

(EMMA)

1976 - 1983

Age 5.3 - 11.12

CATALOGUE SUMMARY OF (EMMA'S) WORK

Ages represented: 5.3 - 12.12
Eight Years: September, 1976 - June, 1984
(Currently enrolled in ninth year)

Total production: approximately 438 visual items, all years
approximately 1066 written items, all years

VISUAL WORK

Motif: Consistent interest in small worlds with little animals or other tiny creatures; flowers, trees, suns, rainbows, weather conditions, landscapes with houses and people; abstract designs. People settings often include names or tiny captions and are highly decorative with vivid colors and fine but quick detail. Abstract designs most often geometric or fairly symmetrical at least in early years but more symcopated and charged by line and color contrast later without regular pattern. Strong suggestions of light shining through either from windows or from background coloring and use of white paint. Drawings from life in last year.

Style: Quick skillful rendering of detailed form but without fussiness or meticulous concern. Strong indications of "charged" atmosphere from gestural quality of line in scribbled in backgrounds. Lush colors in solid forms and predictably off beat but striking and effective color contrasts. Persistent evidence of determination, staying power, etc. in the effort contained in products. Lyrical, humorous qualities in various creatures as well as in captions. Rhythmic quality in symmetrical design as well as more abstract designs.

Major shifts and transitions: (Emma's) abstract design work does not appear directly until her 3rd year of school, when it shows up in painting. There is considerable similarity in effect though between that design work of contrasting color swirls with implications of back light, and her earlier way of scribbling in atmospheric lines in the skies of her landscapes. In later years this style was developed fully in mixed media such as crapas/ink/paint. In file year (1982-83) she seems to achieve a considerable techincal command of the various media she's used over the years as well as new ones such as acrylics, and there is an explosion of productivity and powerful resulting works. She begins to draw from life during this year but seems to become much more involved in that in 1983-84.

WRITTEN WORK

Motifs: Most of the unassigned writing throughout the file is in the style of a fairy tale in which (Emma) is the storyteller describing small worlds of mice, other little creatures, or animated objects such as a shampoo bottle. There are many transformations, dreams, or magical happenings told in great detail. Also in the file are various reports or accounts of historical events retold in a quick conversational style. Poetry as well as other fictional work rely upon a strong sense of animation, making subjects out of colors or mundane objects. Much of the stories and conversation occur in the context of family-like relationships.

Style: A conversational tone persists and even rings throughout. Voices appear, often from nowhere and join the story and there are strong musical implications in the rhythm and sound of the phrasing. Increasingly in later years, a kind of self-aware reflective, wistful tone appears. Most of the information is conveyed through dialogue as opposed to description, although (Emma) is quite capable of rich description at times.

Major shifts and transitions: Although (Emma's) basic conversational storytelling style persists throughout her file, in later years she is more self-reflective and autobiographical at times. Throughout there is a kind of breathless, animated vivaciousness.

FINAL SUMMARY

(Emma) overall demonstrates a powerful consistency of motif and style which she simply extends and refines and experiments with over the years. Her attention to small imaginary worlds with animated comical features and rich detail is carried out with a quick and confident use of vivid and striking color contrasts and an electrifying gestural quality of line. Throughout, as well, is a sense of floatingness or atmosphere which surrounds the houses or people or objects in the scenes she creates, or which becomes the scene in abstract work. One gets a clear picture of a quick confident animated artist who is attuned to and capable of both deep feeling and persistent effort.

OTHER SOURCES AND DATA AVAILABLE:

-Reference edition includes approximately 180 slides and typescripts of teacher notes and observations.

Names of cataloguers: David Carroll, Tom Fels
Date catalogued: March, 1984

(EMMA)

YEAR 1: 1976-77, AGE 5.3 - 5.12

Total number of items, 12

6 drawings, 5 paintings, 1 collage.

VISUAL WORK

Motifs: Abstract designs, small worlds, flowers, suns, houses.

Style: Brightly decorative, colorful in figurative work both in drawing and painting. Impressionistic atmosphere and gestural texture in non-figurative work.

WRITTEN WORK

None.

(EMMA)

YEAR 2: 1977-78, AGE 6.3 - 6.12

Total number of items, 279

62 drawings (approx.), 2 paintings, 105 dictations, 90 writing, 20 assignments - spelling/math.

