



Art Matters

Neil Gaiman , Chris Riddell (Illustrator)

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Combining Neil Gaiman's extraordinary words with Chris Riddell's deft and striking illustrations, *Art Matters* will inspire its readers to seize the day in the name of art.

Neil Gaiman once said that 'the world always seems brighter when you've just made something that wasn't there before'. This little book is the embodiment of that vision.

Drawn together from speeches, poems and creative manifestos, *Art Matters* will explore how reading, imagining and creating can change the world. A creative call to arms, the book will champion freedom of ideas, making art in the face of adversity and choosing to be bold. It will be inspirational to young and old, and will encourage glorious, creative rebellion.

Art Matters Details

Date : Published September 6th 2018 by Headline

ISBN :

Author : Neil Gaiman , Chris Riddell (Illustrator)

Format : Kindle Edition 112 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Art, Language, Writing, Essays

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From Reader Review Art Matters for online ebook

Vivek Tejuja says

It has been established the world over (if not, then it should be) that Neil Gaiman is one of the most prolific writers that we have, and we must never forget that. In fact, we must cherish what we have every single day and celebrate him by reading more of him, but obviously, day after day.

Art Matters is a collection of his short essays (all previously published individually and collectively in The View from the Cheap Seats) about art, reading, libraries, and why all of it is so important even more so in today's time and age.

I love what Gaiman writes, and even though I'd read these pieces earlier, with Chris Riddell's illustrations, they seemed different, more invigorating, and captivating to say the least. There is something about the power of the written word, isn't it? That's what this book is about primarily – about words, reading, and how the world can be changed, one book at a time.

Of course, the piece that stands out for me is Make Good Art, in which Gaiman talks to us about how he started writing books, how to do what you really want to do, push boundaries, and be what you set out to be. Yes, it does sound self-help like and maybe it is, but coming from Gaiman, everything is great and achievable and inspiring.

I am not saying this as a fanboy, it's just that this book really inspires you to step out and make good art. And not to forget that the Make Good Art piece has come from his commencement address at Philadelphia's University of the Arts in May 2012. The illustrations by Chris Riddell are as usual stupendous and go hand in glove with Gaiman's prose. Though, I would love to see how this book comes alive in colour as well. Maybe, even a graphic version of these four pieces and more.

Make Good Art just makes you want to go out there and create. Be it anything. A sentence even, or just those two hundred words you've been telling yourself you will write, or the composition you are stuck at, or when you feel that you just cannot create anything, this book will at least inspire if nothing else. Read this. Read it again like me, if you have already read them. The illustrations and the reminding of what great art can do is absolutely worth the experience.

Katerina says

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Bookdragon Sean says

"Make good art. I'm serious."

This is a collection of four essays, each forceful and energetic, that directly address why it is so important to read and write and, more importantly, they impress upon you why children should be doing it too.

This is not new material but has instead been published in various magazines and online publications, some of them even appeared in *The View From the Cheap Seats: Selected Nonfiction*.

The essays are as followed:

1. Credo
2. Why Our Future Depends on Libraries, Reading and Daydreaming
3. Making a Chair (more of a poem really.)
4. Make Good Art

So you may have read these before, as I have; however, that being said, I'm not overly disappointed that there's nothing new here beyond the illustrations. These pieces speak to each other and form a persuasive argument about the importance of art, regardless of the particular medium, and establish why it's so important for society.

We need people who understand the world and can empathise with situations different to our own, we need leaders and individuals who can look past their own personal experience and act accordingly. We need literate people. We need people who can imagine a better world than the one we have so they can work towards building it (or at the very least representing it.) All in all, the world needs more readers, writers and artists. And Gaiman establishes it so convincingly here (not that many people who would pick a book up like this need convincing.)

“We need to teach our children to read. And to enjoy reading. We need libraries. We need books.”

I have so much respect for Gaiman and his work. As all writers do, he wrote stories to make money though he also did it because it was his passion. At the young age of fifteen he knew it was his calling and he worked towards his goals until he achieved success and fame (then he carried on writing some more!) Beyond that though, he has got so many children into reading with his work. Just look at his sales figures. Granted many of his readers are adults, but he has opened the literary doorways for many with his creative and intelligent writing.

Because of the sheer volume of quality work he has produced, the variety of it and the innovative nature of his original ideas, I think he deserves the noble prize for literature. I'm almost certain that this year he will win it. He has been shortlisted, and from the four candidates chosen, it seems to be a two horse race between Gaiman and Murakami (Guardian article.) Both are fantastic writers, though I think Gaiman has a slight edge because he can write in very different ways where Murakami has found his niche and dominates it.

