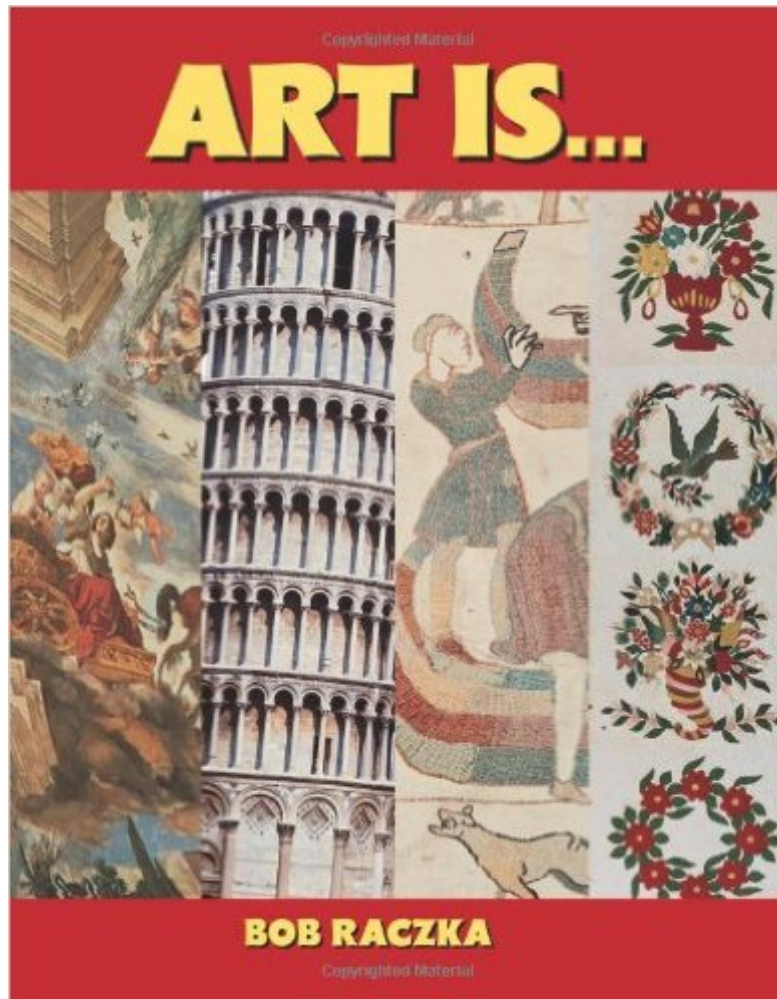


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# Art Is... (Bob Raczka's Art Adventures)



## Synopsis

Rhyming text and photographs show that art is much more than just what can be hung on a wall or set on a pedestal.

## Book Information

Series: Bob Raczka's Art Adventures

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Millbrook Press (May 7, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761318321

ISBN-13: 978-0761318323

Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 0.3 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #87,375 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Sculpture #31 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > History

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

## Customer Reviews

I have been looking for simple books to introduce my preschooler to Art (with a capital A). Most kids in preschool have plenty of opportunities to express their creativity in craft projects, but explaining "Art" to a child is daunting. This book is a fantastic starting point. It features brief, rhyming statements about what "Art is." Each page features a different form of visual art from sculpture to painting to textiles to folk art to architecture to monumental pieces. Styles range all over the map, and many examples are by well-known artists. They have chosen pieces that are eye-catching for a toddler or young child. My son is 4 and actually resisted looking at the book at first because of the very "grown up" looking cover, but once he saw the first page with the op-art piece "Fall," he was hooked. This is a wonderful picture book, best read aloud by an enthusiastic parent or caregiver. I love that it shows a wide range of art forms. It can help expand a child's horizons and encourage exploration and creativity. In addition to being a good discussion starter, the book can be the basis for games like looking for art in the places you visit and in the books you read. Best of all, it's a lot of fun to read.

I saw this book recommended by another art teacher. Since school is getting ready to start again I thought it would be nice to pick this up to read to the little ones on the first day of school. the book is very simple and really goes with the theme I like to introduce in the beginning of the year. I like to reiterate that art is everywhere and comes in innumerable forms. I am happy with this book and cant wait to try it out in class. It is full of great pictures of many different types of art work.

As an Elementary Art Teacher (K-5) this is one of my go-to books every year. It is simple and can be tailored to many different lesson plans and intents. I use it at the beginning of the year as a general introduction and overview about all the things that "art is." The language is very simple, so don't expect to find a lot of content. Pages read as such: "Art is lines." "Art is shapes." "Art is a face made with apples and grapes." Each page features one "Art is" sentence and one picture of art from around the world and in a variety of styles and mediums. I spend more time focusing on some pages than others. Personally I enjoy the simplicity because I can extend it as much as I'd like, or zip through it in less than 5 minutes. When you're working within a 45 minute period and with a variety of ages it's nice to have a book I can use with multiple classes/grades and adapt to the content I want to focus on. I use the book like this: I have my classes sit on the carpet and I read through it. I stop and ask questions along the way. With Jasper Johns' work, Zero Through Nine, I ask students to raise their hand if they see a hidden number and talk about how art relates to all the other subjects - even math! With Pablo Picasso's work, Bull's Head, I explain that art can be made out of ANYTHING - even an old bicycle and that you don't have to have fancy paints at home to make art. etc. etc. etc. With my 3-5 grade students I have them create a list of "art is" statements and put them up on the wall to reinforce reading/writing concepts. All around, I think this is a great book for classroom use. It has big, bright pictures and simple sentences (one of each per page). Each work is also labeled with a full caption including artist's name, title, date, and location. There are 3 pages of notes in the back that add an extra tid-bit of info for each work. A simple read with big pictures - I love it!

I use this book because a friend/teacher of art integration recommended it. It is a great way to broaden the scope of what students consider Art to be. It helps them get away from the "art is a picture in the museum" idea. Not only that, it has some fascinating things in it. I recently saw another type (much thicker) in an art museum gift shop. I do like the size of this. I scanned it and made a power point out of it as I read it to my class. Very effective.

This is a great book. In fact, all of Bob Raczka's books are excellent! I wish he would put them into a single volume that could be ordered as a textbook for entry level art courses. They are aimed at children but older students with limited or no experience would benefit from these and a single volume would be fantastic!

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