

# A Short Walk Around the Pyramids & Through the World of Art

By Philip M. Isaacson

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**A Short Walk Around the Pyramids & Through the World of Art** By Philip M. Isaacson

**For art lovers and novices, the perfect introduction to the world of art in all its varied forms.**

What do you consider a work of art? Is it a painting, a photograph, a sculpture? Or can it be so much more? Philip Isaacson, the author of *Round Buildings*, *Square Buildings* & *Buildings That Wiggle Like a Fish*, explores the world of art and history and creates the perfect introduction for young readers to learn about the complex subject. With clear prose, Isaacson discusses abstract versus realism, the links between tribal art and modern sculpture, the use of color, and why some everyday objects and even cities can be considered art. A Common Core Appendix B Text Exemplar Selection, Philip M. Isaacson's guide will inform as well as inspire. Includes full color photographs.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Exuding a sincere appreciation for the emotional impact of art, Isaacson's vividly eclectic tour from the pyramids to a magically photographed New York City forms an outstanding introduction to the rewards of looking at art. More than 70 beautifully presented examples acquaint readers with painting, sculpture, crafts, industrial design, photography and city planning--from Elgin Marble fragments to a Shaker village in Maine, from a Jackson Pollack drip painting to a Peruvian poncho. Simple but eloquent descriptions touch on color, form and the power of art to communicate across both centuries and cultures. The graceful layout allows ample opportunity for reflection stimulated by Isaacson's gentle observations on the links between a West African tribal funerary figure and a Jacques Lipchitz bronze, or on the sinuous harmony of a Karmann Ghia automobile photographed in front of the Guggenheim Museum. "Art will make our hearts leap," he writes, and proves it on every page. Ages 8-12.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Once again, the author of *Round Buildings, Square Buildings, and Buildings That Wiggle Like a Fish* (1988) informs eye and mind with his lucid, intelligent approach to the visual arts. Here, he ranges from ancient structures through classical painting and sculpture to contemporary crafts--all in a logical progression from pure form to schematic and literal representation and to the impact of color and style on how images are perceived. His demonstration of the difference between photographs as simple records of the visual world and as art is admirably effective (the Taj Mahal is a work of art, for instance, but a photo of it usually isn't). Chapters on "Useful Things," made handsome by the way their form follows function, and on communities--from traditional villages to a modern city--where architectural motifs are particularly harmonious, well integrated, and appropriate, are especially fascinating. The author (a Maine attorney and art critic) makes a splendid guide; his examples are a personal selection, some well known and some unfamiliar but all shrewdly chosen to illuminate ideas that could well spark a lifelong interest in art. (Many of Isaacson's own photos, more than two-thirds of the 84 color images here, are superb.) Beautiful, imaginative, and richly provocative. Notes on the art; index. (Nonfiction. 9+) -- *Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

"Beautiful, imaginative, and richly provocative."--(starred) *Kirkus*.

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**Lisa Madruga:**

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