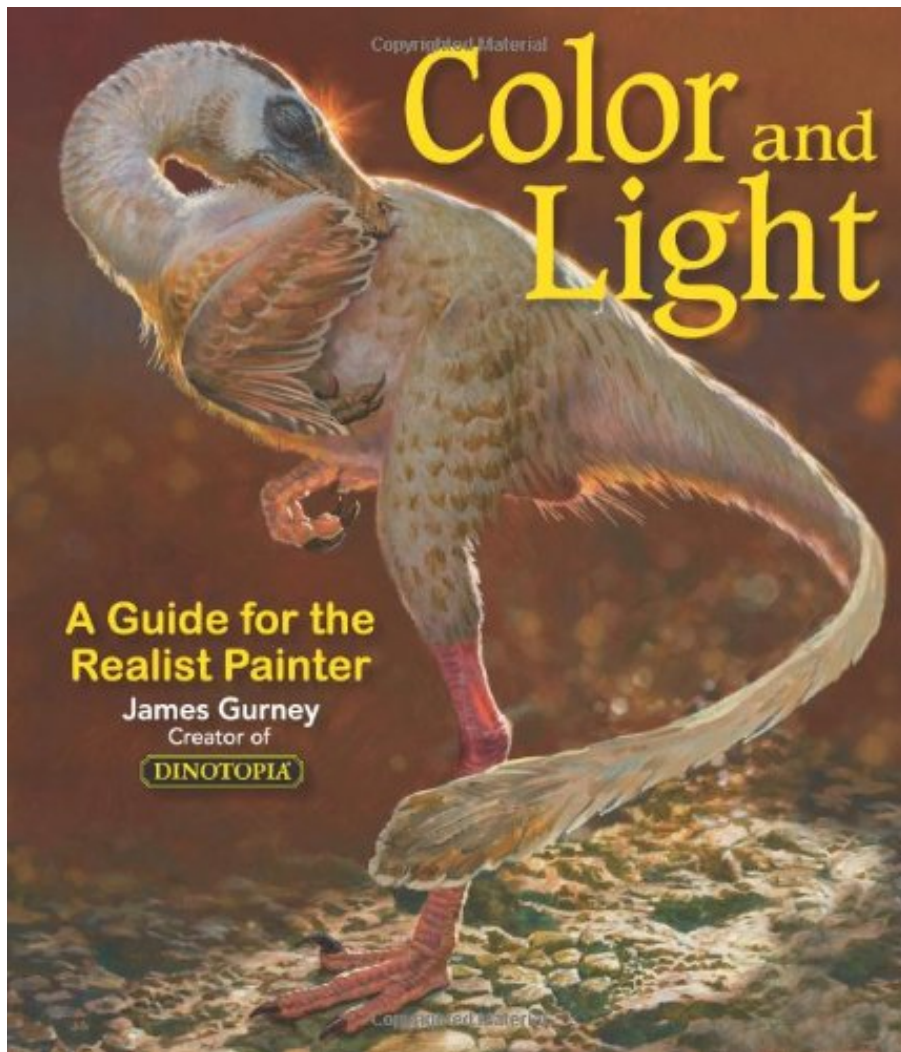


**COLOR AND LIGHT: A GUIDE FOR THE
REALIST PAINTER (JAMES GURNEY ART)
BY JAMES GURNEY**



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Review

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About the Author

?James Gurney's unique blending of fact and fantasy has won Hugo, Chesley, Spectrum, and World Fantasy Awards. His work has been featured in one-man exhibitions at the Smithsonian Institution, the Norman Rockwell Museum, the Delaware Art Museum, and the U.S. embassies in Switzerland and Yemen. He lives with his wife, Jeanette, in the Hudson Valley of New York State.

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From New York Times best-selling author of the Dinotopia series, James Gurney, comes a carefully crafted and researched study on color and light in paintings. This art instruction book will accompany the acclaimed Imaginative Realism: How to Paint What Doesn't Exist.

James Gurney, New York Times best-selling author and artist of the Dinotopia series, follows Imaginative Realism with his second art-instruction book, Color and Light: A Guide for the Realist Painter. A researched study on two of art's most fundamental themes, Color and Light bridges the gap between abstract theory and practical knowledge. Beginning with a survey of underappreciated masters who perfected the use of color and light, the book examines how light reveals form, the properties of color and pigments, and the wide variety of atmospheric effects. Gurney cuts through the confusing and contradictory dogma about color, testing it in the light of science and observation. A glossary, pigment index, and bibliography complete what will ultimately become an indispensable tool for any artist.

