

art for arts Sake

Term 1, 2009

Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life ~ Pablo Picasso

Please feel free to ignore our age categories. On the whole, the art introduced and explored in these books can be appreciated and studied by any age group. The age categories relate to the reading level of the book. For example, *Creatures* by Dylan Owen, introduces children to artwork by various New Zealand artists and, as such, can be used by senior secondary school art and art history students.

Contributors to this list are: Kerry Aluf, Carol Ardern, Helen Beckingsale, Crissi Blair, Tina Collins, Annie Coppell, Noelene Coppell, Sarah Fordyce, Helen Schwarcz and Rosemary Tisdall.

For under 6s

The Bean's Story

Tatiana Aslund, artwork Vasanti Unka
Scholastic 2007
Pb ISBN 9781869437183

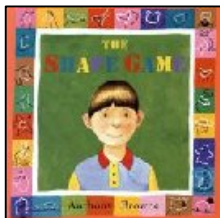
'Jack and the Beanstalk' told in the style of 'The House that Jack Built' – a cumulative tale – illustrated in appliqué. An inventive take on the stories, and on illustrative techniques. AC.



The Shape Game

Anthony Browne
Hb Doubleday 2003; ISBN 0365601360
Pb Picture Corgi 2004; ISBN 0552546968

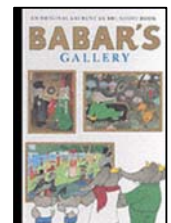
It's Mum's birthday and she wants the family to go to the art gallery, an entirely new experience for the father and young boys. Mum tells them stories behind some of the pictures and they ask questions about what is happening in each one, and they can relate some of them to their own lives. Dad tells jokes throughout and on the way out they buy a sketchbook and two pens and the boys learn a drawing game – the shape game. An excellent introduction to the art gallery experience that should be followed up by a real visit. The shape game will see you through many otherwise boring moments once you learn it. Superb artwork by this talented illustrator who captures the ordinary family and fine artworks equally well. Highly recommended. 4+. CB.



Babar's Gallery

Laurent De Brunhoff
Harry N Abrams Inc 2003
Hb ISBN 0810948044

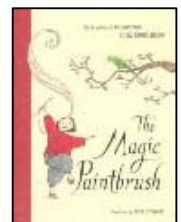
Babar and Celeste decide to convert the disused railway station into an art gallery where they can show the many works of art stored in the palace basement. On opening night Babar's children ask 'will it be like school?... will it be like church? Or like shopping or going on a picnic?' – Celeste says it's a little like all of those things. The children and others talk about the pictures, what they see and how it makes them feel. There's a sculpture garden too, and an artist in residence creating a painting. All the artworks are based on real pictures and sculptures – but the characters are all elephants. There's a list of all the artworks referenced at the back and it would be a worthwhile activity to compare the originals with the Babar versions. 4+. CB.



The Magic Paintbrush

Julia Donaldson, illus Joel Stewart
Macmillan 2004
Pb ISBN 9780333964439

Shen is given a magic paintbrush and everything she draws becomes real. She uses the power for the good of the poor, no matter what inducements rich people – including the emperor – offer her. A wonderful lyrical text with beautiful illustrations. AC.



Almost Famous Daisy!

Richard Kidd

Frances Lincoln 2007 (orig 1996)

Pb ISBN 9781845077099

Daisy enters an art competition to paint her favourite things. So, with dog Duggie, she sets off around the world to discover what they are. Along her journey she is inspired by famous artists, and the reader is introduced to their works. AC.

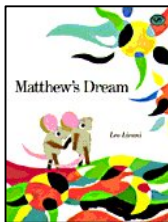
Matthew's Dream

Leo Lionni

Andersen Press 1991

Hb ISBN 0862643228

Matthew the mouse wants something different in life – he wants to see the world. When his class visit the museum and see the artwork Matthew realises that the whole world is there. He meets Nicoletta, another mouse entranced by the art and dreams that they are walking through a fantastic painting. Matthew decides to become a painter and paints large canvases filled with joy. Lionni's collage illustrations bring Matthew's joy to the reader's world. 4+. AC.



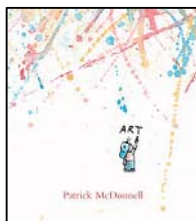
Art

Patrick McDonnell

Little, Brown 2007

Hb ISBN 9780316114912

Art loves playing with art and don't get in his way! He scribbles and squiggles and doodles all over. Tired, he falls asleep and awakes to see his art on the refrigerator put there by his mother.



The text is all in capitals which makes it much more fun trying to decide whether it is talking about Art or his art. A bright celebration of a child's creativity. 3+. AC.

