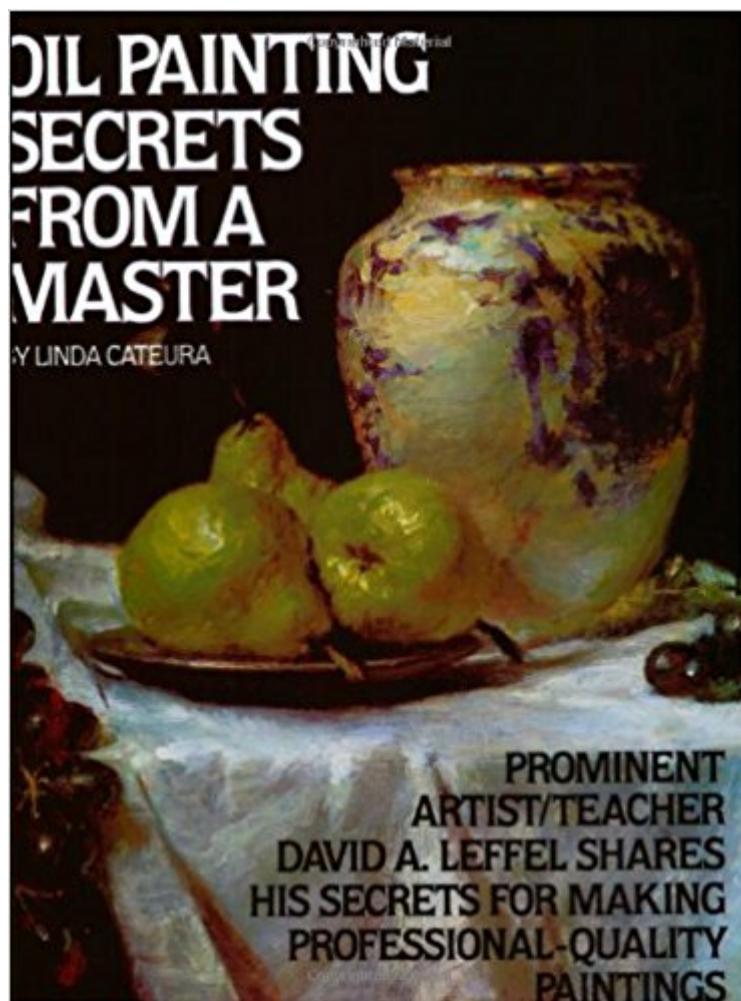


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# Oil Painting Secrets From A Master



## Synopsis

Some of the most popular art instruction books ever written have been based on student notes culled over the years from actual workshop sessions, with all their power and immediacy - and with practical, on-to-one contact between student and teacher. This is such a book. For more than two years, Linda Cateura has pursued teacher / artist David A. Leffel, notebook in hand, as he critiqued the work of students. Linda Cateura's succinct notes capture his insights, philosophy, painting hints, and general comments. Leffel's classic, painterly, twentieth-century old master style, much in the manner of Rembrandt or Chardin, affords ample illustration of the ideas expressed - through his many paintings, details, demonstrations, and diagrams, almost all in color. No matter what your level of ability, there is something here to apply to your own work, ideas that will cause you to rethink your own ways of painting, hints to save you effort, or solutions to persistent painting problems.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Linda Cateura was a literary editor of Harper's Bazaar for seven years, an associate editor of Woman's Day, and a freelance book reviewer for The New York Times and Saturday Review. She has studied at The New School, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Art Students League, where she attended David A. Leffel's classes. It was there that she wrote the notes that form the basis of this book. David A. Leffel was born in New York City and gives workshops and demonstrations throughout the nation. His work hangs in both private and public collections, including the J.B. Speed art museum in Louisville, Kentucky, and his ideas and paintings also have been featured in many publications.

This book is worth its price just to see the artwork. At the same time, I have learned a lot from the material in this book and I am inspired by the artist's work. You can tell he's mastered a technique unique to himself and his teaching methods are quite clear and informative. It's fun to see someone so talented who wishes to pass on that knowledge to others. I've read quite a few art improvement books but this one is different in that it really seems to get down to important fundamentals of art in a clear and instructive manner. I imagine I'll re-read it quite a bit as it has a lot of critical detail that I haven't run into before. It is obvious that this artist has great skill and insight and he uses an equal amount of those talents presenting clear and helpful information to those who strive to improve their art skill. I highly recommend this one to anyone with a serious desire to become an artist or who want to better understand real art.

In "Oil Painting Secrets From A Master," author/art student Linda Cateura shares her class notes from two years of studying under prominent artist/teacher David A. Leffel. New York based Leffel paints in the classic tradition of the early Dutch and Flemish such as Rembrandt and Chardin. His compositions are inspired by the human form and still life. The quality of light and its relationship to the objects under observation are most important to him. Known for his visual clarity, David encourages his students to paint from life in order to perceive each subject differently from the next. Well versed in technique, he transcends method painting in order to convey dimensionality, quality of surfaces and illumination. From Cateura's point-of-view, Leffel has the ability to transform the temporary into the eternal. He is always able to find something in any subject to lift it out of the literal into the realm of poetic. "The functional use of light is one of the most distinctive qualities of a Leffel painting. His use of light leads the viewer through the painting toward the central image. When it reaches this focal point, the light is usually at its most intense...and enables the eye to come to rest there. The light does not just illuminate the scene - it is an active participant in the drama." Leffel believes that an artist sees what is significant and a painter sees only what to paint. In "Oil Painting Secrets From A Master," Cateura, with Leffel's help as the teacher shows us how to move from the safety of being a painter to becoming an artist. Learning is the difference. The quality of our ambition and how much or how little we learn stems from our motivation - to be an artist? To be a great artist? Fame and fortune? Relaxation and fun? And real learning requires one to abandon security and take risks - new colors, new brushstrokes, and imaginative compositions. "Oil Painting Secrets" is amply filled with Leffel's work and is organized into four basic sections: Artistic Thinking (seeing, the concept) The Painting Process (materials, brushstroke techniques, massing,

chiaroscuro) Basic Advice (light and shadow, values, edges, color, still life, portraits and figures, backgrounds) General Observations (attitudes that can hold you back) Cateura has created a useful for book for the beginner, intermediate, advanced, and professional. It will cause you to think and rethink the your entire approach to painting...not as painter but as an artist.

Stuff I already knew but brought home in a different light. Made me go back and look at my paintings and make changes for the better. Understood concepts better. The original paintings must be much better than the photos which were, I thought, too dark. But with the text, it didn't matter, 'cause I got the idea and applied it.

Much information and a good read if you do not want to pay the 200 for David Leffels book

Great writing style. So much information on every page. I can see me using this book as a reference for years to come. It's almost as if someone asked the author to write a book with all those little secrets that an artist with years of experience has learned through trial and error, so I don't have to spend a lot of time struggling with the issues these secrets help resolve. I recommend it to any serious artist.

This book has opened my eyes to a different way to look at my art. I just had the opportunity to meet David Leffel in person and sit through two demonstrations. His view of the way to paint made sense to me. I recommend this book to any serious painter.

lovely book by a great artist. thank you

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