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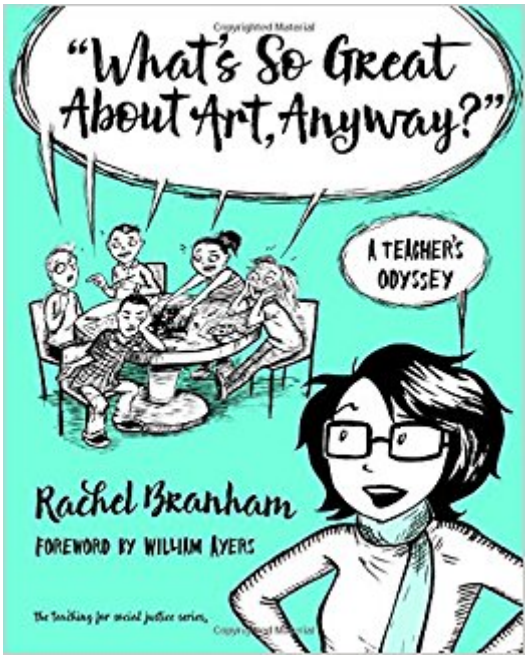
"What's So Great About Art, Anyway?" (Teaching For Social Justice)



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Synopsis

Inviting readers to examine schools and teaching with a critical lens, this visually and conceptually captivating graphic novel advocates for arts education in schools. At the center of this work is the author's memoir as a young high school art teacher in the public school system. Through engaging (and frequently funny) anecdotes centered on classroom life, mixed with discussions of education policy and reform, readers explore teacher/student relationships, testing and accountability, 21st-century learning, and the history and purpose of art education. Branham's personal narrative of challenges and triumphs demonstrate why art education should be preserved as a core subject if students are to understand the connection between creativity, critical thinking, and other higher-order skills. ''What's So Great About Art, Anyway?'' is a refreshing book for everyone -- particularly for in-service teachers -- and is a smart foundational text in arts education and introduction to teaching courses.Book Features:* A personal narrative that begins with the author's reasons for becoming an art teacher.* A visually compelling layout with arresting illustrations drawn by the author.* An approach to teaching complex concepts that will appeal to younger generations.* A succinct look at art education and its history and function in American schools.* A critical examination of current educational policies and how they affect classroom teachers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rachel Branham is an art educator in the Marblehead Public Schools, Massachusetts.

This book offers a fun, entertaining, and well-researched perspective to readers interested in

educational theory and practice. The graphic novel format offers a fully immersive experience for the reader, regardless of their own experiences with art or arts education. Branham offers a thoughtful and insightful critique of the state of education today, and how art (and the arts) can offer a venue toward providing an education that addresses issues of agency, engagement, social justice, and 21st century employment and skills, without ever coming across as being condescending or preachy. I highly recommend this book to educators, parents, artists, and activists of all stripes.

A funny and interesting look at Arts education and the journey it inspires. I recognize a number of my students (and even myself) in the pages of this book.

''What's So Great About Art, Anyway?'' is a lovely window into the very complex and important world of art education. Rachel Branham covers the material in a way that someone who was just a writer or artist exclusively could not. Fans of graphic novels, educators, or honestly anyone can sit down and enjoy this book. Do yourself a favor and check it out today!

This book is the epitome of what good education should be. It takes complex concepts and explains them visually and verbally. As an educator I constantly struggle to provide my students with multi-modal information. Rachel Branham should write a whole series of graphic novel textbooks.

I teach elementary art teacher candidates, This is the best book ever for them!

I have read this book twice- not including the times I have reached over to my nightstand before bed to flip through the pages and catch another glance at my favorite illustrations or panels. Whether you have great taste or not, if you love art, you will LOVE Branham's fully-illustrated book. While we are on the topic- whether you are incredibly intelligent or kind of an idiot, you will glean further knowledge and ability to support a critical analysis of our education system. Do you know what I'm saying? I'm saying "WOW, smash that '1-click ordering' button and have a good read." Then add it to your "good reads" account.

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