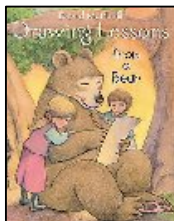
Drawing Lessons from a Bear

David McPhail

Little, Brown and Company 2000

Hb ISBN 0316563455

A young bear experiments by making claw marks on the dirt floor but as he practices his drawing gets better. He graduates to paper from the dump, and charcoal, and his mother proudly hangs his pictures on the wall. At school he draws and draws, he goes to the museum and is inspired by the artwork there. Now an award-winning artist, he offers advice and inspiration to others, encouraging all to become artists. The endpaper include artistic hints, like smudging and cross-hatching. 4+. AC.



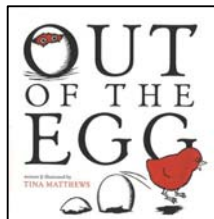
Out of the Egg

Tina Matthews

Walker Books 2007

Hb ISBN 9781921150357

A new take on the tale of 'The Little Red Hen' who is an eco-hen now, planting her little green seed with no help from anyone else – Fat Cat, Dirty Rat and Greedy Pig all have much more important things to do, like watch TV and sleep on the sofa. In due course the seed grows into a tree, and the hen hatches a little chick. But will his friends be able to



come and play under the great tree? Red Hen thinks not, but little chick turns it all around for a happier ending. Stunning woodcut illustrations transform this into a thoroughly modern tale, with minimal colour (the hen is indeed red and the tree green) used to great effectiveness. 4+. CB.

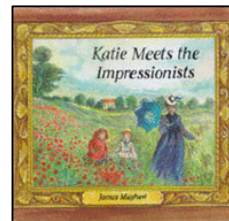
Katie Meets the Impressionists

James Mayhew

Orchard Book 1997

Hb ISBN 1860390188

Katie visits the art gallery with her grandma and, as often happens in Katie's life, she visits various paintings – this time to gather flowers for her grandmother's present. She meets Jean, Monet's son, in *the Luncheon*, a little girl in Renoir's *A Girl With a Watering Can*, and becomes a dancer in Degas' *The Blue Dancers*. Information about the artists and the artwork is included. Look out for other books starring Katie. 4+. AC.



Refugees

David Miller

Thomas Lothian 2003

Hb ISBN 9780734406330

This is a story about ducks, driven from their swampy homeland, so not what you expect from the title. But poignant and thought-provoking about what man does to the precious wildlife. David Miller's collage is to be seen to be believed! Stunning paper cutouts fill each page, making this a wonderful book to look at. Study the detail of the feathers, and grass blades! And the dog...! Wow. 4+. RT.

Creatures

Dylan Owen, Artwork by various New Zealand artists

Gecko Press 2008

Pb ISBN 9781877467073

This book is designed to be loved, with its square format and rounded corners, glossy robust pages, vibrant and intriguing artwork you want to peer at up close. The short poetic phrases matched to each image were composed by librarian Dylan Owen and children he looked at the artworks with. Included are sculpture, painting, jewellery, photography and even beaded decorations, and each features a creature of some sort. CB.



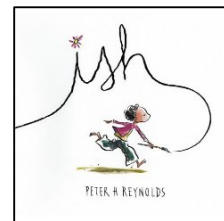
Ish

Peter Reynolds

Walker 2004

Pb ISBN 1844281590

Ramon loves to draw – anything, all the time – until his big brother laughs at his picture of a vase. Despondent, Ramon gives up his art until he finds his little sister has hung up his 'vase-ish' picture and loves it. From then on, Ramon is inspired to continue his 'ish art'. The simple illustrations enhance the text and make this a true celebration of creativity and thinking outside the lines and boxes. AC.



For 6 to 10 years

Camille and the Sunflowers

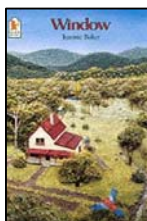
Laurence Anholt
Frances Lincoln 1995
Pb ISBN 0711210500

Camille and his father befriend the painter who has arrived in their area. The painter is Vincent Van Gogh, and his artwork is ridiculed by the populace, but Camille's father reassures Camille that someday people will come to appreciate Vincent's art. 6+. AC.

Window

Jeannie Baker
Red Fox 1992 & Walker 2002
Pb ISBN 009299182114 & 9780744594867

In this picture book the amazing artwork of Jeannie Baker shows the view through a window over time. It focuses on the changes in the local environment. A fabulous way to help children understand the impact community change makes on the natural environment. Most suited for 7+. CA.



