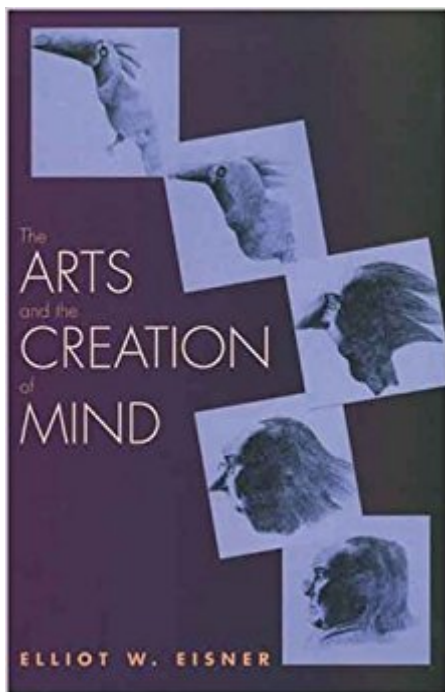


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# The Arts And The Creation Of Mind



## Synopsis

Although the arts are often thought to be closer to the rim of education than to its core, they are, surprisingly, critically important means for developing complex and subtle aspects of the mind, argues Elliot Eisner in this engrossing book. In it he describes how various forms of thinking are evoked, developed, and refined through the arts. These forms of thinking, Eisner argues, are more helpful in dealing with the ambiguities and uncertainties of daily life than are the formally structured curricula that are employed today in schools. Offering a rich array of examples, Eisner describes different approaches to the teaching of the arts and the virtues each possesses when well taught. He discusses especially nettlesome issues pertaining to the evaluation of performance in the arts. Perhaps most important, Eisner provides a fresh and admittedly iconoclastic perspective on what the arts can contribute to education, namely a new vision of both its aims and its means. This new perspective, Eisner argues, is especially important today, a time at which mechanistic forms of technical rationality often dominate our thinking about the conduct and assessment of education.

## Book Information

Paperback: 280 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; New edition edition (September 10, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300105118

ISBN-13: 978-0300105117

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6.2 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #55,455 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in [Books > Arts & Photography](#)

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## Customer Reviews

In this eloquent book, Eisner (education & art, Stanford) presents strong arguments for the inclusion of aesthetics as a core element of the school curriculum for all children. Eisner's work in this area is not as well known as Howard Gardner's (e.g., *Frames of Mind*; *Intelligence Reframed*), but since the 1960s he has been steadily promoting the ideal of diverse curricular emphases, including arts education. By analyzing student artwork as well as vignettes of good teaching, Eisner delves into

both the theoretical (often citing John Dewey, Bruner, and Lev Vygotsky) and the practical applications of his insights. He firmly addresses assessment and evaluation in the arts, proposing a shift from the evaluation of outcomes to the evaluation of process. He also recommends an ongoing practice of criticism, engaged in by students and teachers together in the classroom, with the intention of improving both student work and programs of instruction. This persuasive work is recommended for academic and large public libraries. Jean Caspers, Linfield Coll. Lib., McMinnville, OR Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Eloquent." -- Library Journal

I read this book for a graduate class, but it was likely one I would have read for my own enlightenment as well. Eisner takes a much more holistic view of education and teaching in this tome, and offers perhaps an alternative to those who would reduce our profession to just test scores and numerical data. "Education is the process of learning how to invent yourself," writes Eisner. It is a much more than inputs and outputs. Eisner calls education a "mind-altering device" and with that, education becomes something that transforms lives, not just test scores. This book is a must read for educators looking for a different perspective of teaching and education that has a basis in arts education. Powerful as well as transforming!

As an art teacher I know that art is essential in life and in schools. In fact, it has always felt so obvious that I was sometimes tongue-tied when I tried to explain it to friends and family. Eisner puts words and critical thinking to what I have experienced as a teacher, and I am a better advocate for the arts in education having read this book. The Arts and the Creation of Mind was part of my assigned reading for grad school, and I have kept it close ever since. Highly recommend for anyone who teaches art and wishes to advocate for it in schools and beyond.

Fantastic book that clearly explains why the arts need to be included in all education -- without the arts it is hard to learn how to think critically -- among many other abilities.

A great book for instructors of the visual arts!

SUPER book. It's an excellent read for educators.

GOOD!!! VERY AMAZING

So good I bought another copy to give to a friend.

This is an awesome item!!!

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