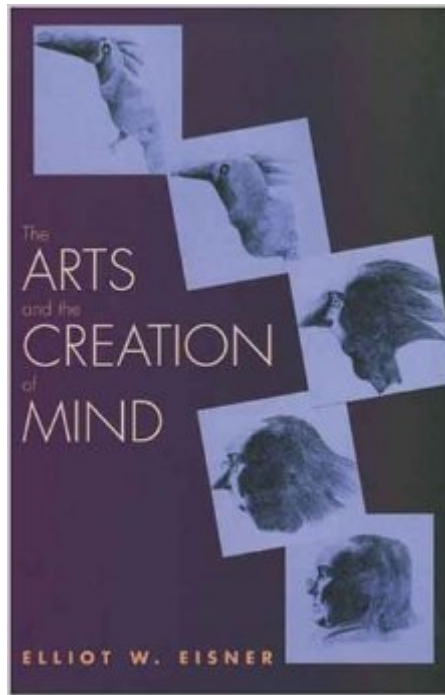


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# The Arts And The Creation Of Mind



## 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

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## Customer Reviews

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!

Elliot Eisner has written a wonderful book about why arts are important for education- not as a supplement but as a way to learn. Recommended for anyone teaching children!

If you are an Art Educator this is a MUST HAVE book! Period! Eisner was a pioneer and staunch advocate for the the promotion of the arts in schools today. The book is excellent! Yes it is academic in form but if you want to be or are an art teacher you have no excuse not to have this book in my opinion. Eisner is articulate and if you work in a school where administrators want to marginalize the arts, which is often, this book will help visual arts instructors combat negative stereotypes and attitudes about the role of art in schools. Another book I would get with this is Eisner's book "The Kind of Schools We Need: Personal Essays" where he shares experiences as an art teacher and again explains the important need to advocate the arts in the schools! If you think art matters get this book!

I know that this is one of the classic texts defending the need for a well-rounded arts education, but it's a bore. I am an art teacher and genuinely support the message of this text, but found it a challenging, dull, long read. The book is redundant and a bit difficult to follow. The author seems more interested in using academic jargon than defending the role of the arts in the development of the mind. This is a text that I will hang onto as a reference guide, but it is definitely not a text I found enjoyable to read.

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.

I canceled my order for those books, someone gave me the books I needed for my courses. I was told to keep the Alpers book. I passed it on to another person in my class she was grateful. I never received the Eisner book and assume it was canceled before shipped. Thanks

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