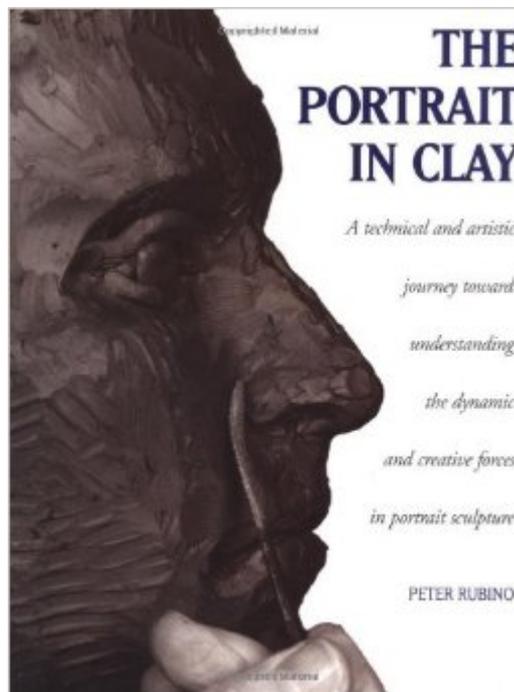


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# The Portrait In Clay: A Technical, Artistic, And Philosophical Journey Toward Understanding The Dynamic And Creative Forces In Portrait Sculpture



## Synopsis

Simulating a workshop studio course, this book provides action-photography sequences that enable readers to observe every step a master sculptor takes in building a portrait in clay.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (27 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I am trying to get a hold of as many books on sculpting techniques as possible as I live 2 hours from the nearest college, so this is how I have to learn. While I also gave Katherine Dewey's "Creating Lifelike Figures in Polymer Clay" a high review, those techniques just don't translate as well into sculpture as I had hoped (though her discussions on scaling and proportion do). Peter Rubino's "The Portrait in Clay" is an excellent step-by-step beginner's guide to sculpting portraits. Its broken down into 5 sections. The first shows you the basic techniques on a generic head. The second section is a brief section on tools. Its brief because he doesn't use very many tools. The third section shows sculpting with a live model. The photos (the failing of far too many sculpting books) are clear, detailed and actually show the area being concentrated on. They are not perfect, but still do an excellent job (you sometimes have to skip ahead a couple of pages to see what the current step looks like when completed). Section 4 is a detailed discussion of the individual features of the face: nose, eyes, ears, the mouth and chin. Part of what makes this book good is that during the first and third sections, he refers to these sections with page numbers so you are not just flipping around. However I think he could have merged sections 1 and 4, or at least put 4 after 1. Finally Peter details the finishing process: hollowing, firing and applying a patina. I must reserve judgement here. It reads good, but this is for water-based clay and I work in oils so I can't really comment on it. Books

like this create a difficulting when attempting to rate them due to the differing abilities of the potential reader.

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