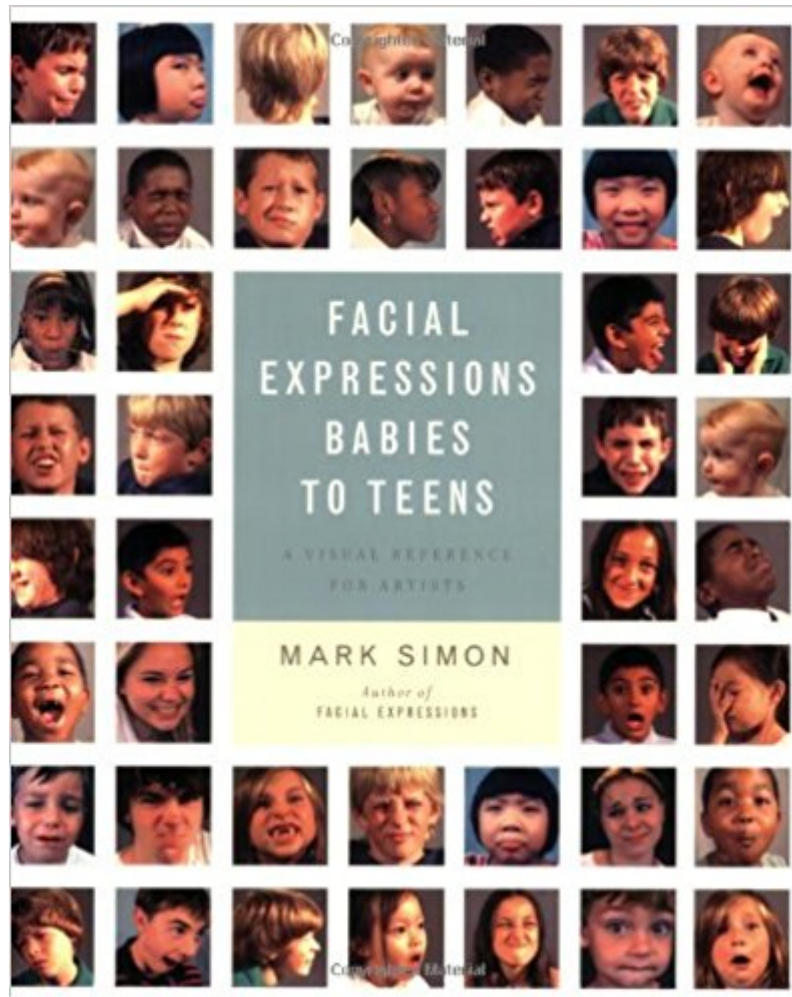


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Facial Expressions Babies To Teens: A Visual Reference For Artists



Synopsis

Babies are so unpredictable. You put them down in one place, you never know if they'll be there when you come back. And don't even get us started on kids and teens. Artists have it particularly rough with volatile young people, because their facial expressions are just as fleeting. Happy one minute, sad the next. Puzzled for a second, then astounded. Facial Expressions Babies to Teens solves the artists' problems with a dazzling array of more than 2,500 photographs of fifty babies, kids, and teens demonstrating every human emotion through facial expression. Artists, animators, cartoonists - everyone who needs to capture any look from babyhood to age 19 must have a copy of this fascinating reference. With extra sections on anatomy, hats, and close-ups of phonemes, plus a remarkable age-progression gallery, Facial Expressions Babies to Teens is the only book an artist can really depend on. And we promise it will stay right where you put it, every time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These books by Mark Simon are great for cartooning or caricature study. The only problem I see is if you are looking for reference to use in more realistic images or trying to learn the proportions of the face. The images all have a slight 'fish-eye' distortion which makes them unsuitable for realistic work. The fish-eye effect pulls the center of the image forward and makes it larger and flattens the edges and makes them recede. This distortion also adds age to the subject so be aware that the kids pictures might not seem to agree with the listed age. This is really noticeable in the front view.

