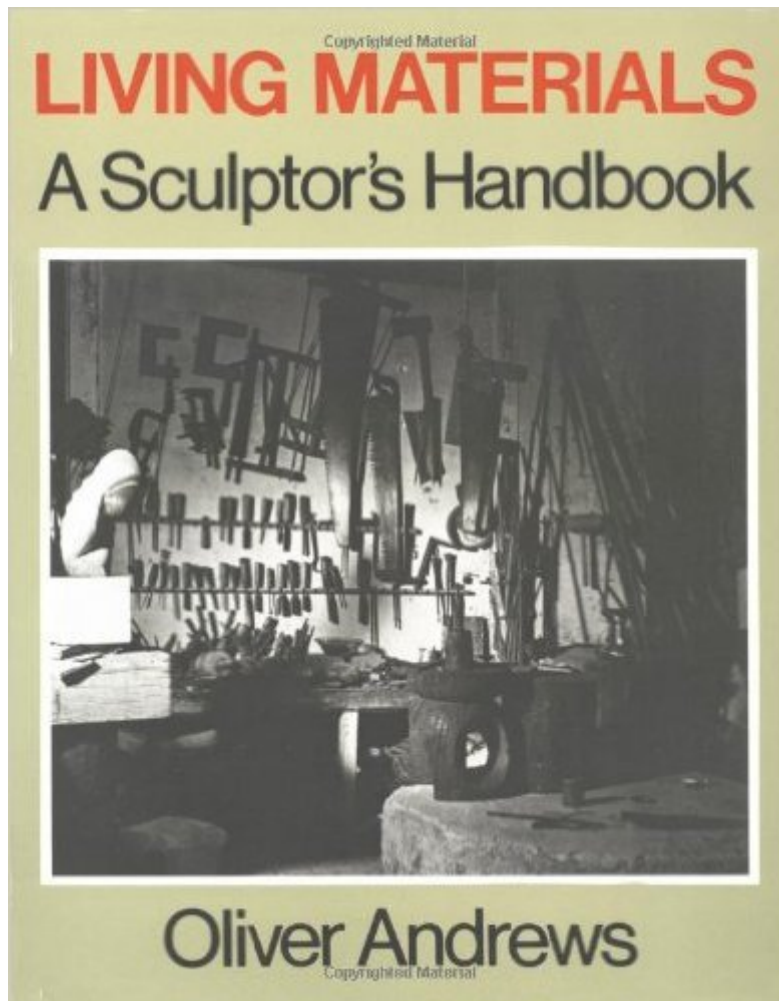


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# Living Materials: A Sculptor's Handbook



## Synopsis

Every material has an active presence and every material is susceptible to change. The task of the sculptor is to understand the natural properties of a chosen material, to know in the process of creation how best to work with, or against, its characteristics. In this generously illustrated studio manual, sculptor Oliver Andrews takes a new approach to sculpture, focusing on how the innate assertiveness of materials affects the complex act of making a sculpture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The good news is that this is probably the best book available on the materials of sculpture. The bad news is that it was written twenty years ago. (This paperback edition may have been published in 1988, but AFAIK, the text was unchanged from the original 1983 version.) If you are interested in traditional forms, then this book probably covers everything you need. But if you want information on any materials and/or techniques that came into use post-1970's, you're out of luck. Plastics are a good example: urethane and silicone molding rubbers are given a cursory mention, even though they are quite common now. I don't think polyurethane casting resins (Por-a-kast, Poly 15, etc.) or polyurethane glues (Gorilla Glue, ProBond, etc.) are mentioned at all. The wood section is surprisingly thin, with a bias toward subtractive methods (carving), even though wood construction is as common--if not more common--in contemporary work. While there are plenty of photos (all black and white) of classic sculptures, there are a lot of unbelievably bad pieces illustrated--probably chosen for their materials rather than quality. Some are downright hideous. This is a good resource, but be aware that it is no longer comprehensive.

This is a superb reference book for a working sculptor. It covers stone and wood carving, as well as most major 20th century materials, from plastics to masonry to metal fabrication techniques. Nothing on fabrics or paper though. The illustrations are exciting and fairly thorough, with an emphasis is on innovative work. This is the one book I would want to take with me if shipwrecked on a desert island!

Never having sculpted, I signed up for a sculpture class at the local college. The methods and materials were new to me, although I have been a working artist my entire life. This book covers the techniques and the media used in my class, so I can have confidence that I am doing the process correctly. Very interesting as well. Good investment.

I needed it for school, but it's actually really handy to have if you're a beginner sculptor. It has a lot of information for what materials you use for each chapter and how to use it. Very detailed and practical information. I wish we used the book more.

I am very chuffed at having found this book in , used, in excellent shape and fab price. I was looking specifically for sanding and polishing of polyester resin casts and found the chapter on plastics detailed and specific in its instructions, although it is a little dated the information is actual. Very helpful, happy with the purchase.

This book covers sculpting in several different medias and is a recommendation of a professor who teaches sculpting. A definite recommendation to those wanting to learn about this media.

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