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What can art tell us about how the brain works? And what can the brain tell us about how we perceive and create art? Humans have created visual art throughout history and its significance has been an endless source of fascination and debate. Visual art is a product of the human brain, but is art so complex and sophisticated that brain function and evolution are not relevant to our understanding? This book explores the links between visual art and the brain by examining a broad range of issues including: the impact of eye and brain disorders on artistic output; the relevance of Darwinian principles to aesthetics; and the constraints imposed by brain processes on the perception of space, motion and colour in art. Arguments and theories are presented in an accessible manner and general principles are illustrated with specific art examples, helping students to apply their knowledge to new artworks.

Provides a summary of art history and theory for science students and presents the principles of scientific methods and theories for non-science students

Features detailed examples in which general scientific principles are applied to specific artworks

References are cited both of scientific evidence and of historical art discussions to help students support their arguments with a credible evidence base

Includes discussions of scene, picture, colour and motion perception