This book is the second in a series based on his blog, gurneyjourney.com. His first in the series, Imaginative Realism, was widely acclaimed in the fantastical art world, and was ranked the #1 Bestseller on the Amazon list for art instruction.

"James Gurney's new book, Color and Light, cleverly bridges the gap between artistic observation and scientific explanation. Not only does he eloquently describe all the effects of color and light an artist might encounter, but he thrills us with his striking paintings in the process." --Armand Cabrera, Artist

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Most helpful customer reviews

272 of 278 people found the following review helpful.

I needed this 20 years ago

By J. L. Powell

Here I am an artist with three art degrees... and I never learned most of this information! My main degree was in painting and illustration!!!! Honestly the most I learned was about cool and warm color and value - that's IT!

This book is easy to grasp, pithy and organized in such a way that you can go right to the area you are interested in without having to scan the entire book. I learned more about how to use color and paint light in the hour I ravenously scanned through it than I did in all those years of college. If you wish to learn anything about painting you must have this book!

It may seem such a simple subject, but how to set up a palette is one of the MOST confusing things an artist learns. Many times you just pick up a palette that someone else used and wing it until you get comfortable with it. Mr. Gurney actually takes so much of the mystery out of how to choose your palette of colors and how to work with what you have in that palette. This section ALONE is worth the price of the book!

Also he explains how our vision works so we can be aware of it and make better choices in how we render color and light in our images - as well as how to pay attention to depth of field! I especially loved the comparison of a photograph and a painting from observation and how much you miss in the photo. Again, this information alone is worth the price of the book!

If you are an artist looking to learn how to render an image realistically and believably, this book MUST be in your library. Mr. Gurney has taken information from many diverse sources that would take another person years to gather if you could even find these out of print books and information, and he has put it all in a well-organized and easily read book that is so deeply appreciated for its clarity.

Thank you, Mr. Gurney, for all your hard work. This book should become a textbook in any painting class!

133 of 135 people found the following review helpful.

Brilliant

By Parka

Color and Light is the latest book from James Gurney and it's fantastic. It is a very accessible guide that's filled with interesting and useful information on color and light. It's fortunate we have so many colors today at our disposal, and now with this book, something to help make sense of them.

The book talks about color in a very practical sense, as you would see them in life. The lessons are

observations of light and colors from James Gurney's years of painting experience. He brings his points across with his own beautiful paintings as examples, clearly explaining why and how he uses colors. It amazes me the amount of work James Gurney has created over the years, and this book is filled with them, from his plein-air to Dinopedia paintings.

There are lessons on sources of light, light and form, understanding the color wheel, how light reacts with surfaces and other elements, and visual perception. You'll learn interesting things like why the moon looks blue, when happens to light when it travels through green canopy, tips on mixing colors, and a whole lot more. There are lots of tips and techniques included. The book is also well researched and I enjoy reading the history of color as they were used in the past by other artists.

It's really a no-brainer to pick this up if you're into creating art, or even if you just want to check out the beautiful paintings in the book.

Highly recommended reference. And you should also check out his other book *Imaginative Realism: How to Paint What Doesn't Exist*.

(There are some pictures of the book on my blog, just visit my Amazon profile for the link.)

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent skill expansion tool - the textbook for the self-taught artist

By Genuine Sunshine

Brilliant! LOVE this book. It helps expand my skill sets with an understanding that allows me to immediately apply the information regardless of the medium. I am currently applying this to my pastel work as well as multi-media. My goal was to grasp a better understanding of how to apply light by understanding tones and values in order to create more realistic pieces. I even bought one for an artist friend. It's the ideal self-taught artists as it explains things simply in one-two pages without going on and on. My only constructive criticism, is regarding page 156 where the author discusses the colour zones of the face. Considering most of the planet inhabits humans of various pigment and variations of melanin shades, it seems a bit short sighted to only mention how to accurately portray the colour zones of the face on lighter skinned (white) people - as mentioned on the pages of that topic. It completely omits suggested theories or techniques related to drawing of those of indigenous, south Asian or southeast Asian or even African complexed humans. Understanding that the various tones exist in complexion are vast, it would be awesome to note what an artist should look for in order to accurately portray the subject.

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