

# Children's Books about Art and Artists

**Katie and the Mona Lisa** by James Mayhew, copyright 1999, Orchard Books. Available SCL

*Katie takes a magical journey through many famous paintings at the museum, hoping to make Mona Lisa smile again.*

**The Yellow House: Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Gauguin Side by Side** by Susan Goldman Rubin and Jos. A. Smith, copyright 2001, Harry N. Abrams, Inc. Published in association with the Art Institute of Chicago. Available SCL

*The true story of the brief period when Van Gogh and Gauguin shared a house in Arles, France.*

**Elephants Can Paint Too!** by Katya Arnold, copyright 2005, Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Available SCL

*Describes how elephants have been taught to paint. Simple text and beautiful photographs.*

**No One Saw: Ordinary Things Through the Eyes of an Artist** by Bob Raczka, copyright 2005, The Millbrook Press. Available SCL

*Simple text and reproductions of famous paintings.*

**Just Like Me: Stories and Self-Portraits by Fourteen Artists** edited by Harriet Rohmer, copyright 1997, Children's Book Press. Available SCL

*A beautiful book in which 14 artists from the Children's Book Press, a multicultural children's book publisher in San Francisco, each do a self-portrait and tell a story about their lives.*

**Reflections** by Ann Jonas, copyright 1987, Greenwillow Books. Available SCL.

*Although not really a book about art, this is a visually interesting book in which each illustration can be viewed upside down for a different image.*

**Round Trip** by Ann Jonas, copyright 1983, Greenwillow Books. Available SCL.

*Also not really a book about art, but a visually fascinating story with black and white illustrations. The "trip" begins in daylight with the white sky at the top of the page, and then as the book ends, the journey continues into nighttime, with the reader turning the book upside down (black is at the top of the page now) and reading it backwards to the beginning.*

**Action Jackson** by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, copyright 2002, Roaring Brook Press. Available SCL.

*A detailed (but not very inspiring) description of how Jackson Pollack painted. Has biographical notes.*

**The Year with Grandma Moses** by W. Nikola-Lisa, copyright 2000, Henry Holt and Company. Available SCL.

*Includes simple text about the cycles of the year coupled with paintings by Grandma Moses. Each page also includes quotes about her life from her autobiography. Lots of interesting biographical information and lots of details to look at in the paintings.*

**The Art of Eric Carle** with introduction by Leonard S. Marcus, copyright 1996, Philomel Books. Available SCL.

*This book is written at the teen or adult level, but has many illustrations taken from Eric Carle's books and other examples of his artwork. There is lots of biographical information, including an autobiographical essay and the text of a speech given by Carle.*

**The Dot** by Peter H. Reynolds. Available SCL.

*A book about gaining confidence in making art.*

**A Book About Design: Complicated Doesn't Make it Good** by Mark Gonyea, copyright 2005, Henry Holt and Company. Available SCL

*A simple book in chapters, but with one line per page, illustrating some simple design concepts about color, shape and negative space.*

**How To Make Super Pop-Ups** by Joan Irvine, copyright 1992, Morrow Junior Books. Available SCL

*A children's craft book with directions for specific pop-up paper craft projects.*

**I Spy Shapes In Art** by Lucy Micklethwait, copyright 2004, Greenwillow Books. Available SCL

*A beautiful children's book using famous artwork to point out shapes in art.*

**Shadows and Reflections** by Tana Hoban, copyright 1990, Greenwillow Books. Available SCL

*This book of photographs includes beautiful images of shadows and reflections in everyday situations. Tana Hoban has authored many similar books, most of which have little or no text and explore other topics related to the visual arts. Examples: **Shapes, Shapes, Shapes; Cubes, Cones, Cylinders & Sphere; Spirals, Curves, Fans and Lines; So Many Circles, So Many Squares; Black on White; White on Black** all available SCL.*

**The Art of Freedom: How Artists See America** by Bob Raczka, copyright 2008, Millbrook Press. Available SCL.

*A book with simple text and reprints of artwork in various media which are said to represent what America is all about. Includes a variety of styles and represents different cultural groups. Some of the concepts (i.e. "Sacrifice") may be above children's heads, but the book could still be used in various ways with young children.*

**Visiting the Art Museum** by Laurene Krasny Brown and Marc Brown, copyright 1986, E.P. Dutton. Available SCL.

*A cute book about a family's visit to an art museum written in comic book style (all text is in speech balloons). Famous art is reproduced in the drawings of the museum rooms. A few of the art pieces seem scary for smaller children.*

**Linnea in Monet's Garden** by Christina Bjork and Lena Anderson, copyright 1985 (English translation copyright 1987), Raben & Sjogren (R&S books), Stockholm, Sweden. Available SCL.

