



# Drawing with Children: A Creative Method for Adult Beginners, Too

*Mona Brookes*

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## **Drawing with Children: A Creative Method for Adult Beginners, Too** Mona Brookes

Since the publication of the best-selling first edition of Drawing with Children in 1986, Monart Drawing Schools have expanded all over the country. Teachers are eager for the chance to learn the Monart Drawing Method, a practical, field-tested technique that assumes no prior knowledge of art or special talent. Mona developed the Monart Drawing Method after she observed what she felt was a state of visual illiteracy among children. She was shocked that even very young children were suffering from competitive and judgmental attitudes to the point of being unwilling to try, for fear of failure. Although she recognized the need for the symbolic representations that all children draw naturally, she noted that they did not know where to begin to draw the realistic illustrations they yearned to create. From this grew the Monart Drawing Method, which features a noncompetitive environment where children are free to explore independent expression while simultaneously learning how to observe all visual data through five basic elements of shape. The Method has instilled a sense of pride among the thousands of students who have overcome the "I can't draw" mindset and learned to create remarkable artwork. This latest edition of Drawing with Children includes a new sixteen-page full-color insert, hundreds of new illustrations, and two additional chapters explaining how to reach children with learning problems and how to incorporate drawing into teaching the basic subjects in an integrated school curriculum.

## **Drawing with Children: A Creative Method for Adult Beginners, Too Details**

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# **From Reader Review Drawing with Children: A Creative Method for Adult Beginners, Too for online ebook**

## **Marisa says**

I really like this book, and ended up buying it. I have dropped our art curriculum and will be using the lessons in this book to teach my kids the fundamentals of drawing. It just makes sense how it is taught. Along side this book, we will be studying famous artists of all kinds, painters, sculptors, architects, etc.

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## **Terri says**

I loved using this book with my art students. It begins by helping the child to see, really see, the simple in the intricate. For example, looking at the front cover of the book, Mona Brooks would recommend that you don't get flustered because "it looks to complicated;" rather take one small bit at a time- draw just the eye of the toucan first, then add just the curve shape of the head, etc. until the student has drawn the entire picture by breaking it down into "not scary" chunks.

I read through the whole book and thoroughly highlighted the book because it is not lined out like, "today do this."

There are a lot of helpful work pages that I printed off so each student could work from their own station on the assignment.

It is a very helpful method for looking at and then tackling art.

This book is geared toward elementary through 6 or 7th grade. After that, get her next one.

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## **Courtney Clark says**

I have one child that will happily draw and paint all day, and another that is paralyzed by a blank page and often frustrated with what ends up there. So, while I think this book, and its exercises, are dry and dull as dust- I can see their use. No, it will not transform you into an amazing artist- but it will give you an understanding of where to start, and some kids need that kind of explicit direction. I do wish it had a better outline of lesson plans, what exactly to do next. But a second reading with notepaper on hand (and a copier for the excersizes, there needs to be a workbook) was enough to outline a lesson sequence through the book.

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## **R.K. Goff says**

A perfect book for teaching an adult how to teach a child to draw. Absolutely awesome.

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## **Bonnie says**

Great directions, step by step, to approach teaching children to draw.

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## **Samantha says**

funny, I'm not sure why I was drawn (heh heh) to this book, which I think I bought in my college bookstore my first year of college. it didn't have a lot of relevance to my life at the time. later I told my daughter, and maybe showed her, one lesson in the book - it was showing a picture of a table and instructed you to draw what you \*actually\* see when you look at the table from your perspective, and not what you know a table to look like. my daughter credits this moment as a seminal one in her artistic development (she's now 16 and planning to go to art school). so I guess on some level I knew it would be important one day.

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## **Kristine says**

Excellent. Good resource for homeschooling.

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## **Jason Randall says**

My personal rating system is as follows. 3 stars means I liked the book but probably wouldn't read it again. 4 stars means I liked the book and will probably read it again. It was difficult to rate this book 4 stars... maybe because after the first read-through, it's going to be "read again" as a research book, as needed and only the parts needed (not cover-to-cover).

