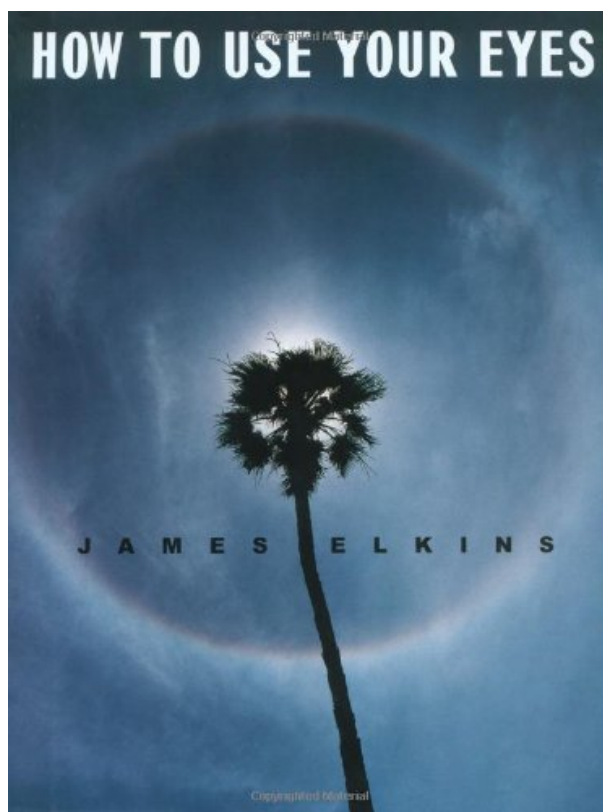
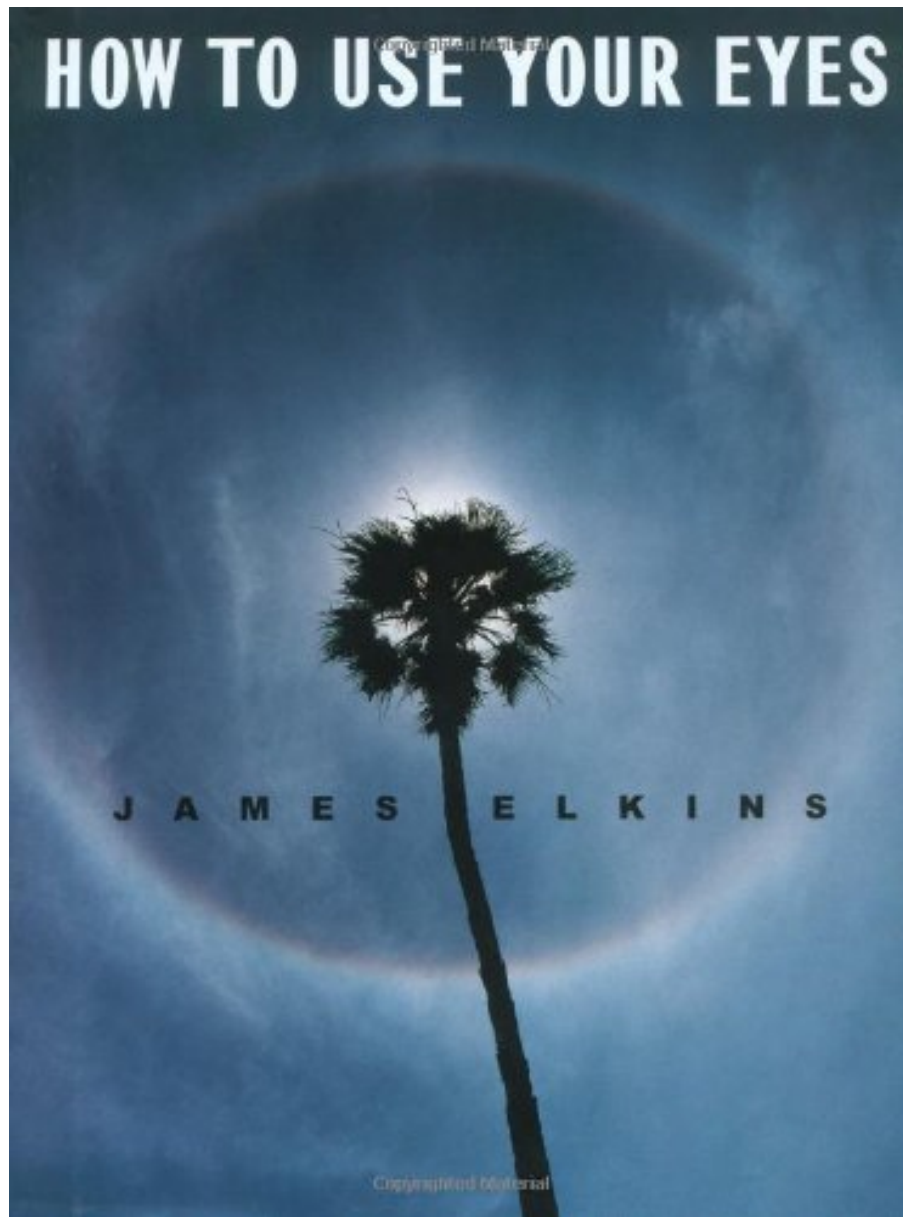


