



# Discovering Great Artists: Hands-On Art for Children in the Styles of the Great Masters

*MaryAnn F. Kohl , Kim Solga , Rebecca Van Slyke (Illustrator)*

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Featuring more than 150 activities, this guide teaches the styles, works, and techniques of the great masters—Van Gogh, Michelangelo, Rembrandt, and more—through innovative, hands-on, open-ended activities for children Kindergarten through Middle School (ages 6 to 13).

## Discovering Great Artists: Hands-On Art for Children in the Styles of the Great Masters Details

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Author : MaryAnn F. Kohl , Kim Solga , Rebecca Van Slyke (Illustrator)

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# **From Reader Review Discovering Great Artists: Hands-On Art for Children in the Styles of the Great Masters for online ebook**

## **Kathleen O'Mara says**

Returned to this book every year since I bought it. The art exercises are great for the kids, and I do one every now and then.

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## **Lori says**

I check out this book so often from the library I should purchase a copy for my own shelves. Discovering Great Artists is a fun book for teachers or librarians who want to provide art history and art lessons for kids. I believe this book, as well as many other books from the children's section, gives a great reference to teens and adults who want to learn more about the art masters and to learn the techniques first-hand. Kudos to MaryAnn F. Kohl and Kim Solga for creating their work of art in book format!

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## **Sally says**

This book highlights art history with relevant artists and techniques, and activities that imitate them. Simple things you can do at home, usually with materials you already have, but that inspire exploration and engender familiarity with artists and styles. We've enjoyed using activities from this book for a homeschool group.

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## **Clarissa says**

A wonderful introduction to art history for children with terrific hands on art projects. There are brief biographies of the artists, followed by projects that reflect their style. I especially love the Van Gogh starry night project, and the Duchamp "happy accident string drop" project. The ideas in this book are for creative art projects, rather than craft projects in which everyone uses the exact same materials to produce identical results.

There is a glossary of art words, and an index of projects listed by the materials used to make them, an index of art styles (such as abstract, cubist, renaissance, etc) and an index of projects listed by techniques so that you can look up all the projects that involve painting, etc., an index of great artist birthdays, and an index of the artists and the projects for that artist (some artists have multiple projects). In the front of the book is a list of art resources. Throughout the book there are simple icons showing the level of difficulty, the technique, how much prep time is required, and the art style of the project. There is a chart showing the artists, their projects, the level of difficulty of each project, and the technique used to do that project.

This is a great book for inspiring creativity in anyone child or adult, and a fantastic resource for creating programs to do with groups. I have used several of the projects from this book in library art programs.

Review updated September, 20, 2012.

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### **Ivonne Rovira says**

Don't be fooled: Yes, *Discovering Great Artists: Hands-On Art for Children in the Styles of the Great Masters* is aimed at elementary-school art teachers, but so many of the lessons are adaptable to high school art classes or even humanities classes. MaryAnn F. Kohl and Kim Solga has packed this slim book with lots of ideas to make everyone from Michelangelo to Wassily Kandinsky accessible to young people. This book is a work of art in itself.

Having borrowed the book, I went right out and bought a copy for myself. What greater recommendation can there be?

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### **MaryAnn Kohl says**

Visit this URL for direct click to connections for each artist in this book with an example of a famous artwork by that artist:

<http://www.brightwing.com/artists.html>

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### **Kristine says**

Good resource for homeschooling.

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### **Wendy Roberts says**

Awesome book...combines art history from medieval through modern, with hands-on ideas for letting kids try out artistic techniques and new ideas.

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### **Lisa Vegan says**

I love this book! I won another book by this author (*Great American Artists for Kids: Hands-On Art Experiences in the Styles of Great American Masters*) from the Goodreads First Reads giveaway program. I'm still waiting to receive that book but while I'm waiting I borrowed this one from the library and I read it cover to cover.

This is a wonderful book of art activities for kids. The book says it's for ages 4-12 and the art of children 5 to 12 is included in this book, and the art is beautiful. This book would be useful in all sorts of settings; one way I envision using it is with children who enjoy making art projects but need help learning to read and/or follow directions. It's also a fantastic beginning art history book for kids of all ages, and it's a fun activity book for kids and the adults in their lives.