This isn't your typical drawing book where you follow step-by-step instructions on how to create a picture identical to the one in the book. It's for any person interested in starting to draw no matter the age. It covers creating the environment for a good drawing experience... eliminating noise pollution in the room or area, relaxing the eyes and shoulders, etc. It also goes into depth on which words to apply when working with people while they're drawing in order to support improvement and yet avoid unnecessary negativity.

The lessons are embedded in the text. I would almost say a read-through, cover-to-cover is required before you actually start to do the lessons. In this way, the writer did a great job explaining the motive for drawing and redefined a successful experience. It's less about what the finished product looks like and more about techniques used to get there. The writer shows many examples from children of multiple ages as well as adults who have a broad range of "abilities". You can see how one still life model can lead to many different interpretations... with none of them being "wrong".

Final sections in the book covered topics of working with people who have special needs as well as using art to teach multiple other educational subjects... yes even math. I just finished reading the book and plan on going back to the beginning to work on the lessons... both for myself and my children.

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## **Danielle says**

Last year when a friend came to visit she showed me her travel/food journal and I was so impressed with the beautiful and personal sketches she had drawn on each page. More than anything, I'd like to have a journal like hers, but I've always been a terrible artist. The premise of this book is that with the right instruction anyone can learn to draw. We take piano lessons to learn piano, dance lesson to learn to dance, and the author argues we should be teaching everyone how to draw, especially from a young age. The alphabet of shape that she introduces completely blew my mind and makes drawing feel more manageable. Interestingly, she also cites studies that show that drawing what you're learning about, especially in science, can deepen and improve your understanding of the concepts. There are five long lessons that can be taught to anyone four years old or older. I'll update my rating after a few months of working on the book with Scott and seeing how helpful the lessons really are.

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## **di says**

For what this book is, it is the best. (I had a hard time rating it as a 5, simply because it wasn't necessarily a gripping page-turner.) But it was a fabulous how-to book, & another one that has me so excited for homeschooling! When I found out that my sister had successfully used it (in homeschooling) with her children, it sealed the deal for me. Might I add that her children have won state-level honors in art year after year, & her oldest even won the National Reflections Contest. (She won the grand prize across the country!) I believe everything Brookes says in this book about art & children. Can't wait to start!

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## **Hannah says**

S1V1L1

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## **Anne Camille says**

Interesting, easy to follow instructions. I've read through the entire book as Brookes suggests and am now returning to do the exercises. Even before I did the first few assignments, I found myself looking at things differently in order to draw them, following Brookes' approach. I'm not a home-schooler and won't be drawing with children, but as an adult wishing to expand drawing abilities, I like this book. By starting with very basic concepts (after destroying some long-standing misconceptions about children & adults learning to draw), Brookes provides a very accessible approach to the beginner - one that I haven't seen in other "beginner" art books. I wondered at first about reading the entire book before doing the exercises, but the assignments build upon the previous and reading the entire work gives you insight into the big picture. I think this would be especially useful if you were going to use this book to teach children to draw.

I didn't find the last chapters on learning styles & disabilities to be either interesting or helpful. Sort of read like an add-on at the request of an editor to make the book more sellable for certain markets. If one is using this book to homeschool your child and if a learning disability is an issue (or even just suspected) this book isn't going to provide you with enough information to help your child. The information is outdated and too generic to be of much use other than anecdotal info on how children with certain diagnosis thrived with

Brookes method of teaching art. So, unless this is really important to you, skip the last 10 or so pages.

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### **Barbara Carter says**

Used parts of this book a lot with art classes I've taught.

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### **Erin says**

I bought Artistic Pursuits for art this year, but then I heard so many good things about this I couldn't resist. So now we'll start here, then do Artistic Pursuits when we're done. We've only done a couple of lessons, but the kids have responded surprisingly well, and I'm really excited to use this. I wish that we had done this before I started teaching handwriting to H, because even after the short time we've used this I is already writing better. Having not had an art class since 5th grade, I can only say even I feel like I can teach from this book, which is really saying something.

I'm only holding off on giving it a 5 until I've used it a bit longer!

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### **Kara says**

Very helpful, practical introduction to the basics of drawing. I'm teaching my children from this, and loving it. At first, I thought that there were too few lessons in the book, but I'm beginning to think that it was a wise step for the author to keep things simple. There are so many possibilities to explore.

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