Related items: 6.1-6.45; 6.46-6.68; 6.69-6.91; 6.92-6.111; 6.112-6.134; 6.135-6.152; 6.171-6.188; 6.189-6.216; 6.217-6.230; 6.231-6.252; 6.254-6.274.

Collaborative work: 1, with (Pearl), GB77.10.

VISUAL WORK

Motifs: (Drawings) - Houses and people settings - outdoors, weather indications, flowers, trees, birds, animals.

Style: (Drawings) - Colorful and decorative with bold outlines and quick but careful coloring in unusual color combinations and contrasts quite effective. Strong gestural and atmospheric quality to background/sky/weather representations. Often combines lines of contrasting colors to achieve blended effect which implies light shining through, excitement, chargedness, etc.

WRITTEN WORK

Motifs: (Journal/Dictation) - Comments about action - things done, things to be done; comments about friends and family and activities with them. Fantasies with witches, magic, etc. Comments on weather.

Style: (Journal/Dictation) - Strong emphasis on activity - verbs, accounts of experiences with friends.

Comments: (Emma) has become a quite capable writer during this year. The combination of atmospheric effects in her visual work and frequent comments to weather in her writing seems notable.

(EMMA)

YEAR 3: 1978-79, AGE 7.3 - 7.12

Total number of items, 49
18 paintings, 28 drawings, 3 writing.

Collaborative work: 1, GB78.39 with (Ina), (Carla); 30, G78.40-78.69, with (Pearl), (Gina), (Mia), (Bianca), (Margot), (Ina?).

VISUAL WORK

Motifs: (Drawings) - Continued interest in people and people settings, animals, trees, flowers, small worlds, weather. (Paintings) - Generally non-figurative with design emphasis or atmospheric effects from color tones and line.

Style: (Drawing) - Detailed small world emphasis but with quick energetic line. Lots of conversational elements with speech ballons. Persistent qualities of light shining through, either from windows or from atmospheric sketchy lines in backgrounds. Frequently creates impressionistic color tones by combining lines of various color with quick gestural effect. (Painting) - Liquid, melting tone due to color blending. Atmospheric quality from frequent mixture of white paint into other colors.

WRITTEN WORK

Motifs: Fantasy worlds, dreams, adventures.

Style: Story telling about fairy tale like events. Family settings, surprises, magical happenings. Emphasis on story and characters rather than logic or time sequence.

Other comments: (Emma's) work suggests an unusual viewpoint about time and sequence. When she creates fantasy worlds they seem to exist outside of literal or rational connection to "reality". It would be interesting to contrast those aspects of her work to that of someone with a more logical rational view.

(EMMA)

YEAR 4: 1979-80, AGE 8.3 - 8.12

Total number of items, 208

50 drawings, 30 paintings, 111 writing, 17 assigned
academic work.

Related items: 8.29-8.69; 8.87-8.127; 8.128-8.163;
8.164-8.168.

Collaborative work: 1 page in Group III Book, G79.46.

VISUAL WORK

Motifs: (Drawings) - Little creatures, birds,
animals, people, landscapes, flowers, trees. (Paintings) -
Non-figurative designs, decorative, symmetrical usually.

Style: (Drawings) - Continued striking color
contrasts, whimsical animated quality-humorous. Ability to
make do with little or to see possibility for elaboration
in smudges, mistakes, etc. (Painting) - Experimentation
with color, texture, design - quick unfussy quality.

WRITTEN WORK

Motifs: Small world fantasy - mouse stories, animated
objects, kings and queens, robbers, love stories.

Style: Fairy tale style with animation,
transformations, conversational tone - many voices,
humorous and whimsical.

(EMMA)

YEAR 5: 1980-81, AGE 9.3 - 9.12

Total number of items, 125
20 drawings, 58 writing, 17 assigned academic work, 30
calligraphy practice.

Related items: 9.1-9.42; 9.43-9.60.

Collaborative work: G80.3, G80.4 with (Pearl);
G80.5-G80.41 with (Pearl); G80.43-G80.80 with (Pearl);
G80.99, G80.99.1 with (Iris).

VISUAL WORK

Motifs: Small creatures - birds, animals, fish;
landscapes.

Style: Same as earlier years; several stunning
pastel/craypas pieces.

WRITTEN WORK

Motifs: Stories of real and imagined events;
conversations, unexpected events and changes in situations.
Attention to relationships and friendship, autobiography,
feelings.

