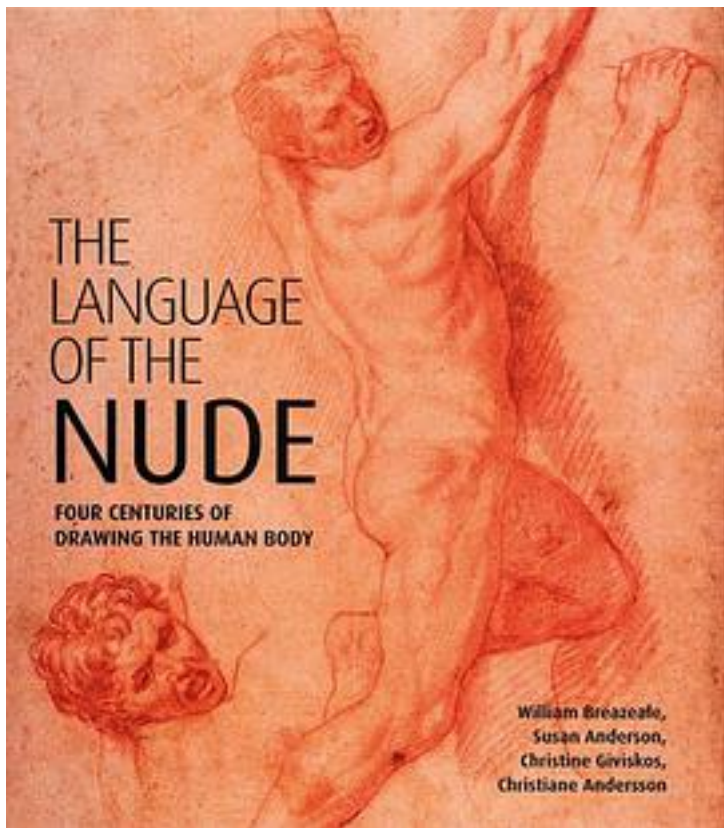


The Language of the Nude



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For centuries the nude body was the highest expression of human aspiration. The nude was a vehicle to express many meanings, be they religious, classical, or literary. "The Language of the Nude" acknowledges the weighty significance of the nude in our world and demonstrates how art has responded to its challenges through the ages and throughout Europe. Divided into four sections, this catalogue examines the major advances in drawing practice: the influence of Michelangelo and Raphael in the

Renaissance; the dialogue between northern and southern influence in seventeenth-century Netherlands; the earlier formation and ultimate dominance of the Academie in eighteenth-century France; and, the refined academic method applied to native subjects in nineteenth-century Germany. The book includes many important and lesser known works such as: Giuseppe Cades' Rinaldo and Armida; Peter Paul Rubens' drawing of a figure after Michelangelo; Boucher's Birth of Venus; and, Albrecht Durer's Female Nude with a Staff. Heroes, gods, goddesses, and other religious figures are made sublime by being depicted in the nude. This Crocker collection does justice to such a noble subject.

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