The Waterhole

Graeme Base
Viking 2001
Hb ISBN 0670889288

An exquisite picture book for 5-10 year olds, which has much important detail in the intricate illustrations, with striking sunset silhouette borders. The countdown format is very effective. The diminishing size of the waterhole as the story progresses raises awareness of the effect of drought on the natural environment. Drought conditions are very topical, and its impact is wonderfully portrayed in this book of very few, but impassioned, words. Look very carefully at the double-page puzzle. A book to treasure and learn from. CA

Present from the Past

Jennifer Beck, illus Lindy Fisher
Scholastic NZ 2006
Pb ISBN 9781869437442

Illustrations created by using watercolour washes, graphite sketching, heavy gel structure and collage. Dedicated to women in wartime.

Christmas Eve and the family are at the airport waiting for a relative they've never met - Emily father's aunt. She has a special present for this family that would get in the morning. A small, dented, brass box to be given to Emily. Her great-aunt then tells them story behind it. During the war the Aunt's mother was a nurse in a field hospital when Princess Mary, the daughter of the King and Queen of England came visiting, bringing a gift of chocolates in small brass boxes, to the nursing staff. The story includes the dent. A lovely story based on fact. NC.



Tell Me a Picture

Quentin Blake
Frances Lincoln 2006
Pb ISBN 9781845076870

Quentin Blake, while UK Children's Laureate, worked with the National Gallery to help children learn to 'read' art and use it to inspire their own writing. The book accompanies an exhibition assembled by Blake in the National Gallery. AC.

Masterpiece

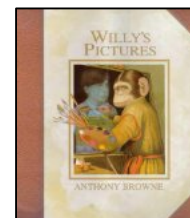
Elise Broach, illus Kelly Murphy
Henry Holt 2008
Hb ISBN 9780805082708

An art-themed mystery for confident readers featuring an adorable boy beetle, Martin, who finds he has a talent for art. His first line drawing is mistakenly credited to James, a young boy. They team up and on a trip to the Metropolitan Art Gallery a plot is hatched by the art director to use James' supposed talent to foil art thieves after an Albrecht Durer miniature. This is a great sleuthing adventure wrapped up in large doses of art appreciation. 9+. KA.

Willy's Pictures

Anthony Browne
Walker Books 2000
Hb ISBN 0744561655

Willy, star of *Willy the Wimp* and other stories, shares his favourite pictures by making changes to famous artworks. See an embarrassed Willy escaping from the female changing room in a picture inspired by Ingres' *The Turkish Bath*, or hero Willy slaying a gorilla-looking dragon in his version of Raphael's *Saint George and the Dragon*. Information about the artwork and artists is included in a fold-out flap at the back of the book. Also see Browne's *The Shape Game* for another art inspired read, and an art-based game. AC.



The Collector of Moments

Quint Buchholz, trans Peter Neumeyer
Farrar, Straus and Giroux 1999
Hb ISBN 0374315205

A young boy, nicknamed 'The Professor', plays the violin - attracting the interest of Max, the painter who lives above the boy's family. Max travels frequently, but returns with tales to share. The paintings he makes have something unusual about them, if not surreal. Well worth exploring. AC.

Joan of Art

Margaret Clark, illus Terry Denton
Puffin (Aussie Bites) 2004
Pb ISBN 0143301063

Joan is not popular at school but she is good at drawing. When the new boy in class starts to pick on her Joan is not sure what she can do. Then the art teacher asks her to enter a local art competition and Joan finds a solution to all her problems when she comes across a theme for her competition artwork. KA.



Anneli the art hater

Anne Fine
Methuen 1986/ Egmont 2007
ISBN 1405233230

Most children enjoy art at school but Anneli really hates it. However the need to raise funds for the school art room and a mysterious painting, behind a door in her own house, combine to change her mind. 8+. HB.

The Three Fishing Brothers Gruff

Ben Galbraith
Hodder Children's Books 2006
Hb ISBN 9780340893418 /
Pb ISBN 9780340893425

A superbly illustrated story with an environmental message that is a clever spin on the 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' tale. The three mean and greedy brothers Gruff have fished out and polluted Poverty Bay and now they dream of fishing in the abundant waters of the Bay of Plenty which is protected by the guardian of the sea, Minke Whale. KA.

Dinner at Magritte's

Michael Garland
Dutton Children's Books 1995
Hb ISBN 0525453369

Pierre is bored and visits his neighbour Rene Magritte. Magritte shows Pierre how he paints and introduces him to his friend Dali. Ordinary activities are given a surreal twist in this bright introduction to the surrealists and their way of looking at things. AC.



