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Express Yourself! Activities and Adventures in Expressionism

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Raimondo, Joyce. *Express Yourself! Activities and Adventures in Expressionism*. Watson-Guptill, 2005. ISBN 0823025063. \$12.95. 48 pp.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Art--Expressionism--Juvenile Literature; Books--Reviews;

Joyce Raimondo uses the works of six artists to teach young readers about Expressionism. She devotes one chapter each to Edvard Munch, Vincent van Gogh, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Vasily Kandinsky, Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock. Each chapter highlights several of the artist's most important works and explains what makes them stand out. Two things are especially pleasing about this book. First, Raimondo includes a set of questions designed to foster creative thinking and understanding of art. She invites readers to compare and contrast the various works. Second, each chapter includes two art projects designed to encourage children to create a work in the style of the artist using media from watercolor paints to clay. Each project is designed to accomplish a certain goal such as expressing emotion by using line and color or painting something that frightens you. Additionally, there are introductory sections for adults and children explaining what expressionism is and how the book can be helpful in understanding it. The text is lively and passionate about art. Useful art terms are highlighted in bold. There are a total of 25 activities and 100 full color photographs. Raimondo also includes a short biography of each artist.