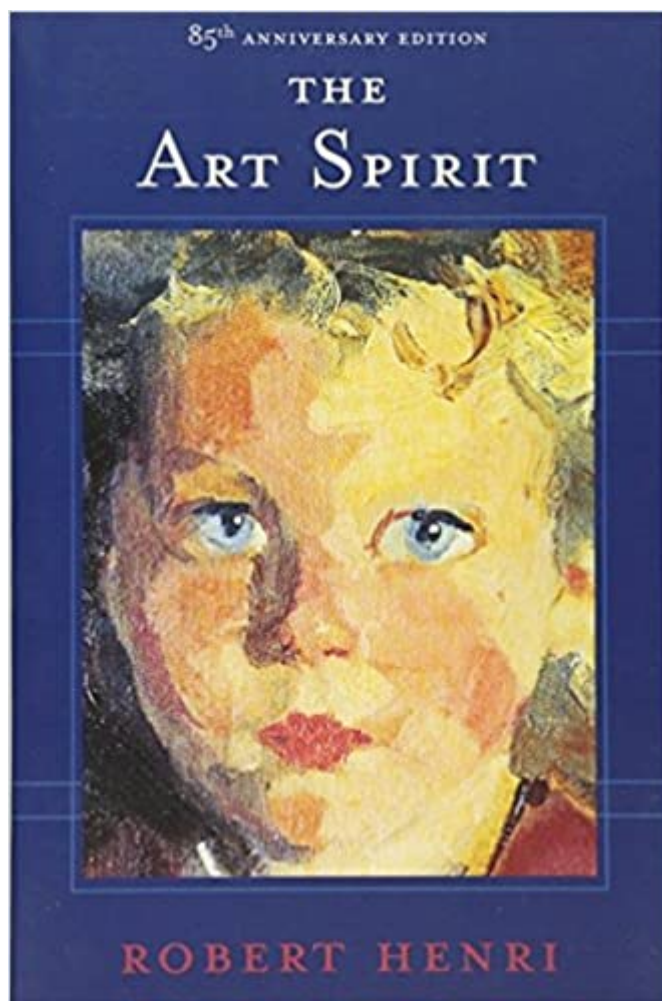


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# The Art Spirit



## Synopsis

Embodying the entire system of Robert Henri's teaching, *The Art Spirit* contains much valuable advice, critical comment, and inspiration to every student of the arts.

## Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

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## Customer Reviews

Robert Henri was born in Cincinnati in 1865 and died in 1929. He led the Ashcan School movement in art, and attracted a large, intensely personal group of followers. His paintings are shown at major museums across the United States.

I like this, but he teaches impressionist painting like it's the once and future king of art. So, if you're in, you're in, and if you're out, you're out, so to speak. If you don't work in an impressionistic style, or if you're not a painter, and you can get past his approach and see what he has to say about being an artist in general, then he has some things to say that are of interest.

I'll let Henri speak for himself. "ART when really understood is the province of every human being. It is simply a question of doing things, anything well. It is not an outside, extra thing. When the artist is alive in any person, whatever his kind of work may be, he becomes an inventive, searching, daring, self-expressing creature. He becomes interesting to other people. He disturbs, upsets, enlightens, and he opens ways for a better understanding. Where those who are not artists are trying to close the book, he opens it, shows there are still more pages possible." (*The Art Spirit*, p. 15) There are many fine books with pictures, illustrations, how to mix paints, set up your pallet, etc. This book is

not one of those, but scattered among his philosophical inspiration are many pragmatic tips. I bought the book from recently to give to a relative who wondered if someone who was not an artist could learn to draw. This could be the start of a beautiful friendship!

Academic in tone and, as a result, a slow , stilted read.

Yes, I liked it a lot. It's a book written by a passionate artist and philosopher, Robert Henri. It's more for the classical and/or passionate artist than others. Thank you

Not just indispensable views on how to paint, but how to see. Even how to live. From an insightful and compassionate TEACHER in the deepest sense of the word. The advice and instruction span the most detailed (e.g How to set up your pallet/studio) to the furthest ranging (e.g. Why it's important to hang out with people who inspire you.) This is a book to come back to again and again. The writing is sort of loosely organized--taken from various lectures and talks--so at times it can loop around and repeat itself. But for me it was helpful to hear certain themes again and again as reinforcement. This book will make you a better painter/artist and a better person to boot. So far, I have bought four copies as gifts... can't say enough!

Same great book I loved 60 years ago. But the original hardcover, which was photocopied to make this book, was easier to read. The soft covers are not as easy to prop open and the photo-copied prints of the old pages are slightly darker on the new pages, which is distracting. These excerpts from Robert Henri's teachings remains a must-read for painters, beginning or advanced, realistic or abstract, because it has something thought-provoking, genuine and relevant on every page.

Art Spirit is a treasure....have sent three books to friends who are artists of one genre or another. Henri's musings about painting - from brush strokes to the reasons why to make art are as fresh as if they were written yesterday. For a taste, search Robert Henri quotes. If I have a discouraging painting session, one time out with a page or two I gets me back into the studio. Highly recommended!

Only a few chapters in, and I can already say that if you're a serious painter, this is the best book I've ever read about painting. Thought provoking big-picture ideas combined with unique and practical advice. Caveat: I have been painting for only three years, and I don't think I would have

been able to process this before I reached my current level of skill. I will update this review when I finish the book, which I eagerly look forward to doing.

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