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Illustration School: Let's Draw Cute Animals



Synopsis

Created by one of Japan's most popular artists, this book provides detailed and complete instruction for illustrating fun and appealing characters and elements that celebrate life. The author's special and distinct style is simple, appealing, happy, and cute and offers artists, crafters, and art enthusiasts "with and without experience" the instruction and inspiration to draw in the Japanese character style. This book is for artists and crafters of all skill levels that want to bring their own illustration to their work. It offers both entertaining and fun drawing instruction and techniques along with inspiring and sweet unique-style characters and elements.

Book Information

Series: Illustration School

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Quarry Books; 1st Edition edition (October 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159253645X

ISBN-13: 978-1592536450

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (67 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #62,160 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in [Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Themes > Plants & Animals](#) #57 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Drawing > Cartooning](#) #1542 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies](#)

Customer Reviews

I was looking for a book to help me with simple illustration and I've found that the "Illustration School" series is PERFECT. I've taken a zillion drawing classes but I just wanted something much simpler- a guide to illustration that didn't focus on the "heavy" stuff, like perspective or shading or any of that good stuff but still captured the essence of flowers and trees without being too cartoon-like. I do a lot of art journaling and mixed media work and I wanted to incorporate sketches from my garden without them being too fussy or representational, if that makes any sense. This is the *perfect* book for that. Sachiko Umoto's illustrations are gorgeous, and completely evocative of each thing she illustrates but they are *really* easy to sit down and do. Both my daughter (who is seven) and I (not seven) love this book and refer to it. Don't be fooled by the size- there is SO much in this book. It works as a starting point for other illustration- because each of the drawing has about

six or seven step-outs, you can use your own creativity to take the drawings in other directions from any step. I love the size and the presentation of the book, too- it's about the size of a small journal, and the cover is a cream-colored thick stock with an embossed texture. The pages inside are a creamy white textured paper, as well. It would make a wonderful gift, along with a small pack of colored pencils or Micron pens and a small journal. But I am absolutely keeping my copy for my own use, and I can tell it's going to be a much loved part of my library. I can't recommend this enough!

I was initially drawn to this book because of the adorable animals both on the cover and inside the book. I'm not a drawing expert, but this book had me producing surprisingly good animals right away! But before she gets into the animals, she tells you, step-by-step, her process in drawing. This helps you understand an easy way to tackle these animals immediately, which is not just extremely helpful, but the author makes you feel like she's right there with you, cheering you on. The author also breaks down each animal into individual steps, complete with adorable sing-song prose that often provides visual cues to help you understand the right shapes to draw (for example, half of a doughnut for a bear's ears). Plus, I think this book is easy enough to grasp that a child (maybe even around 10 years old) could possibly pick this up with great results.

I bought the three books available in this series: *Illustration School: Let's Draw Plants and Small Creatures*, *Illustration School: Let's Draw Cute Animals* and *Illustration School: Let's Draw Happy People*. I can recommend all of them and am posting this same review for all three books. While these books may be targeted at children, I think adults can enjoy them as well. There's a lyrical way to which the drawings are taught. There isn't a big focus on the minute details of getting things right. Instead, the focus is on encouraging the reader to just get into doodling. That, there are no wrong strokes. The illustrations are fun and the paper of high quality. I enjoy touching this book as much as I enjoy looking it. As to whether I have become a master doodler because of these books? Not quite yet.

This is the second *Illustration School* book that I have purchased. I love the cute stories that go along with the drawings and the encouraging tone of the writing. I find Japanese illustration pleasing to the eye with its cute characters and simple designs and this book is no exception. The author/illustrator does an excellent job of showing that everyone can add personalized drawings to cards and letters with a few simple tools and a fun attitude!

This little book has gotten a lot of interest at our house. I originally found this book in an art store. It was so well-received I bought the other two. We can't wait till her new book comes out. I brought this on a long plane trip I was taking with my then 8 year old daughter and a bunch of colored pens. She sat for hours drawing the little animals. She enjoyed it so much I started drawing as well. Well, it's two years later and she still draws animals from this book. When her friends come over, they sometimes each take a book and a drawing pad and spend hours drawing. The little animals really are so cute and the author makes it so easy.

I love this book. I wanted to learn how to draw animals for my graphic design. This book has not only drawing examples but practice guide. The drawings in the book are so cute.

I am a big doodler, but sometimes I find myself in a rut. This adorable book is not only helpful, but also easy to navigate. I was surprised at how much more I learned about simple facial expressions and animals I didn't think I could draw. I highly recommend it!

I'm an adult who is trying to figure out some basics about illustrating. I've bought several books, including some on cartooning, and this is one of my favorites. My drawings look like the ones in the book, it's easy, and the results are very satisfying. Can't wait to share this with my favorite little girl once she gets just a little older. Bravo.

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