# HOW TO USE YOUR EYES BY JAMES ELKINS



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**How To Use Your Eyes By James Elkins.** It is the time to enhance and freshen your skill, knowledge and also encounter consisted of some amusement for you after long time with monotone things. Working in the office, going to examine, picking up from test and also even more activities may be finished as well as you need to start new points. If you really feel so exhausted, why don't you try new point? A really easy thing? Reviewing How To Use Your Eyes By James Elkins is just what we offer to you will certainly recognize. And the book with the title How To Use Your Eyes By James Elkins is the reference now.

From Publishers Weekly

How does one read an X-ray? What do the markings on a butterfly's wings mean? Why do the colors in a sunset always come in a certain order? Elkins (*What Painting Is*) answers these and other questions in this engaging guide to little-noticed and little-understood elements of the natural and technological worlds. "It's about stopping and taking the time to simply look," explains Elkins. If you learn to look at things in the right way, Elkins believes, the world around you "will gather before your eyes and become thick with meaning." Much of his book focuses on such "universally unnoticed" objects as twigs and stamps; in one chapter he demonstrates how to identify trees in winter by the leaf scars on their twigs, while in another he shows how stamp artistry reveals crucial details about the time and place of its use. Elkins also probes more esoteric subjects such as mandalas and Chinese characters (which are vastly more complicated than popularly thought in the West). This variety of topic seems intended to catch a wide array of reader interests, but it eventually feels like a thin pretext for discussing wildly dissimilar material. Still, most of the topics are interesting. Especially the chapter on "ice halos" (magical rainbow-like rings that form around the sun during the winter). Elkins proves himself an enthusiastic, fun guide. With dozens of full-color photographs, this is a great book for the coffee table. (Nov)

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From Scientific American

Elkins, associate professor of art history, theory and criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, says that our eyes are too good for us, taking in so many things that we tend to focus only on what is important at the moment. "What happens if we stop and take the time to look more carefully? Then the world unfolds like a flower, full of colors and shapes that we had never suspected." Whereupon he takes close looks at 31 things and at "nothing." (Looking at nothing, he observes, turns out to be quite hard to do: "Our eyes will not stop seeing, even when they have to invent the world from nothing.") Among the 31 things are an old painting (not for its picture but for its craquelure, which reveals much about the history of the painting), an x-ray, the periodic table and a sunset. The result is a book that is visually stunning and mentally stimulating.

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# HOW TO USE YOUR EYES BY JAMES ELKINS PDF

James Elkins's *How to Use Your Eyes* invites us to look at--and maybe to see for the first time--the world around us, with breathtaking results. Here are the common artifacts of life, often misunderstood and largely ignored, brought into striking focus. With the discerning eye of a painter and the zeal of a detective, Elkins explores complicated things like mandalas, the periodic table, or a hieroglyph, remaking the world into a treasure box of observations--eccentric, ordinary, marvelous.

