

NEWS

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A 35 dollar "Camera · Lucida" which can draw realistic looking sketches

"Camera · Lucida" which can trace the viewing image as it is. The modern version which made the equipment of the 19th century low price is popular in Kickstarter.

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Lucida" which can trace the viewing image as it is.

Camera · Lucida (camera lusida, meaning "lit room" in Latin) was once a common tool for everyone who draws pictures based on the real thing, such as artists, architects, and illustrators. British physicist William Hyde Wollaston acquired the patent in 1807 and is a tool that works with a very simple principle. Looking into the tetrahedral glass prism fixed to the adjustment arm, the image is displayed on the paper on which the picture is drawn, and it is possible to trace the image surprisingly easily.



How to use Camera · Lucida, drawing around 1830. The image is Wikipedia

Pablo Garcia of the University of the Arts at the Chicago Art Museum and Goran Levin of Carnegie Mellon University revived this tool to the present age. To make cheap and simple modern version "NeoLucida", they are raising funds with "Kickstarter".

The portability, practicality, and price of NeoLucida are very wonderful. NeoLucida's price for Kickstarter's investors is only 35 dollars. Adjustable knobs and flexible gooseneck arms are bringing significant improvements to this antique tool.

Kickstarter demonstrated great success in a very short time. Just two days from the start, the goal of \$ 15,000 has been achieved many times. Currently, an investment of about \$ 100,000 is promised. Mr. Garcia and Levin post up-to-date information and have to reveal that the first 2,500 units have already been shipped. You will also need to "give the NeoLucida open source design to competent and understanding commercial partners". Then, there is the possibility that production of NeoLucida will be continued.

Mr. Garcia and Levin pointed out that artist David Hockney published his book "Secret Knowledge: Rediscovering the Lost Techniques of the Old Masters" (secret knowledge - elucidation of the unknown technique using the master as well, was developed among the building published), he called the theory of the pros and cons have been agreed to. The theory is that the wonderful development of Western art in the age of enlightenment was realized by the advancement of optical technology that occurred in parallel therewith.

Specifically, in that era, in addition to better lenses and mirrors, draw a "picture as it is" by a large-sized device "camera obscura" (Japanese version article) etc. that projects the image of the outside landscape on the wall surface upside down. It was easier than ever before. Camera · Lucida was one of these tools.