The Jumbo Book of Art

Margaret Manchak

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Reviewer: Margaret Manchak  
Reading Level: All;  
Rating: Excellent;  
Genre: Nonfiction;  
Subject: Art --Juvenile literature; Technique -- Juvenile literature;

The *Jumbo Book of Art* is filled with fun craft ideas for kids. Some particularly excellent ideas include “Artistic Assemblage,” which consists of taking household objects and arranging them in an artistic way. Part of the creative spark is in the great example Illustrations: what can you do with an old cigar box, a light bulb, some magazine cut-outs, and paint? There are many clever and easy projects for children and parents will be inspired by fun possibilities. Having said this, *The Jumbo Book of Art* would be more aptly titled *The Jumbo Book of Crafts*, because that is the vast majority of the content. When the book does foray into more traditional art projects, it is at its weakest. It does not (and cannot within the scope of the book) adequately teach vanishing points, dimensions, shading, or portraiture; and a child given these particular tasks will be quickly frustrated or disappointed. And although the format and layout design indicates that this is a book to be read and executed by children, it is more accurately a book for adults to use in creating fun projects for children.

Overall, Luxbacher has assembled a large number of high quality and truly fresh ideas for children’s projects.