Picture Book Magic

Chris Gaskin, photos by Denis Page
Reed NZ 1996
ISBN 1869489586

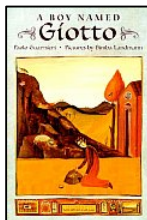
Chris Gaskin interviews nine New Zealand illustrators of children's books: Patricia Grace, Christine Ross, Gavin Bishop, Lynley Dodd, Robyn Belton, Murray Grimsdale, Trevor Pye, Bob Kerr and David Elliot. This is an in-depth look at each artist's creative approach to working on a picture book. We discover how they got started, what their childhood was like and what continues to inspire and motivate them as an artist. Contributing to the magic of this book is the generous selection of photographs and illustrations. KA.



A Boy Named Giotto

Paolo Guarnieri, illus Bimba Landmann,
trans Jonathan Galassi
Farrar Straus Giroux 1999
Hb ISBN 0374309310

A young shepherd boy is distracted from his tasks by drawing on everything he finds. His dream is to become an artist, but how can he tell his father, especially when his inattention results in a missing lamb. When he sees a beautiful painting in a procession he leaves the house to find out who made it because a painter would understand him. The painter, Cimabue, gifts him with pigments and the knowledge to make them into paints. The next day Giotto paints and paints, all ready for Cimabue to visit. Seven years later, Giotto becomes Cimabue's apprentice and soon outdoes his master. 7+. AC.



Sato and the Elephants

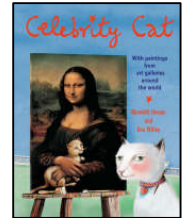
Juanita Havill, illus Jean and Mou-Sien Tseng
Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books 1993
Hb ISBN 0688111556

Sato wants to be a master ivory carver like his father. He spends all his savings on buying more ivory, but it is becoming increasingly rare. One day there is the perfect piece of ivory at the traders and, as if in a trance, Sato begins to carve. All goes well until he finds a flaw – a bullet in the ivory. Sato dreams of visiting the elephants to apologise for contributing toward their pain and deaths, and begins to study stone carving instead. 7+. AC.

Celebrity Cat

Meredith Hooper, illus Bee Willey
Frances Lincoln Children's Books 2008
Pb ISBN 9781845075989

When all the city cats gather for Cats' Visiting Night at the National Art Gallery, they are dismayed to see that so few paintings include felines. So Felissima Cat takes a paintbrush and adds them to six masterpieces in the art museums of London, Madrid, New York and Paris. The last double page reproduces the paintings and gives information about the artists and the museums where they hang. As art appreciation, the device is original and the painting images accurate, but the illustrations of the cats are not cute. They appear somewhat menacing with sinister eyes that are more human than feline. The stylized illustrations in pencil, oil pastels and acrylics add unusual details and cleverly position the added cats into the artwork. The text is sophisticated and artsy, yet easy to understand. This book is a great introduction to major art works to get children thinking about what is in paintings. 6+. TC.



Let's Get Art: Children Look at Contemporary New Zealand Art
Brad Irwin, illus John Ward Knox
Random House 2008
Hb ISBN 9781869790486

So what is contemporary art about? This stylishly produced book takes four children, shown in comic-style against a photographed background of the artworks, on a tour of a range of New Zealand art including sculpture, installation, performance, painting and photography. Author Brad Irwin, a lecturer and art educator, has used real responses from children to fill the speech bubbles. Anyone with an interest in contemporary art will find this book intriguing and it provides us with the chance to experience our own New Zealand artists, and to come to our own conclusions as to what it's all about. CB.



Charlotte in Paris

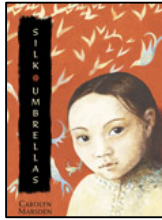
Joan MacPhail Knight, illus Melissa Sweet
Chronicle Books 2003
Hb ISBN 9780811837668

Young American Charlotte and her family are living in Paris in 1892. As her parents are artists Charlotte's days are full of meetings with other artists, like Cassatt, Renoir and Rodin. Presented in a journal form, snippets of information and examples of artwork are included. A fun exploration into this period of art history. Keep an eye out for other adventures of Charlotte. AC.

Silk Umbrellas

Carolyn Marsden
Candlewick Press 2004
ISBN 0763622575

Eleven-year-old Noi faces a future of working in a factory like her older sister as her family needs the money. She finds she has inherited her grandmother's artistic talent and can take over painting the silk umbrellas which are an important supplement to their family income. As well as a delightful account of a child learning to look with an artist's eye this short novel gives a picture of the traditional Thai way of life and how it is being affected by industrialisation. 9+. HB.



