

Volume 2



# ADVANCES IN **COSMETIC SURGERY**

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## Sculptural Aesthetic Surface Anatomy of the Face

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### KEYWORDS

- Aesthetic surgery • Cosmetic surgery • Facial anatomy • Facial aesthetic surgery • Facial cosmetic surgery
- Facial canons • Art and science

### KEY POINTS

- Artistic training emphasizes line, shape, and form in human anatomy.
- Sculpting teaches perfect practice.
- Lighting critically discloses nuances of surface form.
- Aesthetic anatomy directs cosmetic therapy.
- Comparative anatomy defines gender differences.

*To capture nature, you must see and understand her.*

—EDOUARD LANTERI (SCULPTOR)

### INTRODUCTION: THE SCULPTOR AND SURGEON

Cosmetic surgeons are the sculptors of human form. To surgically alter the human face, best practices require a profound understanding of anatomic form, function, structural aesthetics, and harmony (Fig. 1). Complex by design, outward appearance is fabricated by age, genetics, gender, and ethnicity, which are all continuously remodeled over time. Although cultures impart unique biases on iconic beauty, the challenge to aesthetic surgery is to appeal to the patient's visual and emotional needs.

An ideal training model for studying aesthetic facial anatomy is through art education. Sculpting in clay is a powerful discipline that trains the eye and hones the surgeon's visual assessment, dexterity, acumen, and finesse to optimize one's surgical results. It allows the mind to create visual, tactile, and communicative

connections otherwise missed. Such training deepens the understanding of aesthetic anatomy, its construction, and nuances of 3-dimensional facial form. It broadens perspective and perceptions, and from sense (the ability to recognize shapes) is translated from the skeleton to the surface of the body. Working from the live human model and using sculptural principles, the facial structure is appraised by sculptural ratios, proportion, symmetry, silhouette lines, angles and planes, mass, shape, volume, form, interrelationships, distinction, and physical rhythm (Fig. 2).

Albert Einstein once stated that "after a certain level of technical skill is achieved, science and art tend to coalesce in esthetics, plasticity and form." As such, the integration of art into science as the sculptural principles of facial anatomy follows.

### FACIAL BEAUTY AND ATTRACTIVENESS

Humans are hardwired to respond to visual images of the human face and body, and this response is likely linked to evolutionary ties [1]. Attractive faces possess