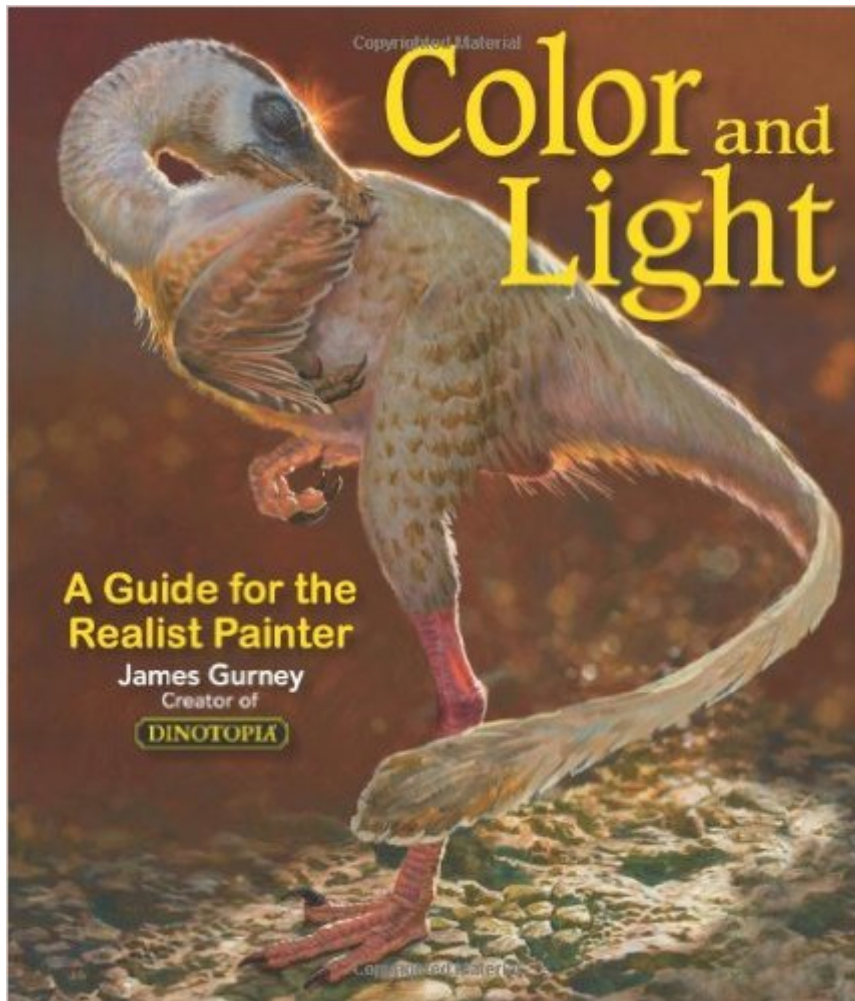


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# Color And Light: A Guide For The Realist Painter (James Gurney Art)



## Synopsis

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](http://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 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

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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!

Length: 1:01 Mins

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 profile for the link.)

(I gave this book my first fully-supported 5 star review I've ever given on .com) This book replaced at least 2 books on my shelf upon arriving and reading. It takes artists' color theory and describes it in a way that is both approachable and understandable to the beginner and professional alike. Compared to a lot of people who have written reviews for this book (not only here but on third party sites), I have had a different trail to tread as far as trends in both art and art instruction compared to not only Gurney but artists who were taught from the 1980s. I've been drawing for about 13 years, and started right about the time that digital art was beginning to enter the playing field as a mainstream media/medium (late 90s). An advantage of that is that you were being exposed to both traditional drawing techniques and digital drawing techniques at once, where for today's generation of artists it seems that digital media has nearly swallowed many of the traditional media, and along with them, their techniques. So, as someone who works about 50/50 with digital and traditional media (albeit leaning more traditional as I get older), this book helped to clarify a lot of very helpful relations between the color and light I was trying to simulate in my images. Not only that, it did it in a language that was not steeped in scientific babble and light theory that I was either skimming over or falling asleep through. I recommend this to anyone and everyone who paints primarily non-abstract art, especially portrait artists and fantasy/scifi artists. To any professors (or TAs!) who see these reviews, I hope you consider putting this book as required reading in your syllabus. And for those not interested in college, I hope you have the foresight to grab up this edition of the book while it's still in stock.

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