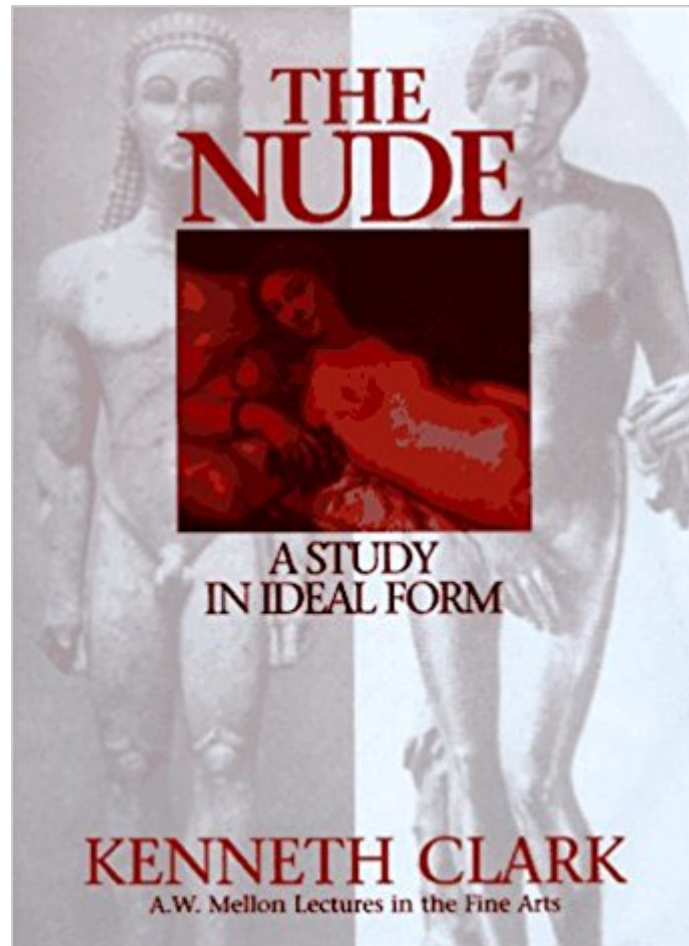




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# **The Nude: A Study In Ideal Form**



## Synopsis

From the art of the Greeks to that of Renoir and Moore, this work surveys the ever-changing fashions in what has constituted the ideal nude as a basis of humanist form. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The simple and often quite beautiful statement of a man of letters . . . [in] a book which is as much a pleasure to read as it is informative and provocative."--The New York Times "A feminist critique of a male (and Western) view of the Tantric tradition [and also] a balanced reassessment of a tradition too long misunderstood."--Parabola "Probably no one else alive today writes about art with Sir Kenneth's precise combination of intelligence, urbanity, and erudition. . . . This is an important book and a fascinating one, and the illustrations do much to illuminate it."--The New Yorker --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Probably one of the most engaging and exciting books I've ever read. I am a Cultural Anthropology major (art, history of literature, social psychology) and this book is right in that tradition. I had heard and given lip service to the concept of the ideal mean ("The da Vinci Code") but had not understood how it was derived until reading this book, nor did I realize that as people became more urban and modern (taller and thinner) the ideal changed, too. Lots of information about what we don't actually know about ancient art, which I found fascinating, like a forensic detective tale. I loved and guarded

what seemed like every sacred minute of reading this book.

I read this book when I was in college and read it again forty years later and made six Power Points with most of the images mentioned in the book. And taught a class on it. I think that Clark is a wonderful connoisseur. He has such an appreciation for the nude in art, and he has seen and thought about so much art, Possible reasons someone might not love this book. ...the illustrations are in black and white, not every art work that he mentions is illustrated. (he expects you to know what he is talking about). His dividing the nude up into different types . . . ecstatic, energy, pathos, etc is a little artificial. I really like being exposed to someone's strong responses and discriminating eye.

It is my opinion that Kenneth Clark's THE NUDE should be in every artist's library. If I taught figure drawing, this would be required reading for my students. It is a history of the nude in art, but Mr. Clark was clever not to tell the story in a chronological way. He describes the evolution of the nude from the sculptures of the gods to the emotions that the nude represents; emotions such as energy, pathos, and ecstasy. It is not just history, however. There are essays on the difference between "nude" and "naked." Mr. Clark talks about the nude and Christianity and the nude as an end in itself. This is also an excellent book for those who work as artist's models. It will give them a sense of their importance in the creative process, even when they find the student's depiction of them less than satisfying.

This book is diametrically opposed to the art history theories put forth in today's art world. If you want to discover some of the secrets of truly great artists I would suggest you read this book.

Still the tops on the subject of nudes. The standard readable scholarship covering detailed information on the important periods, styles and personalities. Heavy aesthetic considerations backed by solid evidence.

This is a classic textbook and difficult to find; so I was thrilled with this purchase.

Cheap production quality and very poor image reproduction. Kenneth Clark's writing deserves better. A book should be a joy to read and handle, not just a container for information. This one is not.

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