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Art Smart - Traci Bunkers and others

Publisher: A QED book distributed by New Holland Publishers

RRP \$24.99

An inspirational book packed with ideas for creative kids who like to experiment with art and materials. Four main artistic skills form the base of the suggested activities: painting, drawing, printing and textiles.

The 48 projects are accompanied by detailed instructions on how to make a variety of art objects. Colourful step-by-step diagrams guide the young artists along the way. Photographs of finished projects show what the outcome may look like, or how to use the suggestions as a springboard for individual design. Each project is given a 'degree of difficulty' grading which allows younger children to start at an achievable level and progress with confidence to more intricate tasks.

Boys and girls will find equal appeal in making cool stickers, musical fingerprint doodles, and spiral art. Frottage or rubbing with various textured materials offers endless fun. Decorative art can be added to an unlimited range of surfaces, even shoes. While print-making opens up many creative possibilities.

Materials can be inexpensive, and many may be found around the home. A techniques and materials section is a helpful 'how-to' addition showing basic skills with pencils, paints, printing and textiles.

Art Smart is a well-designed, hardback book compiled by experienced artists and art teachers. It's an excellent resource for adults and young people to explore for imaginative ideas.

**Reviewed by children's book author
Jean Bennett**