*A book written in journal format about a little girl's journey to France to see Claude Monet's real garden. Includes reproductions of Monet's paintings, photos from his garden, photos of the Monet and lots of information about his life and family, as well as illustrations of Linnea and her neighbor on their journey. This book has lots of text and is probably meant for elementary-age children.*

**A is for Art: An Abstract Alphabet** by Stephen T. Johnson, copyright 2008, Simon and Schuster. Available SCL.

*The alphabet, with an abstract art piece for each letter done by the author.*

**Shapes** by John J. Reiss, copyright 1974, Bradbury Press, N.Y. Available SCL.

*Goes through the 2- and 3-dimensional shapes and how they relate to one another. Simple text and attractive illustrations.*

**Brown Rabbit's Shape Book** by Alan Baker, copyright 1994, Kingfisher, NY. Available SCL.

*A toddler/ preschool story about a rabbit who receives a gift composed of many shapes; simple text and a broad concept of shape.*

**ThinkAbout Shape** by Henry Pluckrose, copyright 1986, Franklin Watts, NY. Available SCL.

*Neat photographs and lots of discussion questions to talk about shapes and how they fit together.*

**Shape Me a Rhyme: Nature's Forms in Poetry** by Jane Yolen and Jason Stemple, copyright 2007, Wordsong/ Boyds Mills Press. Available SCL.

*Photos and poems about shapes in nature.*

**Shapes, Shapes, Shapes** by Tana Hoban, copyright 1986, Greenwillow Books. Available SCL.

*Photographs of everyday objects; emphasizes the traditional geometric shapes.*

**Shapes in Sports** by Rebecca Rissman, copyright 2009, Heinemann/ Capstone Global, Chicago. Available SCL, juvenile non-fiction.

*Photographs of objects in sports settings, emphasizing shapes.*

**Colors Everywhere** by Tana Hoban, copyright 1995, Greenwillow Books. Available SCL.

*Photos of everyday objects with the colors broken out to “look for” next to each photo. Wordless.*

**Colors** by Philip Yenawine, copyright 1991, The Museum of Modern Art, NY and Delacorte Press. Available SCL.

*Text about color concepts accompanies illustrations of famous paintings.*

**is it red? is it yellow? is it blue? an adventure in color** by Tana Hoban, copyright 1978, Greenwillow Books. Available SCL.

*Photographs of everyday objects accompanied by dots of colors to look for in the photos.*

**Shadows and Reflections** by Tana Hoban, copyright 1990, Greenwillow Books. Available SCL.

*Photographs of everyday scenes that include shadow or reflection. A great conversation starter to discuss light and how it affects the composition of art.*

**bees, snails, & peacock tails: Patterns and Shapes...Naturally** by Betsy Franco and Steve Jenkins, copyright 2008, Simon and Schuster: Margaret K. McElderry Books. Available SCL

*A book about patterns in nature with collage illustrations.*

**Museum ABC** by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, copyright ?, Little, Brown and Co. Available SCL.

*“A is for...” Each letter is given a word and sections of four paintings that go with the word; the paintings are identified in the end notes.*

**Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave** by Laban Carrick Hill, copyright 2010 Little, Brown and Co. Available SCL (Juvenile Non-Fiction).

*A poetic and beautifully illustrated book about a potter who was a slave in the U.S. in the 1800’s. Lots of historical information and references are included for adults at the end.*

**Mouse Shapes** by Ellen Stoll Walsh, copyright 2007 Little, Brown and Co. Available SCL (by the same author: **Mouse Paint**).

*Cute little mice build with brightly colored shapes as they run from the cat.*

**The Art Book for Children** by Amanda Renshaw and Gilda Williams Ruggi, copyright 2005, Phiadon Press. Available SCL, juvenile non-fiction.

*Short “chapters” that emphasize different elements of art with photos and text.*

**Shapes in Math and Science** by Ross more info needed. Available SCL