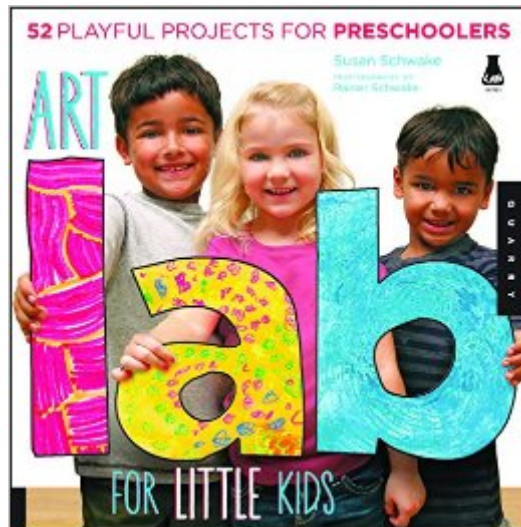


The book was found

Art Lab For Little Kids: 52 Playful Projects For Preschoolers (Lab Series)



Synopsis

Developed for the younger set (4-6 year olds) and targeting one of the most critical developmental periods for children, Art Lab for Little Kids is the perfect book for both parents and teachers who are seeking enriching and unique experiences to offer this age group. As in Susan Schwake's first book, Art Lab for Kids (Quarry Books, 2012), the Labs can be used as singular projects, or used to build up to a year of hands-on fine art experiences. Each Lab also features the work of a prominent artist for inspiration. The book begins with an introduction on materials and setting up a space for making art. The lessons that follow are open-ended to be explored over and over "with different results each time. They are geared for children being taught or guided by adults and are successful on all levels of experience and age. They do not result in "cookie cutter" end products, but are a method of learning something new each time they are used. This motivational book stands out as a unique reference for creating fine art with children through finding the student's own voice, marks and style and with playful lessons that result in significant skill building. Gorgeous photography shows different results from different people using the same lesson, exemplifying the way the lesson brings out each artist's personal style. Art Lab for Little Kids is a fresh source of creative activities for families and community groups or will work as lesson plans for both experienced and new art teachers in home school, preschool, and kindergarten environments.

Book Information

Series: Lab Series

Flexibound: 144 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (36 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #75,161 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Mixed-Media #48 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Mixed Media #72 in Books > Arts & Photography > Study & Teaching

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

This book is great for home schooling parents who are looking for an art book that they can use to explore different art venues with their children. There is a good mix of art techniques that can be applied to a broad range of young children beyond just the preschool age group. An example of this is the project on page 28, called "Buttermilk Chalk. It gives the recipe for buttermilk chalk and explains why this is a better quality chalk for young artists to work with. Personally, I do not believe anyone is ever too old to play with chalk. I painted my refrigerator with chalkboard paint to give my kids a place to express themselves. They love drawing on it. I have seen them draw old master reproductions to modern lettering. I have to say that this chalk recipe doesn't leave as much dust behind as regular chalk does. Plus, it has a nicer texture to work with. The 52 Labs, in this book, are created to stand-alone and are accessible by readers of all ages who work with young children. Each lab also gives some background information on the artist or art style that inspired the lab. This is a technique-based book that offers 52 opportunities to learn different techniques using a variety of materials. Because of this, parents don't have to worry about their children being exposed to age inappropriate material or nudity. (See the table of contents provided by the publisher to see the great variety of techniques in this book.) Also, even if you don't have an art background this book is great for parents who want to encourage their young children to explore different areas of art like: collage, drawing, mixed media, painting, paper art, pastels, and even print making.

The ideas are interesting, but the way they are presented isn't very true to life. Most projects mention "thinking through what you want it to look like before you begin." Little kids don't do this. They explore as they go. Most of their expressions will be abstract and often if they draw an actual 'thing', it's because that's what their drawing started to look like to them as they were working. Scribbling is normal -important, even. So by all means, set out oil pastels and permanent markers or sandpaper and crayons. But allow it to remain truly open-ended. "Process not product" was intended to replace cookie cutter type projects (like gluing cotton balls to a paper plate that the teacher had cut into the shape of a rabbit) with child-directed discovery and exploring of materials. Don't be tempted to make getting a particular effect out of a particular combination of items the new 'product.' Other than that, there is a real focus on not making a mess and avoiding accidents, which might speak to some personality types but I mention it just in case you, like me, are at the other end of the spectrum and find that it's harder to experiment if you're very preoccupied with keeping things tidy. This book seems the opposite of, say, Beautiful Oops! One thing I especially like about this book is the inclusion of art history -every "lab" includes an artist and one of his or her works as

relates to the project in mind.

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