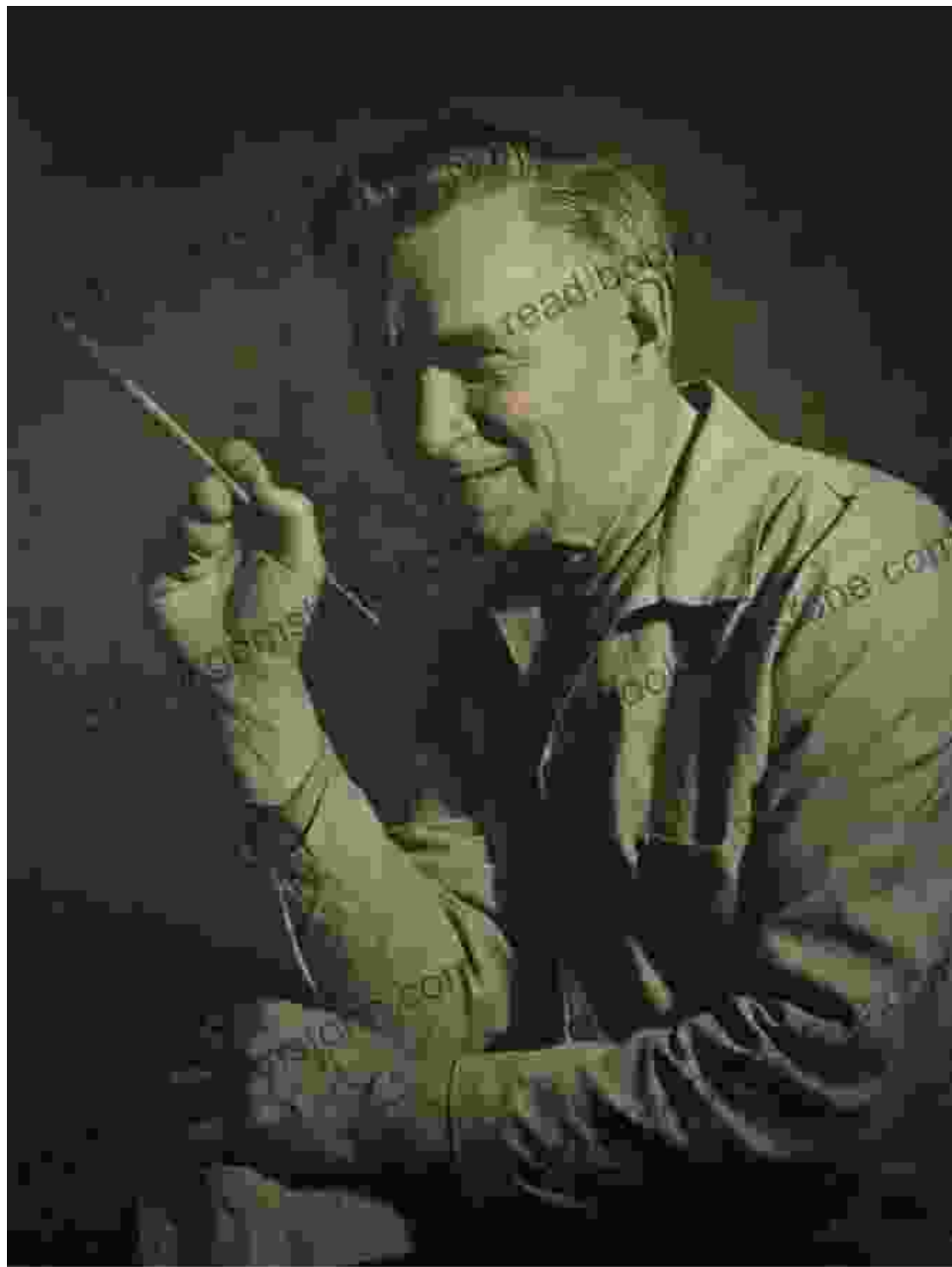


# Perspective Made Easy: Ernest Norling, Legendary Painter of the American Southwest



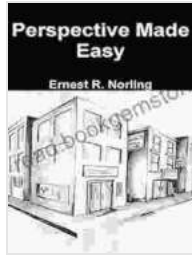
**Perspective Made Easy** by Ernest R. Norling

