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The New Zealand Art Activity Book: 100+ ideas for creative kids – Helen Lloyd

Publisher: Te Papa Press

RRP \$29.99

Over 100 inspirational ideas introduce the creative art process in a fun and encouraging way. Youngsters are invited to get out their pencils and see what happens when they follow the flow of their imaginations.

The generous-size, scrapbook style has copious space for kids to draw, doodle and decorate the pages with their own ideas. Suggested activities are interspersed with illustrations of artworks from Te Papa's collections. These paintings and sculptures are a springboard for young artists to express their own interpretation of what they see around them.

The 'big picture' is reduced to manageable proportions by focusing on the view from a window, or through binoculars, drawing an object that can be held in the hand, or zooming in on objects with a magnifying glass. Different ways to look at the world are explored through shadows, reflections, shapes, and silhouettes. The inner world is investigated by drawing a dream, using colours to describe emotions, creating free-flow patterns, or turning thoughts into pictures.

Tricky techniques, such as perspective and facial proportions, are simplified with examples and exercises. The art activities are unique and ingenious. All that's needed is to supply the kids with coloured pencils, then stand back and watch as their works of art take shape.

Quotes by artists give a glimpse into their work processes. Judy Millar's words will appeal to inquiring young minds: "Painting is a way of finding things out ... that's why I think a painting is never complete."

An excellent resource for teachers, parents and budding artists - made in NZ.

Reviewed by children's book author Jean Bennett

**Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
website: www.tepapa.govt.nz**

