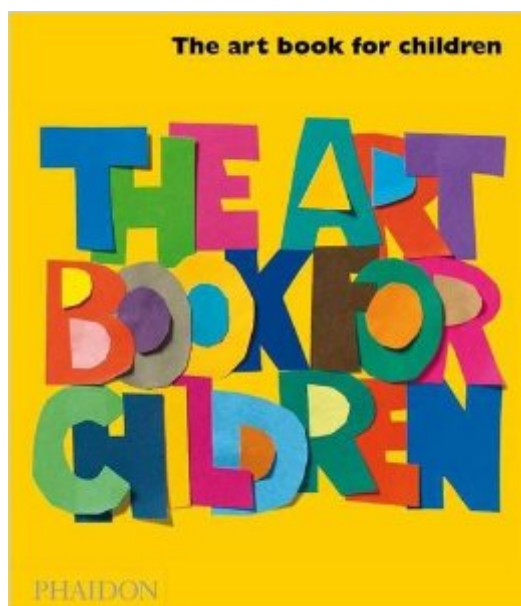


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# The Art Book For Children - Book Two



## Synopsis

Why are none of the students in Raphael's school paying attention? Who made a doodle into a masterpiece? How do you paint speed? Can collecting things be art? What kind of sculpture is supposed to disappear? Can you trust a painting? How would you make a self-portrait of yourself? Can you paint music? Following the international success of THE ART BOOK FOR CHILDREN (BOOK ONE), this second volume will continue to expand the minds and creativity of children aged from seven to eleven. Thirty new artists and key examples of their works have been selected to encourage children to ask why the artists do what they do. Both volumes of THE ART BOOK FOR CHILDREN are fun for young readers, ideal tools for teachers and parents, and perfect introductions for all those approaching art for the first time.

## Book Information

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Grade Level: 8 and up

## Customer Reviews

The book is beautifully constructed, the reproductions are excellent, and I don't get me wrong—it does have quite a bit to teach about art. I just think we could be spending our time on something better. My boys are insisting that we finish it, though, so I'm going with three stars instead of the two I'd give it without their input. There are two things wrong with this book. The first I don't exactly blame on the editors, viz., the quality of the art on display. A large part of it is, not to put a fine word on it, crap. Way too much bad contemporary art. This is the sort of book that you'll buy if you want to expose your children to the notion that art can be all kinds of things, even heaps of garbage or candy. If you disagree, you'll have my reaction. On the other hand, it is a slice of our

crazy old world, so we read it anyway. It would have been better to see more serious, high-quality art from throughout the ages, and for that, the editors can of course be blamed. Instead children are left with the impression that silly contemporary experimental art is on a par with the old masters. Gag me. The second thing wrong with the book is the text. Sometimes (not very often, frankly) the text is actually thought-provoking, making some non-obvious and even essential remarks or questions about the art. But all too often it's downright inane or puerile (in a way not explicable by the fact that it's written for children). The discussion, such as it is, of "School of Athens" was very disappointing, asserting the painting shows "some of the greatest thinkers, mathematicians, scientists, geographers, artists, and inventors of all time." Well, in fact, they're mostly ancient Greek philosophers. I came across a number of factual problems that made me wonder if the person who wrote it is even trained in art history. And sometimes it's merely mediocre, the sort of thing that one can easily come up with simply by looking closely at the picture over a period of 10 minutes with a child. Another, more minor problem is that there's no effort to give dates or historical background or interpretation of the art. The art is not put in chronological order, so that we get absurdities such as a pile of candies acting as a memorial for the death of his gay lover immediately followed by Thomas Gainsborough's "Mr. and Mrs. Andrews." (Followed by the "Ceci n'est pas une pipe" painting followed by "School of Athens.")

This isn't a book for little kids (although little kids might enjoy looking at it). It's a big colorful book with lots of eclectic art masterpieces - from the Renaissance to the conceptual modern sculpture - with thoughtful analysis and wealth of break out images highlighting particular details and concepts. The analysis text is pitched at smart late elementary aged kids (2nd-3rd grade through 7th, I'd say). I found I was getting a lot out of it too. I love the variety and pacing of the artistic selections. The radical changes page to page with keep kids' attention. The breadth helps introduce kids to the broad spectrum of art. The focus on detail, analysis, and comprehension helps convey to kids the language and forms of art appreciation. Any kid will find this at least diverting. For certain kids - the ones who have a special affinity for art - this book will be a revelation and might change their lives. Highly recommended.

I use this book for my art lessons in class and the children love it. I have been introducing famous artists and movements from realism to Impressionism and more and the children love looking through this book and may more to find out information and to have a closer look at certain paintings. I would only buy this book for children if they have a real interest in learning about Art. As

a teacher resource it is brilliant.

Am impressed with the selection of art in here for children. There's a diverse group. I'm not a huge fan of modern art, so was glad to see there was a mix of pieces which might interest children. Liked Durer's self-portraits, and Gainsborough's portrait of a couple outside and the woman's skirt was unfinished. There were some paintings I wasn't acquainted with which is always fun. Now I want to read Book One. I'm a huge fan of finding ways to introduce young children to great art. This book is one avenue.

Based on the book's description and my quickly reading some of the laudable reviews published here, I thought "The Art Book for Children" would be the perfect gift for one of my favorite 11-year olds, an art-prize winner. Surprisingly, it's two days after Christmas and still he hasn't shown much interest in it. Today, his mother read through it and announced that she "doesn't like it." Because she's an art lover and all-around creative person in her own right, I was a bit flummoxed. Neither of them - nor I - can articulate exactly why this book doesn't work the expected magic. It's more than an introduction with seemingly all the right ingredients: various forms, thought-provoking commentary, works familiar to students and written at an age-appropriate reading level. What's not to like? Perhaps it's the anthology format that makes it difficult to see a pattern, to connect the ideas that tie together the different approaches to making art. Maybe it's the missing world-view: a focus heavy on pre-1950 European and American artists. Regardless of the possible reasons that "The Art Book" misses the mark, the real joy killer is the need for an adult hand to guide this 6th grader through it like a classroom lesson. That's no fun, and voluntary reading should be.

I checked this out from the library and kept it so long, I decided I needed to have my own copy. I am purchasing it, not only for myself and children to look at and discover the art, but as a resource for art projects at the camp I work for. It gets your wheels turning about all the different media and types of art.

Excellent book for getting children (and parents) to see and understand art with deeper insights. Written in the first person, it naturally invites the readers to discuss what they are seeing and the choices the artists made.

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