

Beloit Daily News
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Every once in a while you read about a newly discovered child prodigy in the world of art. I'm talking about the eight-year old who paints something amazing and sells it for thousands of dollars. Or the ten-year old who sculpts exact replicas of the *Venus de Milo* and Rodin's *The Thinker*. There are also some very famous artists who started their careers as children, like Pablo Picasso (age 9), Claude Monet (age 11), and Dutch painter, Jan Lievens (age 12), just to name a few.

I, on the other hand, don't have an artistic bone in my body. I have kept some of my "artwork" from when I was a child, and let's just say that none of it will ever end up in a museum. A three-fingers-on-each-hand stick figure with eyes in the middle of the forehead and droopy ears does not an artist make. Hanging on the refrigerator in Mom and Dad's kitchen? Maybe. Prominently exhibited at The Louvre in Paris? Probably not.

For the next several weeks, through the end of May, the Beloit Public Library will be showcasing some remarkable pieces of art created by Kindergarteners, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders from the School District of Beloit. Now is your chance to stop in to visit the display in the Children's Area to see if you can pick out the next Georgia O'Keeffe, Jackson Pollack, or Frida Kahlo.

In the meantime, visit us online at www.beloitlibrary.org, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and be sure to check out these books coming soon to your Beloit Public Library:

The Art of Spray Paint: Inspirations and Techniques from Masters of Aerosol by Lori Zimmer. Much more than a book about "cool" spray paint designs, Lori Zimmer guides you through amazing large-scale art production, immersive environments, working from intuition, collaboration, the artist's role in society, alternative creative economies, contemporary mythology, storytelling, DIY projects and more. (Book Description)

Happy Little Accidents: The Wit and Wisdom of Bob Ross by Bob Ross and Michelle Witte. Bob Ross, the soft-spoken artist painting happy clouds, mountains, and trees has captivated us for years with the magic that takes place on his canvas in twenty-six television minutes—all while dispensing little branches of wisdom. His style and encouraging words are a form of therapy for the weary, but with Bob it is always about more than painting. There is a hidden depth within his easy chatter, another layer to everything he says. When he talks about painting, he's using it as a metaphor for life! (Book Description)

My Book of Beautiful Oops!: A Scribble It, Smear It, Fold It, Tear It Journal for Young Artists by Barney Saltzberg. My Beautiful Book of Oops! champions imagination, play, and the courage to express oneself. It's about self-forgiveness, about turning off that inner critic that clamors for perfection. And it's about freedom—the freedom to be creative and follow your curiosity wherever it goes. That's a lesson to celebrate. (Book Description)