Could 2018 be Gaiman's year? If I were a betting man, I'd put money down that it is. (What a victory that would be for the world of fantasy literature.)

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Ashley says

Come ON people !
Star Rating: 1,000,000 (5) STARS!

ART MATTERS

Because Your Imagination Can Change The World

"I suggest that reading fiction, reading for pleasure, is one of the most important things one can do."

I want to shout my love for and the the importance of this book from the rooftops. This book is **everything**

Please if you do read this based upon on my review I'd really love to hear/ see your feedback. I'm just blown away.

PLEASE if you love books read this. If you are an author READ THIS. If you write or make art of any kind READ THIS. If you value physical books & their importance READ THIS. If you understand or just love libraries & know how special Librarians are... READ THIS.

EVERYONE READ THIS BOOK. Neil Gaiman is just... he's Neil Gaiman. He's my favorite author. This book fits so much value & perfection into so many little pages. I'm serious, **read this** ; you will thank me later.

Plus... come on the art of the amazing Chris Riddell??

Veronique says

"Be bold. Be rebellious. Choose Art. It matters."

To many, this tiny book is going to seem very expensive for what it is. I can understand that. On the other hand, I totally buy what Gaiman and Riddell proposed to do, defend the Arts and Freedom of Speech in this crazy world of ours!

The book itself has a simplicity, both in words and drawing style, that can attract Everyone. In that light it reminded me of how Fairy Tales (the original ones from oral tradition) were aimed for everyone too, from young to old. Will it change people's beliefs and perceptions? Not sure but I do hope so.

Finally, I remember when Gaiman wrote an article in the newspapers defending our closing Libraries, their importance and role in our societies (present and future), as well as that of Fiction. Do read that too - parts were used in this book - and it is pretty enlightening (<https://www.theguardian.com/books/201...>).

An extract (but I could really use the whole article!): *Fiction can show you a different world. It can take you somewhere you've never been. Once you've visited other worlds, like those who ate fairy fruit, you can never be entirely content with the world that you grew up in. Discontent is a good thing: discontented people can modify and improve their worlds, leave them better, leave them different.*

verbava says

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Nat K says

Oh my goodness, I l?ve this book! I read it on the work commute home and am SO impressed with it. One of those books that makes you believe that good things can happen.

Imagine a world devoid of beauty. Without colour. No artworks to adorn walls or office desks. No words of wisdom to inspire or incite. Imagine a world without books!

Art matters because it soothes the soul, keeps the blood pumping through our veins, makes us think. It connects us.

Didn't someone once say "The pen is mightier than the sword."?

Wise words from Neil Gaiman wonderfully accompanied by fab illustrations from Chris Riddell. A match made in heaven!

This book reminds us to not forget to dream. And to be creative. And to keep creating. Every day.

I cannot gush enough about this one. This book made my head spin and had me grinning more widely than the Cheshire Cat.

If you haven't already read this, you simply **must** add it to your TBR list. At the top. Do it now.

Beautiful book Mr Gaiman and Mr Ridell. Bravo.

☆☆☆ "I had no idea. I still don't. And where would be the fun in making something you knew was going to work?" ☆☆☆

PS: I also read it on the morning work commute & it's just as inspiring. Love, love, love.

Aoife says

A very quick read (I just read this in work, don't tell anyone) featuring some of Neil Gaiman's wisest words paired with Chris Riddell's fantastic illustrations. Neil's advice basically boils down to 'do the thing that only you can do, and do it well' and it's a wonderful read. Buy one for everyone you know.

(He also loves libraries and librarians, and they're cousins to bookstores. So I feel like he loves us too.)

I don't know that it's an issue for anybody but me, but it's true that nothing I did where the only reason for doing it was the money was ever worth it, except as bitter experience. Usually I didn't wind up getting the money, either.

The things I did because I was excited, and wanted to see them exist in reality, have never let me down, and I've never regretted the time I spent on any of them.

...

Life is sometimes hard. Things go wrong, in life and in love and in business and in friendship and in health and in all the other ways that life can go wrong.

And when things get tough, this is what you should do...

MAKE GOOD ART.

I'm serious.

Ellie says

I needed this. Also Chris Riddell could stab me with a pencil and I'd thank him.

Robin Bonne says

A reprint of an essay that I believe I previously read in The View from the Cheap Seats.

