

A Book Review

The Power of Positive Painting

by Robert Maniscalco

Edited by Vicki Barnes

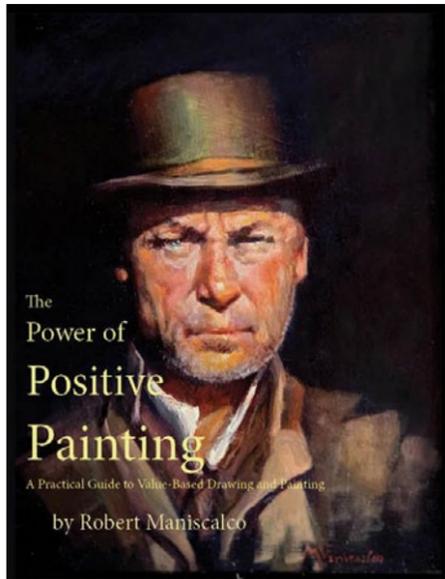
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Retail Price: \$29.95 on Amazon; \$24.95 Autographed copies direct from the author at (<https://www.maniscalcogallery.com/product/power-of-positive-painting-the-full-color-book-buy-now/>).



The Power of Positive Painting

The Power of Positive Painting, the beautiful, 157 page, full color how-to-draw-and-paint book, has launched. Unlock the dazzling world of color and light. Maniscalco shares the carefully guarded secrets to making a painting look 3-D. Why not learn to paint during COVID-19? Re-imagine yourself as the artist you've always dreamed of being.

Learn the secrets of the masters. Capture the visual realm by distilling the essence of character, and create art that seems to be living and breathing with light and life. Take bold, positive action with this proven method.

The Power of Positive Painting is filled with powerful illustrations explaining the secret methods and systems of the Frank Reilly system, used by the world's top realists.



Work by Robert Maniscalco from Page 16 & 47

Maniscalco is former host of *Artbeat* on PBS and founder of the Maniscalco Gallery in Detroit. He was a courtroom sketch artist for the Dylann Roof and Slager trials in Charleston, SC. This is Maniscalco's fourth book. One of America's top commission portrait painters and representational artists, Maniscalco has also created numerous videos, blogs and led hundreds of workshops and classes on the subject of portrait and representational painting over his forty years as a top professional.

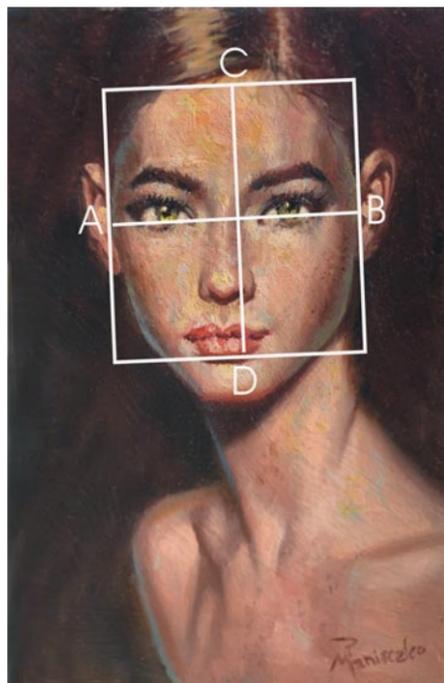
"My point in writing *The Power of Positive Painting* is to break us out of being stuck, waiting and wondering what to do next," says Maniscalco. "Sure, the book delves into the experimental, responsive nature of painting but mostly the book is about getting us into action and keeping us there. Like relationships, like politics, art calls for positive action; art is a force to be reckoned with. There is power in making art that is convinc-

ing and authentic. *The Power of Positive Painting* inspires us to be a positive force for change, starting with our art. It is willful; it provokes, it instigates, maybe even angers us. *The Power of Positive Painting* asks us to be bold, to be our best, to be decisive, in a world where "anything goes" and "waiting for inspiration" is the infuriating norm. Instead let's get into action, right now!"

About the Author

Robert Maniscalco was born in 1959 in Detroit, MI. He has lived and worked in New York, New Orleans and currently in Charleston, SC, with his amazing wife Cate and fantastic, hardworking children, Danny and Mary. His commission portraits and fine art are part of over a thousand private and public collections across North America. In Detroit, he hosted *Artbeat* on PBS and founded the Maniscalco Gallery in 1997.

