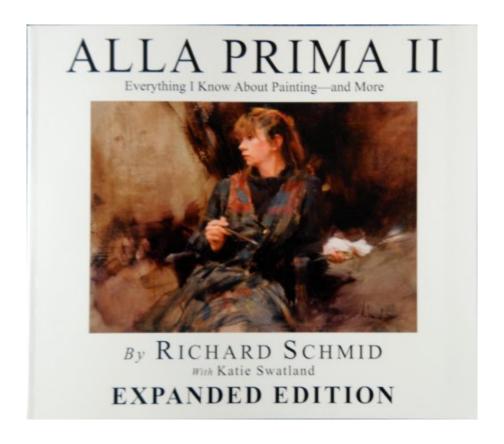


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JUST RELEASED September, 2013, Alla Prima II is a direct response to the remarkable success of the earlier book, Alla Prima, which went into thirteen printings after it was published in 1998. This new volume includes all of the information contained in the original printings, and all material has been extensively revised for increased clarity. It has also been considerably expanded to provide a much broader frame of reference in each of the critical aspects of painting. As with the original Alla Prima, this book offers to the artist and art lover alike the wisdom and technical savvy which comes from a classical education and a lifetime of painting and teaching. Writing as an acknowledged master, Richard gracefully leads his reader through the subtleties of painting theory and technique with refreshing directness and unmatched technical authority. With an emphasis on painting from life, he writes with warm humor about the joys and trials of being an artist. He brings to life the romance of Bravura painting and examines the mysteries of color in fascinating detail. A new view of design is offered, along with insights into the thinking of the great Masters. The virtuosity that painters strive for is presented as an attainable goal, but he also tells us what to do when everything goes wrong. Above all Richard writes with deep affection to all who strive for self-expression, regardless of their level of skill. He shares his own struggle from art school to the present, and offers the things he has learned with the hope that his reader may enjoy the same journey of discovery. Lavishly illustrated, Alla Prima II provides a unique overview of the rich historical background and underlying theoretical ideas of Direct painting, while examining in detail all of its technical problems and solutions. It also covers the full range of artistic subject matter and reveals the one thing a painter must know to capture it all. 328 pages. 262 color images.

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Yes... BUT!

By Professor Emeritus P. Bagnolo

Yes... BUT! I have the original Alla Prima, as well as his book on figure painting, and the new book. But here is the rub:

I too was a student at The American academy of art, many years after Richard Schmidt graduated, and I studied figure and anatomy with Sala, Bill Mosby, and others 5 days a week, 3 hrs a day and twice that in summer studying the Academies great nude models for 2.5 years after similar study in Under graduate and before graduate school. I also became a professional figure painter and Professional figure and portrait artist.

Thanks to books like Richard Schmidt's, early book on figure painting and the original Alla Prima, I was able enjoy his art and I benefited by buying many books of the old Masters. I always enjoyed Richard Schmidt's work. However, I must say that he must remember how we all struggled to afford supplies, as we sought the books of the masters, of which I now have hundreds of copies, and in those days I often found great bargains. That being said, however, in today's world student debt is out of sight, and the current cost of the new Alla Prima book places it well out of the reach of 98% of students.

I suggest that the publisher and Richard think about creating a less expensive version for students. Right now, the price of Alla Prima 2, is high as it is, but what is worse is that the carpetbaggers are driving the prices even higher, and far out of the range of those studying art, and even high enough that many colleges are not as eager to buy such books for their own collections.

I know, someone will say "Let them eat Cake..." meaning go to a library. Well right now students are say the waiting lists are backed up for months, and I verified that.

Professor Peter Bagnolo

77 of 86 people found the following review helpful.

be very cautious!

By Chris Gargan

Mr. Schmid is a graceful and confident painter who has created an army of followers seduced by the apparent ease with which he executes his work. Anyone who has watched his videos or seen his exhibitions (in particular the Butler show), can be easily fooled into thinking that what he accomplishes with such alacrity is easily attainable. It is not! And the often unspoken part of his craft is his astonishingly deft draughtsmanship. Each mark, so carefully considered and assessed, is a consequence of a lifetime of observational drawing. And it is the quality most often ignored by artists delving into this book (and his others) looking for technical solutions.

This is dangerous stuff for the developing artist who can become enraptured with methods that result in glib formula in the hands of less gifted practitioners.

23 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

Richard Schmid

By chiaroscuro

Well worth the price even if you have his first book. It is the bible for any serious painter and a book I go to constantly as a reference for crucial information.

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