Lauren says

Gaiman and Riddell can do no wrong in my eyes. Such a perfect team. A sweet, inspirational set of short essays, illustrated by Riddell. Loved it.

Julie says

I chose to read a long with the printed book, while listening to the audiobook version and found that the audiobook is expanded, especially in the section titled, "Why our future depends on libraries, reading and daydreaming." So, I recommend you listen to the audio version to hear in full all that Gaiman has to say and the printed book to also appreciate Riddell's illustrations.

My favorite quotes:

"Libraries are places to go to find information."

Paraphrased: Libraries are places of equal access to information for all, including free internet and help with navigating the internet.

"Libraries really are the gates to the future."

Trish says

Neil Gaiman once said that 'the world always seems brighter when you've just made something that wasn't there before'. This little book is the embodiment of that vision.

(from the blurb)

Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell have teamed up a number of times before and make a great team. Both wholly embrace enthusiastic fans, fan art, any art, as well as charities. Therefore, they created this little book in which Chris Riddell illustrates speeches, poems, manifestos and comments by Neil Gaiman about the importance of libraries, literacy, being creative, books in the digital age and much more.

Personally, I like to look at professional illustrations but also some fan art. There are many very talented people out there and they should be encouraged to do what makes them happy. We can't all become famous, most can't even live off their craft but that is never a reason not to try at least. Because as a reader and person who loves looking at art, it's never a waste of time and I do indeed feel more upbeat and positive about the world afterwards or even during the experience. And when you look at the history of now famous people, they all struggled and failed in the beginning but persevered.

Ignore the nay-sayers and **MAKE GOOD ART** (the word "good", here, means meaningful if even only to you).

Here are some of the pages with messages that especially resonated with me:

P.S.: I LOVE the book = sharks statement by Douglas Adams!

Asha Seth says

Gaiman says, "**Make Good Art. I'm serious.**"

I say, "**Read more Gaiman. I'm serious.**"

This is a cute little book with Neil Gaiman's advice on reading, writing, following your dreams, importance of libraries and librarians, why kids should read, and respecting art, and the illustrator's endeavor into transforming those pieces into sketches.

I thought of doing a picture review so readers get a hint of what to expect from this tiny little enchanter of a book. Obviously, these are pieces that stuck with me. The book's got a lot more to learn and imbibe. Here goes:

Go, get your copy now. You won't regret it.

Lisa says

The answer is not 42 after all. The answer to life, the universe and everything is:

MAKE GOOD ART.

Which of course may well be what Douglas Adams did, hitchhiking his way through the universe in a bombastic show of creative power. So 42 and "MAKE GOOD ART" could be seen as synonyms.

A mutated boa constrictor is harming you? Time for making good art.

This collection of passionate essays by Neil Gaiman and outrageously funny drawings by Chris Riddell will be my "Annoy-Everyone-Until -They-Read-It"-treat for this season. I knew it before I received my own

copy, and I made sure to have a stack of five ready to spread the message quickly. I will most definitely read it with my classes, and two of my children already stole copies of their own from my shrinking stack.

WHY does it matter so much to me?

Because it is funny, to the point, gets a message (or two or three or four) across? Because it makes perfect use of my two favourite ways of communication: drawing and text? Because it reaches the heart without ever preaching? Because it sums up the issues we deal with every day in our era of digital addiction, and it makes a case for embracing the adventure of novelties without ditching the good old company of books - making a case for BOTHNESS, rather than WORLD BOOK DOOMSDAY? Because it contains a credo for freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of argument, while completely, unambiguously denouncing any violence? We may all ignore or argue against other people's stupidity, but we may never ever hurt or kill those who call us out on our own weirder thoughts. If all kept to the diversity without violence credo, the world would be an adventure that you could actually survive for a while.

I LOVE this book to bits for its stance on libraries and librarians. And I am biased of course, spending most of my childhood in libraries in a variety of ever changing small towns, and then morphing into one of those strange powerful beings between the shelves and behind the desk myself. School librarians around the world should read this NOW. It is encouraging, heartwarming, and necessary.

I love it because it offers a hilarious take on how not to write if you happen to have a box with a chair-yet-to-be-constructed at home, and how that strange set of skills can be turned into humour and art as well.

I love it for the passage where Gaiman describes his time as a young man, trying to succeed in freelance. Chronologically challenged! The best joke ever. Read the book to find out. It would be worth it for that alone.

Without further ado: ART MATTERS. READ IT! And then make a drawing or write a poem or a song about it. Spread the gospel and let others argue with you. Argue back. It is our right to think and express thoughts in art.