As a fine artist, he likes to work in series and missions. Perhaps his most enduring legacy is that of a commission portrait artist, immortalizing Supreme Court Justices, leaders in business, politics, education, medicine, as well as their families. In 2014 Maniscalco took on a mission, called *The Quench Project*, in which he traveled to Haiti, producing numerous paintings, a documentary short (*Out of Darkness*), along with a companion book (*Quench*), juxtaposing the Haitian struggle in obtaining fresh water against our society's obscene wealth inequality.



Work by Robert Maniscalco from Page 53

Maniscalco is an actor/director, writer/playwright, musician/composer and teacher. He has been an adjunct professor at College for Creative Studies and Charleston Southern University. He was a founding member of The New Renaissance Chamber Artists and was instrumental in the creation and performance of numerous multi-disciplinary works, making his debut at Carnegie Hall in 1992.

Maniscalco has created numerous painting videos, including *The Power of Positive Painting* and *The Portrait*. He blogs on a wide range of subjects and has written two other books, *The Fishly* and *Point of Art*. He has expanded his creative milieu to include courtroom sketching, covering the Dylann Roof and Michael Slager trials in Charleston. And, his multi-disciplinary play, *Vincent John Doe*, received its world premiere, to rave reviews, during the 2018 and 2019 Piccolo Spoleto Festivals.

Testimonials

"Put Robert's lifetime of study to work for you because the best way to learn is to learn what a master has discovered. Robert deeply understands the how of teaching, and what you must go through to learn. *The Power of Positive Painting* focuses on the craft aspect of painting. Certainly, Robert's artistry comes through but no attempt by him is made to sway the reader stylistically. His method is intended to equip you for any representational

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Work by Robert Maniscalco from Page 17

genre, style or subject. Robert explores that place between art and craft and science with courage and sensitivity." — Eric Rhoads, founder and publisher of *Fine Art Connoisseur* and *Plein Air* magazines.

"This book presents an organized comprehensive overview of a broad variety of techniques and ideas which make up the systematic approach to representational painting developed by the late Frank Reilly. It serves as an excellent refresher course for those who have previously studied Reilly's teachings in great depth, and it's a good basic introduction for those artists who have not been so privileged. The underlying principles that informed Reilly's teachings are clearly evident in the works of history's greatest master painters." — Marvin Mattelson, award winning portrait artist and educator.



Work by Robert Maniscalco from Page 54

Editor's Note: In the art world there is a saying, "Those who can - do, and those who can't - teach," or something like that, but in my years covering the visual art community in the Carolinas, I've met plenty of people who could do and teach and were good at both - very good at both. So, I don't always think that is a valid statement - with a few exceptions. I can't do either, and that's why I ended up promoting the arts. I am constantly amazed at what some people can do with a pencil, paint, clay, or just scraps laying around. The closest I came to art was through photography, but there again, after looking what others could produce I ended up in a lab processing other people's photographs.

It might be due to a lack of training or formal education in the arts, so how did I end up producing an art publication? You might say I picked the short straw, but that's 35 years down the river now. So, for those of us who never had any art training

or formal art education, this book could be very informative. It might even be a good refresher course for those who many years ago had some training before life got in the way and now that you're retired, have time to pick up on that old passion or desire to create something and if that desire was to draw or paint, this just might be the book for you.



Work by Robert Maniscalco from Page 116

I've seen a lot of Maniscalco's paintings, up close and personally. I know he's an exceptional painter. How good is he at teaching? I don't know, but looking through his book, I can see some answers to questions I've had or things I wondered about. In my years of covering the visual art community I've seen a lot of art - both good and bad art, not so much bad, but I think I've seen it all in one form or another. Unfortunately there has never been enough time to stop and smell the paintings along the way. Sometimes it seems like magic to me, but I know it's training, skill, experimentation and years of doing - over and over again. I can remember talking to a very senior artist once about learning and they told me at their age they were just learning to break the rules and see things again through the eyes of a child.

So, I guess it's never to late to learn something or how to do something in a new way.

So, if you are producing works like you see on this page and have has the career Maniscalco has had - this book may be of no use to you, but if not, you might want to think about it. That's all I'm saying.

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