My only gripe is that so many of the activities involve much skill and/or materials that doing those will be inaccessible to many children, parents, families, teachers, youth leaders & youth programs, but there are a sufficient number of easier and inexpensive activities that should be available to most.

This book is so well laid out.

There are icons for each project that help the reader select an appropriate one with experience level, art technique (the media used) and time involved. Also included is artist style including such examples as abstract, cartoon, Cubism, Impressionism, folk art, Renaissance, and many others.

Overall, the book goes from the distant past to the present, and is a good art history primer.

Each page focuses on a particular artist. There's a mini biography and a project that is representative of that artist's work but is something that children can do (the younger ones with adult help and supervision.) For each project a list of materials is given and there's a process section (the directions) about how to do each art activity. There's often a picture of a child's project or a piece by the featured artist on the page too.

Included is a terrific resource guide and index at the back that make finding the perfect project easy.

I am impressed and I'm eager to receive, read, and make use of the American Masters book too.

I do wish the artwork was shown in color though. The lack of color made the book less interesting to me and I'd guess to kids too.

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### **Kate Hastings says**

A favorite book for art-related programs. Many good picture books to tie-in with this like "When Picasso met Mootise" and "Katie and the Sunflowers." There's also a really good one about the little girl and Mary Cassatt's dog.

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### **Jenette says**

Fantastic book. Well written. Well laid out. Was my main curriculum source last year when a teacher asked me to come in and teach about the great masters in art in her classroom. So impressive was this book, that the teacher went and bought herself her own copy. Very much recommend for educators especially.

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### **AnandaTashie says**

Visually, this one isn't as delightful as the Great American Artists for Kids book. It doesn't have color photos, and there isn't an art sample for most of the presented artists. (Google or other art books can be used in combination of course.) I found some of the art projects to be a bit plain or repetitious. But! It's still a really solid book with creative ideas overall. Each artist has a paragraph bio, plus an art project based on their work. If I counted correctly, there are around 80 artists.

Activities I'll be doing with my kids:  
Gainsborough, Portrait on Landscape  
Degas, Resist in Motion  
Morisot, Texture Paints  
Kandinsky, Painting Music  
Klee, One Line Design  
Picasso, Fractured Friend  
Duchamp, Happy Accident String Drop  
Dali, Dream Photos  
Paik, Robot People

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### **Brittany says**

I am so excited about this book. We've begun using it already. It is a wonderful book filled with artistic methods. It gives a recipe for egg based tempera paint, shows you how to do relief carving and a lot of other classical art methods. It is an open ended book that can be used over and over.

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### **Sherry says**

Kohl, MaryAnn F.(1997). Discovering great artists: Hands-on art for children in the styles of the great masters. Bellingham, WA: Bright Ring Publishing.

Citation created by: Sherry Bouldin

Call Number: 372.5

Description: A handbook/biography. It's a biography of some of the great masters of the art world. It's a handbook to guide the creation of projects in their same style – pretty neat stuff!

Content/scope: Projects are geared to children ages 4-12 years.

Accuracy/Authority: MaryAnn Kohl is the author of several art books geared to the elementary aged person.

Other works include Great American Artists, Mudworks, and Storybook Art.

Arrangement/Presentation: Each project goes along with an artist that inspires the project – a small biography is provided for each artist.

Relation to Similar Works: Kohl has made art project books available in ebook form.

Timeliness/Permanence: This book was published in 1997, but is timeless as the topic is artists of long ago.

Cost: \$14.57

Rationale for Selection: This would be a great addition for our art teacher to have in her classroom. With the added emphasis on student work from our Program Review form of assessment, this resource would be a welcome addition.

Professional Review: Children's Literature provided an online review of this book.

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### **Jenny says**

I think the only thing holding this back from 5 stars is the illustrations are not in color. Having said that, I am thrilled with this book. The art projects are all very doable for children, but are not dumbed down like a

couple of other books I have encountered. There are many different styles represented like abstract, cubism, folk, modern, naturalism, realism, surrealism, cartoon and impressionism just to name a few.

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