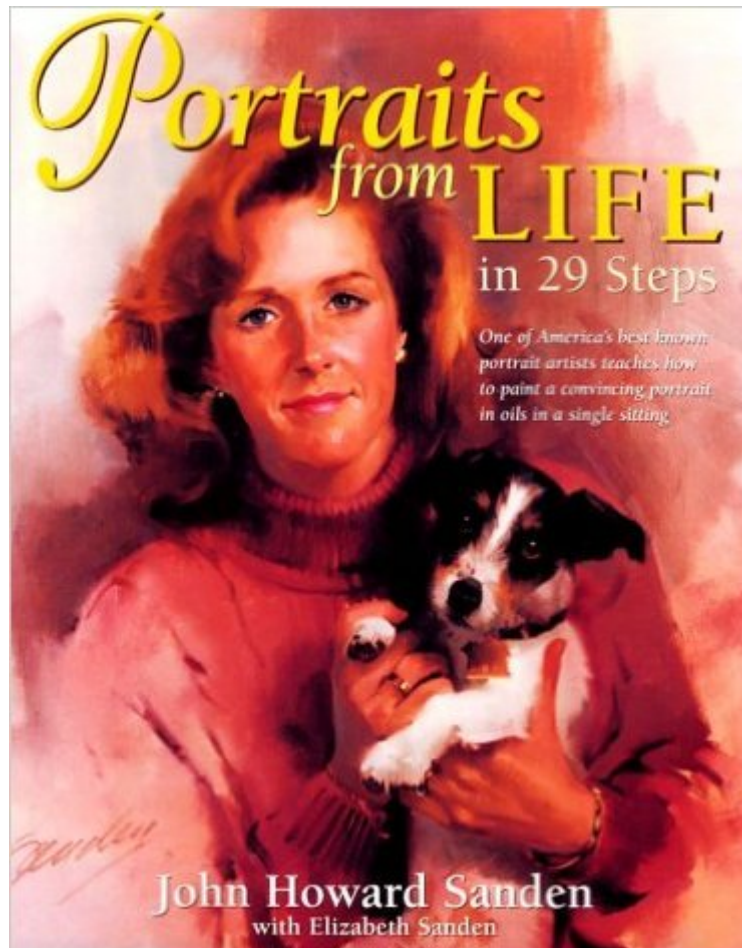


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# Portraits From Life In 29 Steps



## Synopsis

John Howard Standen has developed a method of painting portraits over a 30 year period. The technique involves learning 29 steps and this manual illustrates, explains and demonstrates each of the steps in a clear and well-ordered way.'

## Book Information

Hardcover: 144 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (54 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #581,286 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #114 inÂ Books > Arts &

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Painting > Portraits

## Customer Reviews

The first time I paged through this book, I was struck immediately by Sandin's obvious abilities as a portrait painter, but even more, I was enchanted with the bold crispness of his alla prima paintings and demonstrations. I so envy the confidence, technical skill, and freedom that such paintings radiate. I was also struck at once by the seeming contradictions through out the book. Could someone who looks like a doctor, paints in a tie and lab coat in a pristine, lavishly furnished studio really produce such dramatically rendered work? And then there are the 29 steps mentioned in the title. Twenty nine? Not thirty? Not twenty? And finally, the author's "Pro Mix" paint system seemed a little like a paint-by-number approach. But now, having read this beautiful book dozens of times and painted several portraits under its guidance, I can recommend it without hesitation. Mr. Sandin has made me understand the importance of discipline in what I do as an artist. His insistence in following a routine (the 29 steps) and using predicable, tested color combinations (his pro mix system) are part of this lesson. Through out the book, he hammers on the concept, "...marshall all your concentration, alertness, and energy so that every stroke of the brush becomes part of the finished statement....concentrate all you effort upon getting it right the first time..." It took awhile and a number of readings before I begin to truly understand, but now my portraits are dramatically

improved because of this approach. As you have read in other reviews here, Mr. Sandin references his color mix system throughout the book. At first I found this inconvenient, since it was necessary to constantly turn back to the part of the book where the mixes are explained.

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