Imagine

Norman Messenger
Walker Books 2005
Hb ISBN 074459202X

A book that challenges the imagination through visual images that fold, lift and open to startle your first impression. *Imagine* is full of puzzles within and between images of a world that is not quite what it seems - chairs without legs, trees without trunks and bicycles without wheels. Stunning artwork that is intriguing, bizarre and sometimes a little bit creepy. HS.

The Only Pony

David Metzenthén, illus Judy Watson
Puffin (Aussie Nibbles) 2008
Pb ISBN 9780143303114

Bessie Swan wants to ride a pony in the countryside more than anything else in the world. The problem is her father. He's a highly-strung artist who is only interested in staying home and painting portraits. It's up to Bessie to convince her father that a day in the country and a switch to painting horses is a good idea. An engaging story for emergent readers. KA.



Children – A First Art Book

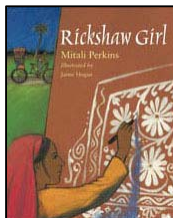
Lucy Micklethwait
Frances Lincoln Children's Books 2006/2008
Pb ISBN 9781845074999

Simple activities that children do are shown in a diverse range of artworks with a simple text beneath each picture. From reading and writing to eating and sleeping. Mainly paintings are featured, and all are old, including *Writing Lesson* (1905) by Renoir and *The Child's Bath* (1893) by Mary Cassatt. The most recent is *Little Girl with ice-Cream* (1958) by Guttuso. A gentle introduction to works of art that relate to the everyday lives of children. CB.

Rickshaw Girl

Mitali Perkins, illus Jamie Hogan
Charlesbridge 2007
Hb ISBN 978158089308

Naima is a talented painter of the Bangladeshi traditional alpna patterns decorating the family home. But she can't earn money from this and more than anything she wants to help her family. Her friend, a boy, is able to help his family by driving his father's rickshaw. When Naima takes her father's rickshaw without permission she crashes and damages the family's



only source of income. Now Naima has to help her family and the solution is a surprise. 8+. KA.

Wabi Sabi

Mark Reibstien, art by Ed Young
Little Brown & Co 2008
Hb ISBN 9780316118255

Journey with Wabi Sabi, a little cat seeking the meaning of her name. As she comes to discover the simple beauty in unexpected everyday things and in nature around her, Wabi Sabi realizes the beautiful concept of her own name. The simplicity of the prose and haiku is complemented with gentle beauty by the natural collages of Ed Young. 'The sun's last rays stretch / a silver brushstroke shivers / on warm clouded glass.' A wonderful glimpse into Japanese culture and Zen philosophy. KA.



Da Wild, Da Crazy, Da Vinci [Time Warp Trio]

Jon Scieszka, illus Adam McCauley
Viking 2004

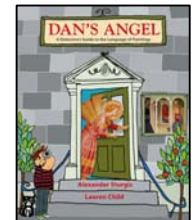
Hb ISBN 0670059269

Sam decides to hunt down the inventor of The Book (the device that enables the trio to travel through time) and they end up in 15th century Italy meeting Leonardo da Vinci. Just one teeny problem: da Vinci wants to execute them for spying on his inventions! Zany fun, with facts hidden in amongst the hilarity – just what you'd expect from a Time Warp Trio book. AC.

Dan's Angel: A Detective's Guide to the Language of Painting

Alexander Sturgis, illus Lauren Child
Frances Lincoln 2003
Pb ISBN 9780711218857

Dan wants to be a detective and likes hunting for clues with his magnifying glass. When he decides that the art gallery might have some great clues, he's not expecting an angel to step out of one of the paintings and take him on a tour of the gallery. Along the way Dan learns how to find clues in the art of various greats, like Picasso, Rembrandt and Van Gogh. AC.

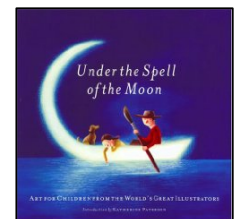


Under the Spell of the Moon: Art for Children from the World's Great Illustrators

Groundwood Books 2004

Hb ISBN 0888995598

To truly appreciate how different art traditions are, spend time pouring over this collection of art from illustrators from around the world. Some are known to the New Zealand audience, but you will be meeting others for the first time. Among the less known artists are: Květa Pacovská (Czech Republic), Angela Lago (Brazil), Jainal Amambing (Malaysia) and Ange Zhang (China). AC.



