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Elements in Child Development

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THE CHILD AS VISUAL ARTIST

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The Child as Visual Artist

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Abstract: This Element focuses on the development of drawing (and painting) in childhood. The authors begin by examining children's representational drawing, a topic that has received wide attention from the nineteenth century onward. They then turn to issues that have received far less attention. They discuss the aesthetic property of expression, weighing the claim that young children's highly expressive drawings bear an affinity to twentieth-century modernist art. They then examine the *function* of drawing for children's emotional development.

Next, looking at art prodigies, they turn to the *how* of drawing, considering the relation of drawing talent to IQ and to visual-spatial skills. Finally, they consider the relation between development and education in art and how educators can best nurture children's artistic development.

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/winner

Keywords: drawing, visual art, representation, expression, aesthetic

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