Kids have small faces and features inside big heads, that's what makes them so cute, but when you distort the face like this it makes the face bigger relative to the head and ages them. I'd caution artists who are learning how to draw the face to not try to copy these images exactly as you'll end up with a slight distortion in your realistic work that may be difficult to change later on (if you ever even notice what the problem is). To learn expressions and how the forms of the face connect these books are real good but I think the choice to get in close with the camera to really emphasize the expression was a bad idea from an artist's standpoint, especially for these young faces. From a sales standpoint maybe it works better to get customers attention with the exaggerated pictures. I'm writing this review because when I saw the 1st book I thought it would be really useful but it turns out I need more realistic reference. So I'm hoping the author reads this and considers my opinion, maybe for future products because I'd really like to use these books and recommend them to students.

I am an illustrator and thought this book would help me with the drawing of facial expression, especially with children. Unfortunately, I am disappointed that too many of the expressions photographed in the book are not realistic: the children make faces, they obviously had much fun during the shoot but very few of the photos are useful at all. I was hoping for more photos of faces expressing actual human emotions, not open mouth and grimacing faces. The book seems better for people drawing caricatures or possibly cartoons, but not very useful for realistic picture books. A positive however: the age progression gallery at the end of the book is of interest. Finally, the book is VERY POORLY MADE and the binding came apart with two days of actually using the book.

I own both Facial Expression books by Mr. Simon and for such a popular series you'd think they'd invest in a better photographer or a better camera. A lot of the photos, especially in this edition are very blurry and grainy. Though you don't need super well-taken photos to capture someone's facial expression it would have been nice if they would have upped the quality in this edition. I imagine it is difficult to direct children, but a lot of the expressions used were very similar too. This version has about the same amount of photos as the last, but they are a bit larger. I believe they made this change because one page after each person captured wasn't reserved for an illustration. This was a welcome change for me because a lot of the artists used in the previous book did sub-par work and some only re-drew the photograph of the person without applying the facial expression to something less obvious like an object or a fictional character. Overall, my satisfaction with this book is mixed. The first edition was far better because of the image quality, but it is nice to have references of

children's expressions. Having little books to compare these 2 to, I had to give this 3 stars.

Maybe 3-1/2 stars. I actually prefer color photos on white paper, but this black & white reference is reasonably well done. It's very similar to Simon's other book *Facial Expressions: A Visual Reference for Artists*, except with an age range of 3 weeks(!) to teens about 19. As with his other book, many of these expressions are extremely forced and odd, but it's great to see so many angles, ethnicities, genders and ages represented. There aren't many books like this right now. It's also somewhat of a personal book, in that the author's family is represented in pictures depicting their entire lives, from earliest photos til now, in order to show general age progression in people. A number of pictures are slightly blurry, but most pics in this book are crystal clear (or close to it). There's also 10 pages of kids wearing different styles of hats & headgear, to make this a more well-rounded presentation. Maybe this would be a better book with more average facial expressions. Maybe color would be better, but black & white keeps this cost-effective. I'd still get Simon's photo reference guides while they're still in print. Many expressions books like this tend to disappear after a while. (Or at least they used to...).

I really like this book and I have already found it VERY useful...HOWEVER, it would be nice to purchase a book that does not fall apart four days after you get it...!!!! As a book designer it drives me crazy when books are poorly constructed. It's an easy problem fix at the publishing house....so, please do. It's a shame too...really good book otherwise. J.

The book itself is fantastic and holds loads of reference pictures that any artist could find useful, but the plastic cover more or less fell off of the binding after just a week. Still usable and still able to hold all of the pages together, but the cover is more of a protective sleeve than an actual book cover.

This is a great book for reference for artists and illustrators. There is no text, only photos and some characterizations of children from babies to teens of all nationalities and races. Such a great idea for a quick reference guide. It is very handy and well worth the price.

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