Luke's Way of Looking

Nadia Wheatley, illus Matt Ottley
Hodder Children's Book 2001
Pb ISBN 073361437X

Luke is always putting his imagination into his art to the constant exasperation of his teacher who expects his

students to paint what they see. One day Luke stumbles across the city's modern art gallery and discovers art he can relate to. Inspired, he returns to school and paints the watermelon that he sees in his mind and for once his teacher doesn't say a word. A brilliant introduction to the world of surrealism. KA.

The Three Pigs
David Wiesner
Clarion Books 2001

Hb ISBN 0618007016

A riotous journey through a children's retelling of 'The Three Pigs' as the characters break out of the illustrations and make their way through other books. The style of illustration changes, depending upon the book the pigs are visiting, and the wolf looks more and more bemused as the story continues in the traditional format. Brilliant use of white space and perspective makes this fun for all ages. AC.

For 10 to 12 years

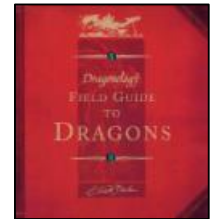
The Calder Game
Blue Balliett, illus Brett Helquist
Scholastic 2008
ISBN 9780439852074

Following on from *Chasing Vermeer* and *The Wright 3*, there is another mystery for Petra and Tommy to unravel when their friend Calder disappears on a trip to Woodstock, England with his father. Was he playing the Calder Game, based on the works of sculptor Alexander Calder's work, when he disappeared? Who is the mysterious benefactor who gifted the Minotaur sculpture to the town? Where is the sculpture now? And why is the bed and breakfast cat fishing for something yellow in the grounds of Blenheim Palace? Can their skills of deduction help them this time? 10+. KA.



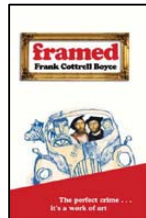
Dragonology; Field Guide to Dragons
Author Ernest Drake, illus Mr D Carrel
The Five Mile Press 2007
Hb ISBN 9781741787054

This one has 12 different dragons to make. Each on has its own small envelope, with hard cardboard pieces to construct each one. The envelopes and endpapers are marbled, each envelope a different colour). The dragons include European, frost, amphithere, wyvern, cockatrice and many more. An excellent project for nimble fingers. The stories include 'Migration' and 'Habits' as well as descriptions of each dragon. The illustrations/sketches are up to the usual standard, presented on thick old-looking paper that has been treated with cold tea perhaps? The pages also have little pockets, lift-up flaps etc all the usual things these Dragonology books have. NC.



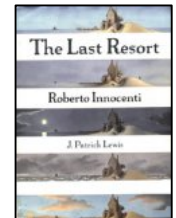
Framed
Frank Cottrell Boyce
Macmillan 2005
ISBN 9780330434256

This is a humorous novel about a Welsh boy living on the edge of a defunct slate quarry which is chosen to house the contents of the National Gallery of Art in London, following a flood. As Dylan is a fan of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles the curator mistakes him for a Renaissance art enthusiast and takes him into the quarry to view some of the art work. When Dylan persuades the curator to share some of these works of art with the local people they are inspired to improve their own surroundings – described by Philip Ardagh in his review of this book as 'the redemptive power of art.' 10+. HB.



The Last Resort
J Patrick Lewis, illus Roberto Innocenti
Jonathan Cape 2003
Hb ISBN 0224070169

Roberto Innocenti, 2008 winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration, places himself centre stage in this sophisticated picture book as an imagination-blocked artist in need of fresh inspiration. He drives his little red Renault along random roads and ends up at a remarkable seaside resort. All the other extraordinary guests seem to be seeking some form of inspiration also. KA.



Bonjour, Mr Satie
Tomie dePaola
G P Putnam's Sons 1991
Hb ISBN 0399217827

Mr Satie, a world-travelling cat, visits his niece and nephew and tells them the story of his recent time in Paris, beginning with meeting their friend Pablo at a café. From there, they are invited to Gertrude's Salon to see Pablo's art, but Henri brings his art, too! Mr Satie is appointed the judge of the art competition, because of his honest and true opinions. All the artists at the salon are listed on the backflap, but will take some working out as no surnames are given. A fun introduction to the artist world of 1920s Paris. AC.

Be Counted!: The Diary of Amy Phelps, Dunedin, 1893 [My Story series]

Janine McVeagh
Scholastic NZ 2007
Pb ISBN 9781869438371

Amy is a budding artist whose family has hit on hard times, with her father succumbing to the 'demon drink.' Amy's aunt and uncle offer her a way out of her problems if she comes and lives with them in Dunedin. While there Amy, has the opportunity to meet Frances Hodgkins. She also becomes aware of the darker side of life – including sweatshops, the rise of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the struggle for women's suffrage. AC.