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- Brand: Hyperion EA
- Published on: 2000-10-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.50" h x 7.75" w x 1.25" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 272 pages

From Publishers Weekly

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Most helpful customer reviews

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Many short and wonderful vignettes

By Michael D

*How to Use Your Eyes* by James Elkins invites us to look at -- and maybe to see for first time -- the world around us, with breathtaking results. Note, only a little of this book is about colors. Other chapters include things that everyone sees, but no one notices: cracks in pavement, culverts under highways, grass, sand. We appreciated sunsets much more after reading this book.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Shares techniques & tips to enhance your power of observation, a critical survival skill!

By Lee Say Keng

HOW TO USE YOUR EYES

by James Elkin

I am a strong believer in the power of observation. Learning to see, really see, is not as easy as we would like to believe. Observation simply meant to notice, perceive or watch attentively, as Webster's Dictionary suggests. Observation is more than looking, it is learning from looking.

Why is it so important to be observant? I have come to realise that it is the vital key to optimum performance in science, in business, in sports & in other life pursuits, e.g. reading & writing, photography, etc. In reality, it's a critical survival skill!

Thousand years ago, Leonardo da Vinci had proven its significance in his varied field of expertise. He said, in order to attain a complete mind, one must learn how to use all our senses, especially learn how to see.

Edward de Bono, recognised as the world's authority on creativity, talked about it - perceptual sensitivity - first in his seminal work, *Mechanism of Mind*, in the late 60's & then in his many subsequent books on lateral thinking.

Many consultants/authors have since then pursued & reinforced the same line of thought.

Interestingly, to share with readers, I noted that the common denominator in the following important business words:

vision, visionary, imagination, illumination, enlightenment, foresight, farsighted, perspective, viewpoint, spectacle, inspection;

has a visual component: 'seeing'. Come to think about it, the word 'seer' even has 'see' in it!

I have also learned that the word 'idea' has its origins from a Greek word, which means 'to see'. Even the word 'intuition' originates from a Latin word 'intueri' which also means 'to see'.

So, how does one develop & enhance the power of observation?

I have found one very good book on the subject. It's 'How to Use Your Eyes' by James Elkin, who shares many techniques & tips. His book is both visually stunning & mentally stimulating. It is more of a field guide as the reader needs to physically exercise the 'world experience' by himself rather than just sit back & enjoy the 'word experience'!

In terms of my own 'world experience', my favorite chapters in the book have been:

How to look at:

- a postage stamp;
- pavement;
- engineering drawing (should have known this when I was an engineer);
- mandalas (may be too esoteric for some readers!);
- perspective pictures;
- a map;
- a face;
- a fingerprint - with the aid of a magnifying glass, of course);
- grass;
- a twig;
- sand;
- sunset;
- inside of your eye;
- colours;
- nothing (this one almost drove me bonkers!);

Frankly, I did not realise that there are so many things to see from "universally unnoticed" objects around me.

To share with readers, I would like to suggest another very good book, i.e. 'Playful Perceptions: Choosing How to Experience Your World' by Herbert Leff.

'Everyday Wonders: Encountering with the Astonishing World Around Us' by Barry Evans is worth exploring, too.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Fusion of science and aesthetics

By hwash

I ran across this while browsing through the QP section in my college library (QP being physiology, which is a bit odd; it really should be under the T section). The general theme of the book is looking at objects or



aspects of objects which people often overlook. It's an excellent book for anyone with techy/nerdy interests in general, amateur artists, and science and art history students.

It might also be an unusual but very nice present for the kind of bright child who likes the Dorling Kindersley sort of books with lots of photos and explanations. They could browse through the pictures and then dig into the text as they get older. I know I'd have loved this when I was ten.

The book deals with very specific cases such as perspective drawings, X-rays, and bridge engineering, but reading it is also a great reminder to literally look at the little things in life - there's an amazing amount of information and beauty to be found in small details.

See all 11 customer reviews...

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