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 19270 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 207 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



Ernest Norling, an American artist of the early 20th century, painted the American Southwest with an unparalleled eye for detail and a profound understanding of perspective. His landscapes captured the vastness and beauty of the region, while his portraits celebrated the indigenous cultures that had thrived there for centuries. Norling's work continues to inspire and captivate audiences to this day, earning him a place among the most celebrated painters of the American West.

## **Early Life and Influences**

Ernest Norling was born in 1879 in Sutter Creek, California. Growing up in the rugged foothills of the Sierra Nevada, he developed a deep appreciation for the natural world. At an early age, he began sketching and painting the landscapes around his home.

After graduating from high school, Norling studied art at the California School of Design in San Francisco. There, he was influenced by the teachings of Arthur Mathews, a prominent painter known for his atmospheric landscapes. Mathews encouraged Norling to develop his observational skills and to paint en plein air, or outdoors in the natural environment.

## **Move to the Southwest**

In 1903, Norling traveled to the American Southwest for the first time. He was captivated by the vast desert landscapes, vibrant colors, and ancient cultures of the region. He spent the next several years exploring the Southwest, traveling by horseback and burro through New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah.

During this time, Norling's painting style began to evolve. He embraced the bright, clear light of the desert and developed a keen eye for capturing the subtleties of atmosphere and distance. His paintings became more Impressionistic, with loose, brushy strokes that conveyed the fleeting effects of light and weather.

## **Artistic Themes and Techniques**

Norling's paintings primarily focused on three main themes: landscapes, portraits, and genre scenes. His landscapes captured the grandeur of the American Southwest, with towering mesas, sweeping deserts, and dramatic cloud formations. His portraits celebrated the indigenous cultures of the region, depicting Navajo, Apache, and Pueblo people with dignity and respect. His genre scenes depicted everyday life in the Southwest, capturing the cowboys, ranchers, and homesteaders who had shaped the region's history.

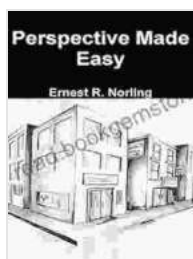
Norling was a master of perspective, using a variety of techniques to create the illusion of depth in his paintings. He often used aerial perspective, with cooler colors and less detail in the background to create a sense of distance. He also employed overlapping objects and diminishing scale to help guide the viewer's eye through the composition.

## Legacy and Impact

Ernest Norling's paintings have had a profound impact on the art world and the American public. His work has been exhibited in major museums across the United States and has been collected by both private collectors and institutions. Norling's paintings have helped to shape the way we see the American Southwest, and they continue to inspire contemporary artists today.

Norling's legacy extends beyond his paintings. He was also a gifted teacher and mentor, instructing countless students throughout his career. He founded the Taos Society of Artists, which played a key role in the development of the art colony in Taos, New Mexico.

Ernest Norling was a true master of the American Southwest. His paintings captured the vastness and beauty of the region, while his portraits celebrated the indigenous cultures that had thrived there for centuries. Norling's work has had a profound impact on the art world and the American public, and his legacy continues to inspire artists and art enthusiasts alike.



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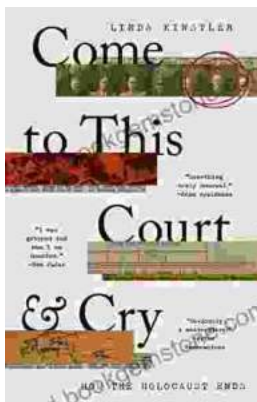
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