

If Picasso Went to the Zoo



By Eric Gibbons & 50 Art Teachers

Disclaimer: ALL images in this book are **NOT** the work of the famous artists we have mentioned. These are *emulations* by art teachers with a zoo/animal theme. This is a common project in art classes around the world—to create an image in the style of a famous artist. We gather our work collectively here in the hopes to educate people about the rich traditions of art history, and hopefully to inspire our readers to learn more about these amazing artists as we attempt to honor them here!

This online sample represents just a few select works from the book.

This is NOT a complete sample.

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If Picasso Went to the Zoo

An illustrated introduction to art history for children by art teachers

By Eric Gibbons

Illustrated by 50 art teachers

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 Thriving Animals, non-endangered

 Threatened/Vulnerable

 Endangered

 Critically Endangered

 Extinct

 Hybrid, not found in nature

  Multiple designations between

This book was conceived, written, and illustrated by 50 art teachers from all over the world who share a passion for art history and education. After the amazing success of Gibbons' first book, *If Picasso Had a Christmas Tree*, this follow-up book was created.

Each teacher has emulated an artist of his/her choosing from history and includes an alliterative animal in a way that honors the work of that artist. By combining art, history, science (zoology) and poetry, this book becomes a unique resource for inter-curricular teaching. A combination of art genres is used, from the Renaissance era to modern works, which may bear little resemblance to zoo animals! These art teachers, from elementary level to high school, created these delightful illustrations to share and educate. The contact information for every artist and the author is in the back of this book should you wish to purchase a print or an original work of art. Mr. Gibbons created the poems for each artwork.

We have also uploaded free multi-curricula lesson extensions you can print and share with students of all ages. These lesson extensions are found at www.artedguru.com/ifpicasso.html

Studies show that students who have art succeed at higher rates than their non-art peers. High school students in art outscore their peers by an average of 100 points on the SAT exam. Art makes connections to **all** curricula and promotes creative problem solving. Please support your local art department.

Art makes us smart!

If Pablo Picasso went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
Polar bear ladies, Les Demoiselles,
I wonder what secrets they might just tell
of the artist Picasso, and his way of painting,
breaking down shapes, there is no mistaking
this style called cubism was what he created,
a new way of painting, at first it was hated,
people complained, "That's not how it looks!"
But Pablo now loved, his pictures fill books.



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If Giuseppe Arcimboldo went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
Flowers and veggies fill up the space,
but hidden inside, can you see the face?
A rabbit in profile, an arctic hare,
living where cold and without a care.
Giuseppe was fond of painting for hours,
with fruits, and with veggies, and lots of flowers.
Can you draw a face and fill it with fruit?
Add in some plants and maybe a root.



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If Hieronymus Bosch went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
Surrealish barn owls do look rather wild,
and what is that thing they're sitting inside?
His work was unique, strange, and bizarre,
ahead of his time, really by far!
Paintings so dream-like were done by Dalí,
Bosch did them 500 years before he!
Some of his works are creepy and weird,
but the few that remain are deeply revered.



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If Roy Lichtenstein went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
The leopard is perched up high in a tree,
kinda' cartoony, I think you will see.
Pop is the style of this artist's work,
it isn't by chance, or some kind of quirk.
Roy liked to use those dots called *benday*,
inspired by comics he read on Sunday.
To make his art graphic and make it stand out,
outlines and color is what it's about.



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PURR...
I LOVE TO
NAP IN
TREES!!



If Henri Matisse went to the zoo,
is this the kind of artwork he'd do?
Friend to Picasso or maybe a rival,
he was considered an artistic idol.
From painting, to sculpture, and paper collage,
his talents so awesome, it was no mirage.
Here a Macaw from paper that's blue,
with fanciful splashes of warm and cool hues.
When Henri was frail, unable to paint,
he'd cut up paper, 'cause quitter he aint!



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If Ivan Albright went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
This toothy reptilian is painting her face
with makeup and brush, she does it with grace.
A night on the town and meeting with friends,
I'm not very sure how this evening ends.
Ivan liked painting so dim and so moody
with people who lacked conventional beauty.
Textures so bold, contrasts so dark,
this gator's boyfriend might be a shark!



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If Robert Arneson went to the zoo,
is this the kind of sculpture he'd do?
Working with clay, ceramics he did,
often of faces, he played like a kid,
forming the clay in ways that were funny,
cartoonist by trade, and not for the money.
Aye-aye so silly, tongue and a wink,
this work is delightful! What do you think?
Can you make a face silly with clay?
If you haven't before, try it some day!