The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Brian Selznick
Scholastic 2007
Hb ISBN 0439813786

This beautifully presented book is a novel that depends equally on words and pictures. Half the story is told by means of exquisite, finely detailed pencil sketches on black pages, plus stills from the silent films of Georges Méliès, a magician and the creator of 500 films including the first science-fiction film, *A Trip to the Moon*. Much of the book is based on the later life of Méliès, the rest of this mystery being invented. And what an invention it is! It tells the story of young Hugo who lives secretly in the walls of a Parisian railway station, taking care of the station clocks. A treasured notebook, a stolen key, a missing uncle, a mysterious message from his dead father and Hugo's struggle for survival all combine to make a haunting, fast-paced mystery. This book would appeal to all from middle-primary to secondary. SF.



Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception

Wendelin van Draanen
Alfred A Knopf 2003
ISBN 0375811761

On the first page of this book, Sammy Keyes, girl detective, asks 'Who knew art could be so dangerous?' Sammy has a habit of finding herself in dangerous situations and in this book her art teacher sets an assignment of checking out an art gallery and choosing an

artist to either research or interview. Sammy finds herself foiling an attempt to steal paintings at an art exhibition and ends up exposing a fraudulent artist. In the process she discovers that art is not just about pretty pictures for decoration but that your response to it makes you think about the world and broaden your outlook. 11+. HB.

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain

Peter Sís
Francis Foster Books 2007
Hb ISBN 9780374347017

Peter Sís' autobiography of an artist growing up in Prague during the Communist era is a fascinating graphic book. Glimpses of Western culture show up in full colour in stark contrast to the black and white line drawings of Soviet repression and state control of every aspect of life. From his earliest days Sís liked to draw and through his illustrations we can see how artistic freedom of self expression was discouraged by the state. KA.

Mirrorscape

Mike Wilks
Egmont 2007
Pb ISBN 9781405233491

Melkin is apprenticed to master painter Ambrosius Blenk. Awed by the art, and the colours, Melkin learns that you have to buy the Pleasure in order to have colour. And the Pleasure is controlled by the Fifth Mystery. Melkin and his friends become caught up in a power struggle between his master and the Mystery. An intriguing mystery. AC.

For Teens

The Running Man

Michael Bauer
Omnibus 2004
ISBN 186291575X

An artistically talented teenage boy has to do a portrait as a school assignment. He eventually chooses his reclusive next door neighbour. As the portrait progresses the two get to know and understand each other and during the story the answers to a number of mysteries are revealed. One of these concerns is why the running man of the title is compelled to run. He has always frightened Joseph and knowledge brings him understanding so he can overcome his fear. This thought provoking novel about how reaching out to others can help you make peace in your life won the 2005 Australian Book of the Year – Older Readers. 12+. HB.



The Beckoning Hills

Ruth Elwin Harris
Macrae 1987
Republished as *Frances' Story*
Candlewick 2002
ISBN 0744513561

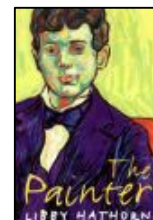
This is book two of a quartet, *Sisters of the Quantock Hills*, set at the time of World War I. Each book is told from the point of view of one of the sisters in a family of four. Frances is a talented artist who is 16 when her mother dies and she has to take charge of her sisters when all she wants to do is study art. This is a story of family relationships and a love story but

central to the book is the desire of an artist to live for her art. 13+. HB.

The Painter

Libby Hathorn
Hodder Headline
Pb ISBN 0733609120

Bernard is a gifted young French artist who dares to be different and as a result is an outcast in his art class. His life is transformed when Vincent Van Gogh arrives in Arles as they have a similar outlook on life as well as daring to be different in their painting style. 12+. HB.



The Falconer's Knot

Mary Hoffman
Bloomsbury 2007
Pb ISBN 9781599902296

Silvano, the son of a noble, is wrongly accused of murder. Until his name can be cleared, he takes refuge in a friary where he works in the colour room helping to make pigments for the artists working on frescoes in a chapel in a nearby town. He also befriends Chiara, a girl who has been placed at the neighbouring convent. She works in the convent's colour room also making pigments for the artists. A series of murders at the friary cast suspicion on Silvano. A thrilling medieval whodunit for 12+. KA.

The Second Mrs Giaconda

E L Konigsberg
Aladdin 1998
ISBN 0689821212

The identity of the *Mona Lisa* has been a source of speculation for many years and this novel tells the story, from the point of view of his servant, of how Leonardo da Vinci came to paint this famous work of art. 12+. HB.



