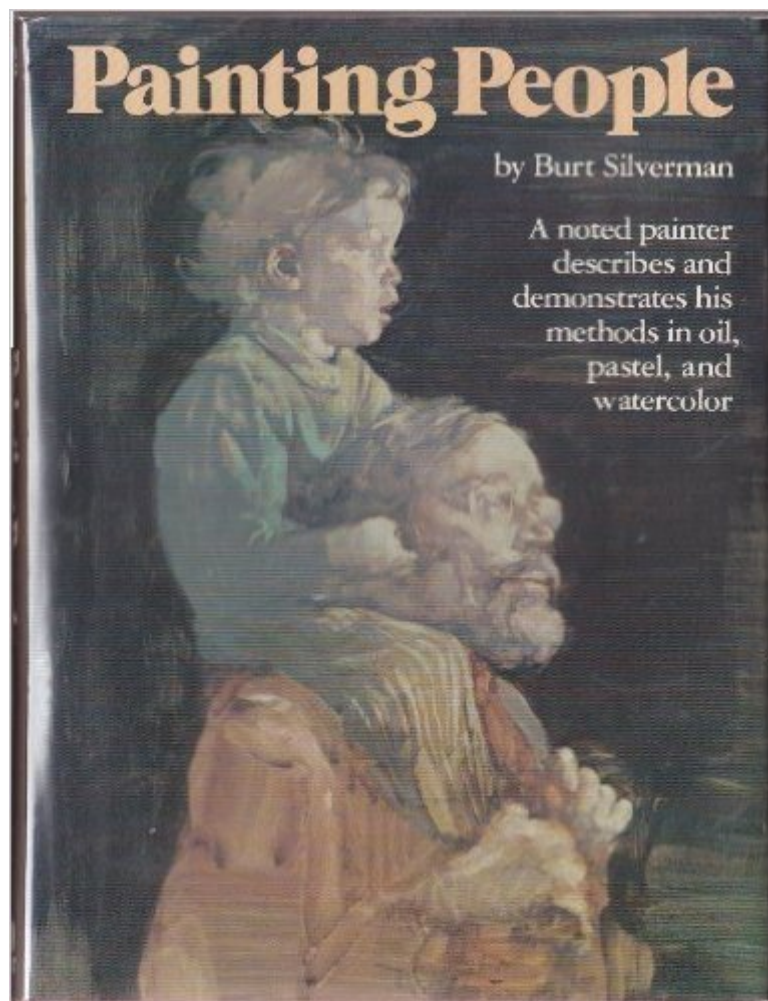


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# Painting People: A Noted Painter Describes And Demonstrates His Methods In Oil, Pastel, And Watercolor



## Synopsis

Informal, sensitive, psychologically revealing paintings of people are the central focus of the work of Burt Silverman, one of the most admired realist painters in America. In this lavishly illustrated book, Silverman describes how he paints haunting portraits and figures in oil, watercolor, and pastel and shows how he handles each medium in a series of step-by-step demonstrations with nearly every step reproduced in full color. The author begins with a brief, fascinating account of his struggle to achieve a personal style and make his mark as a realist painter...at a time when the galleries and the art press were dominated by abstract painting. He then describes his studio setup, materials, and methods for painting in oil, watercolor, and pastel. He explains how he develops his pictorial ideas; tells how he often paints a series of interrelated pictures to explore a theme; and is refreshingly frank in his self-criticism, his successes and his failures. In seven step-by-step demonstrations, with each shown in full-page size, the reader has closeups of the artist painting studies of figures on a beach and a self-portrait in oil; two figures studies and a family portrait in pastel; and a portrait and a figure in an architectural setting in watercolor.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This book was printed quite some time ago, so many of the images are black and white, a small drawback when using this book for study (except to see how values are handled). Burt Silverman, like John Singer Sargent, records people in frozen states and poses that are more of a nicely painted document rather than a deep insight into the model's character. This is not always the case with his work, but if you're looking for infusing your paintings with strong emotions you won't find

much here. The strengths here are simply about making excellent pictures, handling methods and materials, and great insights into Burt's painting processes. I have years of experience in the watercolor technique shown in this book, you can visit my website to see some examples of this method, and you can check out my review on Burt's other book "Breaking The Rules Of Watercolor" here on for details on using this marvelous technique.

Burt Silverman is a realist painter, teacher and American icon. This book is the first printing (1977). The reader will not find the quality of the reproduction of the artwork to be of today's standard. However, this does not make a difference to me. As an artist, I can observe and study Mr. Silverman's work and learn from it and enjoy. This book is an autobiography of the artist's struggles and describes his studio setup, materials and methods for painting in oil, watercolor and pastel. For those who have heard Mr. Silverman speak, they will hear his voice through his written words. Mr. Silverman inspires me to confidently go forward with my art.

A book about one of my favorite artists. You can't go wrong with that. Burton Silverman is a fabulous artist and an interesting person. I once watched him do demos for a day and talk about art philosophy. Good book!

The best part of this book is the biographical information. Silverman was a realist painter when abstract expressionism (Pollock) was the rage. He discusses what it was like to belong to a group of realist painters selling their work in a small gallery and how they moved on from that. He also describes his thought process while he is painting and is not afraid to talk about his 'failures.'

Couldn't wait to get the book. So helpful the way Silverman shares his thoughts. Each painting presents its unique problems and Burton explains how he works through them and even has failures. Inspiring! Received the book quickly and in perfect condition. Thank you.

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