Style: Same as earlier. Inclusion this year of
autobiographical accounts of her own life.

Changes: Autobiographical statements.

Other comments: (Emma) has done considerable
exploration of relationships and feelings in her written
work, largely using the vehicle of conversation.

(EMMA)

YEAR 6: 1981-82, AGE 10.3 - 10.12

Total number of items, 120

13 drawings, 3 paintings, 90 writing, 14 assigned
academic work.

Related items: 10.9-10.16; 10.17-10.57; 10.58-10.94;
10.97-10.104.

Collaborative work: G81.2 with (Pearl).

VISUAL WORK

Motifs: (Drawing) - Same as before. (Painting) -
Printing experiments with leaves plus striking seascape.

Style: New emphasis on cartoon-like narration/drawing
combination. Otherwise as before.

WRITTEN WORK

Motifs: Continued story-telling involving small
worlds - mice, etc., or real or imagined people. Also
assigned research/essays.

Style: Increasingly self-conscious/exploring personal
thoughts and feelings. Continued conversational style and
magical transformations.

(EMMA)

YEAR 7: 1982-83, AGE 11.3 - 11.12

Total number of items, 241

35 drawings, 22 paintings, 48 mixed media - painting/
printing/drawing, 18 assigned academic work, 118
writing.

Related items: 11.1-11.2; 11.3-11.15; 11.19-11.20;
11.21-11.23; 11.32-11.34; 11.35-11.36; 11.37-11.39;
11.40-11.42; 11.44-11.45; 11.70-11.78; 11.132-11.139;
11.143-11.144; 11.157-11.193; 11.195-11.204; 11.205-11.208.

Collaborative works:

G82.3-G82.5 with (Margot), (Leo), (Gaston), (Todd);
GB82.14-GB82.15 with (Leo), (Candy), (Mia);
G82.16 with (Candy); G82.17 with (Alva).

VISUAL WORK

Motifs: (Drawing) - Comic illustrations, still life
practice, non-figurative designs, animals. (Mixed media) -
Prints of hearts, trees, etc.; non-figurative designs;
(Painting) - non-figurative designs, color experiments.

Style: (Drawing) - Attempts at practicing technique
in charcoal, pencil, pen and ink. Color experiments with
craypas blending same vivid color contrasts using quick
hand strokes. (Painting) - Moody, atmospheric effects
created by blending of color and allowing light to show
through. With acrylics, similar effect created by small
amounts of white paint.

Continuities and changes: (Emma's) work this year
contains the same basic elements as in previous years; a
vivid gestural quality to the background line, a striking
sense of unusual color contrast, an evocative atmospheric
effect of light showing through, and a delight in
decorative small world's detail. Yet in this year's file,
there is a notable expansiveness - experimentation with
color, line, form and an exploration of various mixed media
effects. (Emma) seems clearly at a point at which she is
able to make full use of all of her talents.

WRITTEN WORK

Motifs: Continued fantasy stories and small worlds;
animal stories and poems; essays on politics;
autobiography.

Style: Lilted musical quality to the work more evident this year particularly in poetry - a playfulness. A wistful reflective quality is evident in autobiographical pieces and in stories.

(Emma)

Year 8: 1983-84, Age 12.3 - 12.12

Total Number of Items: 353

44 drawings; 3 paintings; 300 writing; 4 assigned academic work
(french); 3 collage work

Related items: 12.83 - 12.85, 12.88 - 12.89, 12.99 - 12.105, 12.106 -
12.114, 12.115 - 12.116, 12.117 - 12.118, 12.119 - 12.119.1,
12.163 - 12.165, 12.166 - 12.167, 12.168 - 12.170, 12.213
- 12.218, 12.219 & B12.342, 12.220 - 12.221, 12.222 - 12.225,
12.240 - 12.243, 12.244 - 12.247, 12.249 - 12.250,
12.290 - 12.293, 12.294 - 12.295, 12.296 - 12.297,
12.301 - 12.304, nd. 2 - nd. 4, nd. 5 - nd. 10

Visual Work: Motifs: (drawing, painting) still life drawings - set ups,
isolated objects, plants, botanical studies, landscapes (always
with bare trees), non-figurative designs, one portrait series,
story illustration, illustrations of feelings in journals

Style: attempts at practicing technique with pencil, careful
looking at what she is drawing, lots of motion and
brightness in non-figurative work, much of her work
can be described as either drawing or painting, some
2-step processes--first drawing with water soluble
materials and then going back to it with water and
a brush, also washes sometimes laid down first, a
great deal of experimentation, pencil drawings have
a inner delicate, careful feel while color work is
bold and energetic.