The Wish House

Celia Rees
Young Picador 2005
Hb ISBN 0330436430

It's 1976 and Richard's 16th summer is being spent under the spell of the occupants of the Wish House in south Wales. From his first encounter with the Dalton family's bohemian lifestyle he is entranced. As Richard falls for daughter Clio, her father, a famous painter, is inspired to do a series of paintings of Richard. Full of the imagery of art, this is an emotional story of one moody summer and a boy's feelings of love and betrayal. 15+. KA.

Back & Beyond: New Zealand Painting for the Young and Curious

Gregory O'Brien
Auckland University Press 2008
Hb ISBN 9781869404048

Anyone who enjoyed *Welcome to the South Seas* will be pleased to see this new book that reaches further back into the art history of New Zealanders. The art selected goes back over two centuries and captures a sense of the imaginative and unexpected. The introduction explores this search for adventure and travel 'between the realm of the imagination and the everyday world we live in.' Alongside each art work there is information about the artist, the content of their work and often drawings many will recognize from early school journals. There is a huge range of paintings, prints, drawings, photographs and sculpture featured and an inspiring 'Things to do now' section at the back to spark your own artistic activities. A fantastic book for anyone young and curious interested in New Zealand art. HS & CB.

Welcome to the South Seas: Contemporary New Zealand Art for Young People

Gregory O'Brien
Auckland University Press 2004
Hb ISBN 1869403282

O'Brien makes present day New Zealand art come alive and accessible by discussing the possible inspirations and explanations for a wide variety of art styles. From sculpture to installation art to ceramics and paintings he probes and questions and turns the experience of viewing art into a creative process. KA.

The Ink-Keeper's Apprentice

Allen Say
Harper & Row 1979 / Puffin 1996 / Houghton Mifflin 2006
ISBNs 0060252081 / 014037826X / 9780395705629
Based upon Say's own experience, this is the tale of Kiyoi, apprenticed to one of Japan's most famous cartoonists. It is also a tale of life in post-war Japan. Offered the chance to go to America, Kiyoi has some difficult decisions to make. AC.

The Lost Thing

Shaun Tan
Lothian Books 2000
ISBN 0734403887

Here's a skill – trying to discern what's relevant info from the illustrations. From the end papers with the bottle-tops that have small segments of scientific data on them. Then the story that seems to be written/hand-printed on scraps of note-paper. There are painted pictures to illustrate the story proper which is about accepting the differences in others, although this is open to opinion. As with all of Tan's work there is a moral. After hearing one older teen dismiss his *Red Tree* as 'just a picture book' I would recommend this and others of this genre for sophisticated, older readers. NC.

For Adults

Selected books about children's illustrations and illustrators:

- Artist to Artist: 28 Major Illustrators Talk to Children about Their Art.* Philomel Books 2007
The Authors and Illustrators Scrapbook: Featuring 24 Creators of Australian Children's Books. Omnibus Books 1991 ISBN
Wings of an Artist: Children's Book Illustrators Talk About Their Art introduction by Julie Cummins, activity guide by Barbara Kiefer. Harry N Abrams 1999
Show and Tell: Exploring the Fine Art of Children's Book Illustration by Dilys Evans. Chronicle Books 2008
The Telling Line: Essays of Fifteen Contemporary Book Illustrators by Douglas Martin. J MacRae 1989
A Caldecott Celebration: Seven Artists and Their Paths to the Caldecott Medal by Leonard S Marcus. Walker 2008
Ways of Telling: Conversations on the Art of the Picture Book by Leonard S Marcus. Dutton Children's Books 2002
A Treasury of the Great Children's Book Illustrators by Susan E Meyer. Harry N Abrams 1983
Children's Book Covers: Great Book Jacket and Cover Design by Alan Powers. Mitchell Beazley 2003
Illustrating Children's Books: Creating Pictures for Publication by Martin Salisbury. Allen & Unwin 2004
Play Pen: New Children's Book Illustration by Martin Salisbury. Laurence King Publishing 2007
The Art of Graeme Base by Julie Watts. Viking 2008
Words and Pictures by Quentin Blake. Jonathan Cape 2000
The Art of Eric Carle. Philomel Books 1996
A Life Drawing: Recollections of an Illustrator by Shirley Hughes. Bodley Head 2002
Pictures Telling Stories: The Art of Robert Ingpen by Sarah Mayor Cox. Lothian 2004
Charles Keeping: An Illustrator's Life by Douglas Martin. Julia MacRae Books 1993
The Art of Maurice Sendak by Selma G Lanes. Bodley Head/Abrams 1980
The Art of Maurice Sendak: 1980 to Present by Tony Kushner. Harry N Abrams 2003