2010

Art Max

Ruth-Anne Brown

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Brown, Ruth-Anne (2010) "Art Max," Children's Book and Media Review: Vol. 31 : Iss. 4 , Article 1. Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol31/iss4/1

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Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown  
Reading level: Preschool, primary  
Rating: Excellent  
Genre: Informative; Fiction  
Subject: Artists--Juvenile fiction; Artists' material--Juvenile fiction; Painting--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Max, a young lizard wants the chance to be an artist like Arthur. Arthur feels guilty after his first rejection and reluctantly lets Max paint with him. Max gets painter’s block and asks Arthur for advice. Arthur conceitedly suggests Max paint him. Max obliges and literally puts paint on Arthur which infuriates the seasoned artist. Arthur cracks and bursts through the thick layer of paint. Thick pieces of his textured skin fly away leaving Arthur a colorful blob. After a fan blows at Arthur and water washes the remainder of him away, nothing remains of Arthur to be seen. It is up to Max to recreate a new and improved Arthur.

Pastel, watercolor, and Indian ink illustrations depict a desert landscape to contrast the vivid lizards and their paintings. Young children will be able to read this simple text. The story begins with large print accompanied by detailed illustrations then tapers to almost all pictures. Parents and kids will love to view this book about persistent creativity.

Volume 31, no. 4 (March/April 2011)