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# Art Lab For Kids: 52 Creative Adventures In Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Paper, And Mixed Media-For Budding Artists Of All Ages (Lab Series)



## Synopsis

"Susan Schwake's Art Lab for Kids is a well-thought-out guide, making it easy to introduce art into children's lives. Simple, clear explanations of technique, combined with inspiration from established artists, will enable children to feel successful and encouraged to explore art as a form of expression." - Rebecca Emberley, best-selling children's book author and illustrator "Art Lab for Kids will make a valuable contribution to the literature of children's creative art experiences for teachers and others who believe in the value of art in the education of all children. The activities are adaptable to learners of all levels and are highly creative and challenging while balancing the artistic process with the potential for a meaningful product. This book will be an important addition to our program in art teacher education." - Bill Haust, Chairman, Department of Art Education, Plymouth State University "Art Lab for Kids encourages all ages to be fearless in seeking and nurturing their creativity. With lessons, inspiration, and advice, Susan Schwake gives you the tools to find and explore your artistic side." - Kathreen Ricketson, found and editor of <http://www.whipup.net> and <http://www.action-pack.com> A refreshing source of ideas for creating fine art with children, Art Lab for Kids encourages the artist's own voice, marks, and style. This fun and creative book features 52 fine art projects set into weekly lessons, beginning with drawing, moving through painting and printmaking, and then building to paper collage and mixed media. Each lesson features and relates to the work and style of a contemporary artist. Lisa Congdon, Megan Bogonovich, and Amy Rice are just a few of the artists included. The labs can be used as singular projects or to build up to a year of hands-on fine art experiences. The lessons in this book are open-ended to be explored over and over "with different results each time! Colorful photos illustrate how different people using the same lesson will yield different results, exemplifying the way the lesson brings out each artist's personal style. Art Lab for Kids is the perfect book for creative families, friends, and community groups and works as lesson plans for both experienced and new art teachers. Children of all ages and experience levels can be guided by adults and will enjoy these engaging exercises.

## Book Information

Series: Lab Series

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Quarry Books; 1/31/12 edition (February 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1592537650

ISBN-13: 978-1592537655

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (206 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #6,253 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Â Books > Arts & Photography >

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Mixed-Media #3 in Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Crafts for Children

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Homeschooling parents, Art Lab for Kids is exactly what you are looking for! With 52 different labs, your art curriculum for the year is done for you! I especially like the way the contemporary artists' works are juxtaposed with the artwork of children. We can teach our children technique (=having fun!) while simultaneously introducing them to artists (=learning!)...experiential learning at its best!

I have mixed feelings about this book. I can't say it's bad, because I've taught 95% of the projects before. they're great projects! But as an artist and art instructor, I've seen kids do more than what is in this book (for some of the projects). Some of the projects are very simple things you could find over the internet. Some are things you do in elementary school. It's got a broad mix of really cool projects with a lot of potential, and really dull projects that I know kids don't really respond to very well. However, I did find three or four projects that are pretty cool, that I'm definitely implementing aspects of in my extended camp this summer! That being said, this book is great for students who want to do art but don't have any kind of local art class institution, teachers who are looking for a good collection to fit a wide age range, and maybe homeschool parents who want their kids to have art but don't know where to start. Kids art class teacher? not so much. You probably already know them.

I just purchased a copy of this book and it is terrific for artists of all ages! As a former elementary school teacher and budding artist as well, I found this book to be well laid out and easy to use. The best part is that each of the 52 "labs" are stand alone, following the first unit which lays out how to get started and what is necessary for "setting the stage for creativity". All of the 52 projects begin with a list of needed materials followed by clear steps and accompanying photos. Each lab concludes with an example of professional artists' work using that medium. The photos are clear

and beautifully laid out. The emphasis is on individual expression and artistic exploration. This colorful book is useful for parents, homeschoolers, and budding artists (like me!) of all ages, who may be interested in exploring drawing, painting, printmaking, paper and mixed media art projects. Bravo!

"Art Lab for Kids," not only feels and looks great, it has some amazing art ideas! The ideas may be aimed at kids, but are really applicable to all ages. The material lists are perfect: letting the artist know exactly what to have on hand before starting their project. And the photography is wonderful, too. Throughout the book, the pictures give vision to the author's ideas and make the whole book just that much more enjoyable.

I purchased two kids' arts and crafts books: Kids Create and Art Lab for Kids. I looked at the Art Lab book first, and then was very disappointed with Kids Create when I looked at that book. Kids Create is entirely in black and white and totally uninspiring. I was looking for an art book with drawing, painting, printmaking, and mixed media activities suitable for children that would not only invite creativity but also start to lay a foundation for a basic understanding of art materials and artistic techniques. What's more, I was looking for activities that left room for true creativity in the final product despite using specific techniques. The Art Lab for Kids book was attractive and inspiring. Its activities will be fun for my 6 year old son, but they'll be just as fun for him at 10 and 17 (and for me) and feel fresh even when we repeat each "adventure." The book includes complete materials lists, colorful examples, and "further exploration" activities for each "adventure", so really there are over a hundred possible "creative adventures" in this book.

I have taught Art in all levels from K through Graduate School and I am strongly recommending this book. It will be useful to teachers, parents and grandparents. Susan has given the processes for each lesson. The WHYs, the What's and a variety of examples along with the How's....I have purchased this book for my son and daughter-in-law to use with their children and found that the parents are having a wonderful time learning and exploring the many art experiences as well. The "baby sitters" dream. The many photo examples are wonderful.

This book is awesome. I bought it to help me do interesting, creative things over the summer with my daughter (6 years old). It's awesome. The book has helped me put some structure and planning into artwork while offering artists a lot of flexibility during the creation process. I'm well aware that

structure and flexibility seem like opposing characteristics, but it really does help you plan out a project, but allows artists to determine what they will create in each lesson.

I purchased this book for my very smart young niece and her mom to work on artistic projects. I was quite pleased with the beauty and layout of the book. My niece may or may not be an aspiring artist, however, Art Lab for Kids may just be the tool to bring out the artist in her! I even saw some projects I would like to try!

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