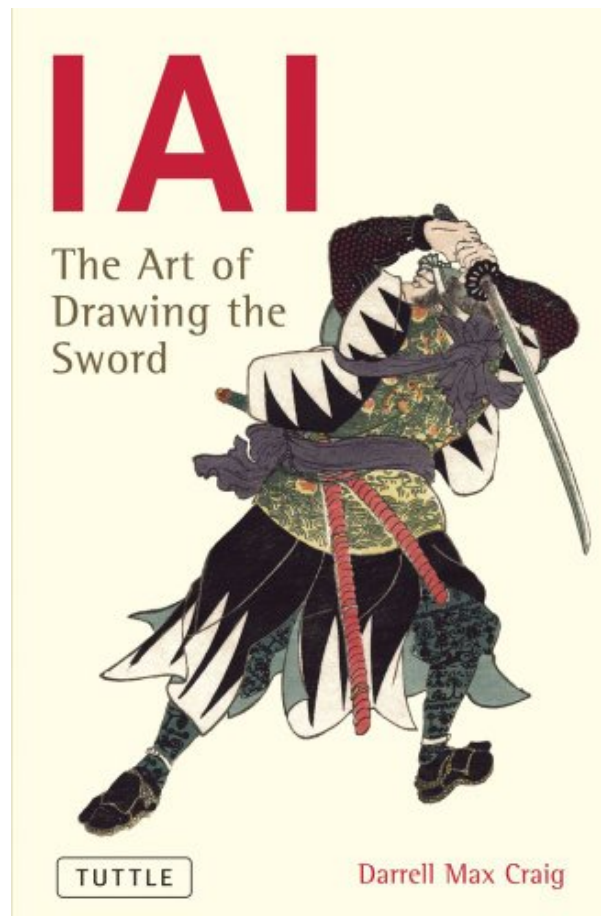


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IAI: THE ART OF DRAWING THE SWORD BY DARRELL MAX CRAIG PDF

Master the ancient samurai art of iaijutsu with this expert martial arts guide.

To the Japanese, the sword is a spiritual weapon, possessed of a kind of divinity, a self reflective of the soul of its maker, owner, and user. Around its mystical powers has grown a centuries-old ritual and a fascinating, intricate discipline. This unique guide unlocks the mysteries of this ancient ritual practice, explaining the history and significance of swords in the samurai culture, and documenting the techniques of swordsmanship, as no other book in English does.

IAI: The Art of Drawing the Sword is a thorough examination of the traditional Japanese martial art of iaijutsu. Included in this volume are introductions to sword care and selection; general etiquette and the training uniform and gear; proper basic sword procedure; sword techniques and drills for practice and demonstrations; kata; and sword testing; as well as the story of the Chushingura (the 47 Ronin). Generously illustrated with black and white photographs and line drawings, IAI: The Art of Drawing the Sword is a storehouse of information for both the aspiring student and the experienced swordsman.

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- Binding: Paperback
- 280 pages

From the Inside Flap

Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

A Wonderful Guide

By Todd A. Prins

Craig Sensei has done a wonderful job with this treatise that remains the foremost primer on Iado. I would recommend this book for anyone interested in Iado, Kenjutsu or Japanese culture in general. It has been quite a long time since I first read this book and having recently picked it up again I felt compelled to post a review and state that it is still at the forefront.

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

An excellent reference for those interested in this art.

By warbirder@hotmail.com

Iai: The Drawing of the Sword is an excellent

work documenting a little known style of
japanese swordsmanship called iai-do, or,
"The Way of the drawing of the sword".

This style of martial art centers on the act
of drawing one's sword as quickly and
efficiently as possible. A person well adept
at it is capable of tossing a fruit into the
air, stepping back, drawing his weapon,
slicing the fruit and resheathing before the
orange halves can hit the ground. It is a
deadly poetry of motion to behold.

Mr.Craig continues to teach this and other
traditional martial arts at his Dojo in
Houston, Texas. He attained the title of
Shi-han or "Master Teacher" in 1973. This
title is rarely given to westerners. I've
visited and talked with Mr. Craig and must
say he is an honorable man and a competent
sensei.

14 of 18 people found the following review helpful.
Not fond...

By Justin Gifford

Iai: The Art of Drawing the Sword is good as a refresher, at best. Craig opens his tome with some personal history and stories, which is a fine method of doing things, until he brings his own opinion into it. He gives the impression that spiritualism should account for most everything in iaido; as most practitioners are aware, spiritualism is only one aspect, and technique is equally or more important.

Throughout the book, Craig provides small interludes detailing Japanese history, and other information, some of which is accurate, some of which is very much exaggerated, and some of which is not true. While the thought was nice, he should have researched his facts more.

The drawings accompanying his descriptions of the kata are sketchy and vague; a beginner would have

difficulty following them, although someone with grounding in another Japanese sword art such as kenjitsu may have better luck. However, with knowledge of the kata, or at least of the mechanics of the motions, a reader would find this book a helpful reminder, as long as he does not try to base his study entirely on this book.

Overall, this is not a terrible book, but there are much better on the subject, with regards to technique, illustration, and history.

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