Written Work: autobiography, fantasy stories, reports on artists and
their work, poems, political essays, some humorous
writing. Relationships with family and other members
in a group continue to be the most frequent subjects
in her journals.

Her writing continues to be conversational, humorous,
descriptive, vivacious.

(EMMA)

Year 9: 1984-85, Age 13.3-13.12

Total Number of Items: approximately 81

approximately 61 visual work including 56 drawings and paintings

4 poem illustrations

1 sewing project

approximately 23 written work including 1 journal in 3 volumes;

14 reports and assignments;

5 stories;

4 poems

Notes:

(related drawings and paintings) 13.111-13.112; 13.122-13.123; 13.165-13.166; 13.175-13.175.1; 13.188-13.189; 13.191-13.199; 13.200-13.201; 13.203-13.204; 13.205-13.206; 13.215-13.216; (related drawing and writing) 13.125-13.126; (related writing) 13.129-13.130; 13.182 & 13.184; 13.186-13.187; 13.208-13.209; 13.211-13.212; 13.221-13.222; 13.223-13.224; (poems) 13.217-13.220.

VISUAL WORK

Motifs: Landscapes of mood and atmosphere which tend towards the non-representational are predominant. Several either depict or suggest large expanses of hills with trees, water, or buildings while a few suggest smaller, more defined worlds.

There are a few drawings of human figures with an emphasis on gesture and posture.

Other: Birds; unidentifiable creatures; shadows; a table and vase; cat; teddy bear; a discarded can in a gutter; a street light at night.

Style: Included are works in pencil crayons, felt pens, pencil, water color, pastels, marbled paper, and etching. Although (Emma) continues to experiment with a variety of mediums and effects, considerable skill with color, line, and shading is evident.

A wide range of colors are used and often blended and overlapped, even when pencil crayons are used. In the drawings and sketches lines are extremely light and fine contributing to a feeling of delicacy. Shading is accomplished in ways suitable to the mediums: in drawings, by additional lines or pressure; in watercolors, by washing out color; in pastels, by smudging or color blending. These techniques, together with unusual color combinations also create a translucent quality in much of the work.

WRITTEN WORK

Motifs: People and her relationships with them predominate in (Emma's) journal and stories. Two of these stories also describe frightening circumstances, one which involves an old Egyptian statue with mysterious powers and some unusual dreams.

Animals and the beauty of nature are also topics in her writing

The class assignments include: reports on bones, political events, math time, Halloween, Bela Bartok; observations about her piano, her pulse rate, math in the world, her favorite tree, music, time and distance.

Themes: The nature of friendships is a prevalent idea. Also present are notions about the power of the mind and our connections with nature and with other humans in history.

Style: The stories are autobiographical and full of the internal thoughts and feelings of the characters and also small details that describe relationships. (e.g., "Her mother, Carol sat down next to Maggie. I always had a feeling that she didn't like me. She was always too polite for comfort.) The writing is conversational and descriptive and a sense of drama is achieved through foreshadowing and exclamations.

(EMMA)

Undated work

Total number of items, 10
6 drawings, 4 paintings.

nd.1 - nd.10

(Emma)
Undated File

Total number of items: 18

Visual 7, Visual with Writing 1, Written 10

Notes:

Related items: nd. 5 - nd. 7, nd. 8 - nd. 13

VISUAL WORK

Motifs: House, trees, sun, girl

Style: Variety of materials, multi-media, combinations of felt collage with watercolor background, marker, crayon, paint. Solid color blocks, outline of figures, contrasting and bleeding colors to produce range of effects.

WRITTEN WORK

Motifs: Retelling of "Three Billy Goats Gruff": story of poor family in Middle Ages.

Style: Expressive dialogue, monologue: Use of capital letters, exclamation marks, terse phrases to portray excitement. Sound effects, goat talking to and answering himself, allow continuity and clarity of action. Story of Middle Ages family provides detail of life style; presents issues of value in refusal of father to accept jewels from the King "for no reason"; develops acceptance of change in life, as prince's visit is wonderful "while it lasted", but does not alter family's situation when it is over.