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# Art Lab For Kids: 52 Creative Adventures In Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Paper, And Mixed Media-For Budding Artists (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 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." - Kathleen Ricketson 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 hand-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**

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## **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 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!

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. Kid's 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. It's 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.

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 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.

I love this book. I'm a new art teacher, and will use many of these with my high school students. I like how the art ideas are laid out quite simply, easy to read directions, and have techniques I haven't seen before. Very happy I have this now in my bag of "tricks"! I also recommend it to anyone with kids who wants cool things to do with them, and will be trying many with my 8 year old son. And last, as an artist, I always like to see new ideas for my own work and found some I want to try. Great book!

I'm a 68 year old grandma who's also a League of NH Craftsmen juried printmaker. This book is not only a visual delight, it has appeal and inspiration for all ages - I call it "ageless". What better starting point for art explorations for adults and kids together. Beautifully designed and logically organized, I look forward to many sessions with my grandchildren. Susann Foster Brown

Looking to homeschool the kids next year I was trying to find something to fill the art gap. I love all aspects of art, but when it comes to getting my kids involved it can be somewhat challenging to say the least. Already owning the Mixed Media lab book and using a few lessons with our summer camp last year, I was excited to find this book at the library so I could check it out first. The Lab Series is great on so many levels. It gives lists of supplies that are recommended, and then reminds you that if you're lacking specific materials, just start with what you have and build your stash slowly.

Teaching well rounded art to my kids is important, and alone I was afraid that I would make things too difficult, or (gasp) boring for them. This is a great starting point. So much so that I didn't return it to the library until they told me I couldn't keep renewing it.... so I bought it. As with all Lab books I have encountered, all the exercises are separate from each other. Yes, they have themed units, (such as Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Paper, and Mixed Media) but you can skip things you don't have supplies for, or aren't in the mood to do, and still be able to pull off a successful experience. As my children are in the 7-12 age range, this book will work well for us. Each lab is based on a different artist's style, so some art appreciation will be had as you talk about the original master, and may even be interested to do more research on your favorites. Different mediums are used as stated before, so you are able to dabble in different forms and get your feet wet without the need for perfection. One of my favorite labs has to be #13- painting like a fauvist. There is no way to make a perfect picture when you have to do the whole thing in shades of green or blue... helps us not be too intimidated and take art so seriously when our picture looks like the Wicked Witch when it's over. I highly recommend this book, and all books from the Lab Series.

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