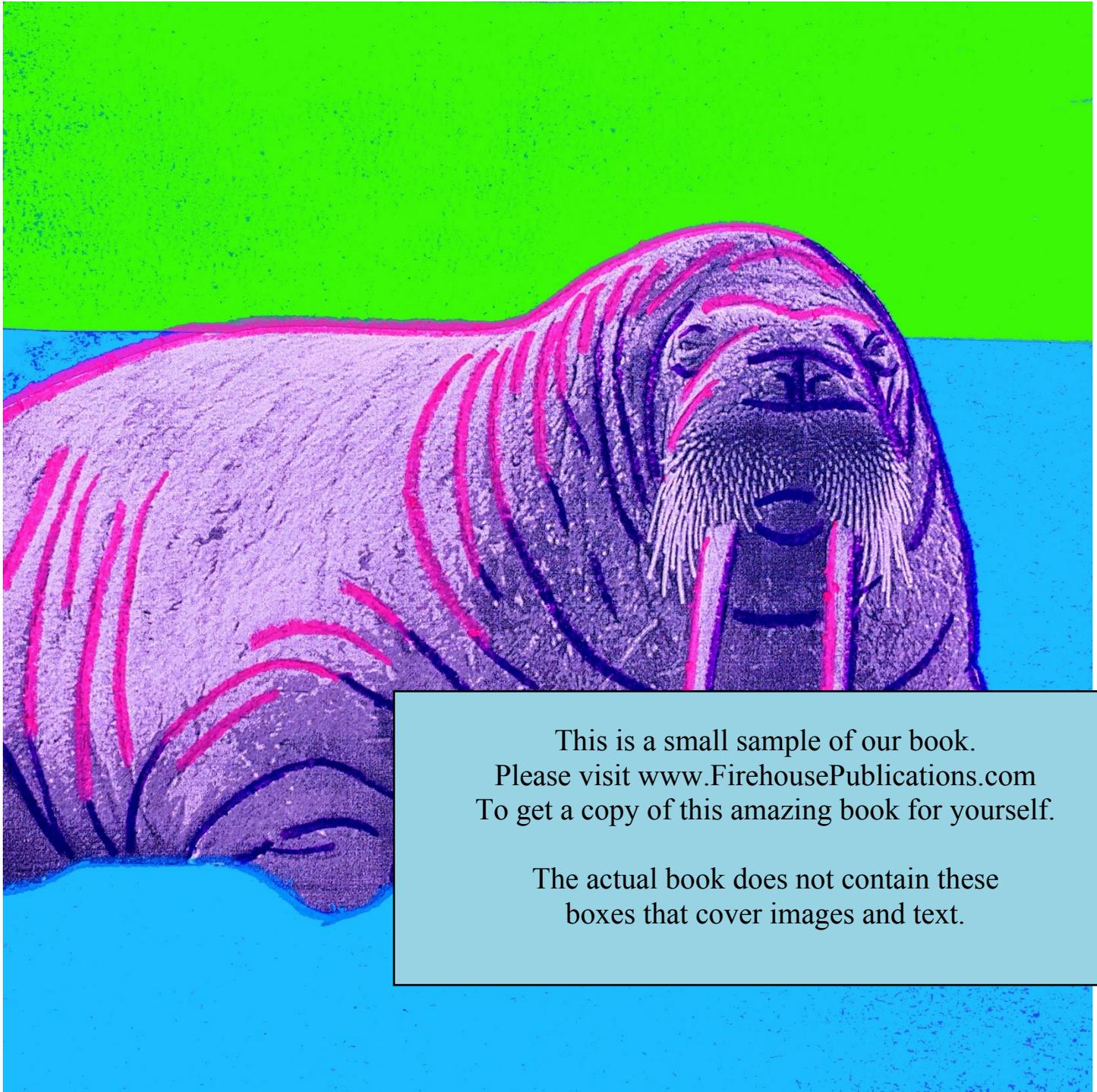


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If Andy Warhol went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
This graphic walrus is done up in purple,
printed and painted, all very commercial.
Pop artist Andy lived in New York,
making his special colorful work,
with brillo in boxes and many soup cans,
and paintings of so many Miss Marilyns.
Warhol was known from near and from far,
for more than 15, this man was a star.



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If Jackson Pollock went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
When he would paint he'd splash and he'd dribble,
all over the canvas and not just a little,
recording his actions as he would move,
almost like dancing to his kind of groove.
He didn't paint things, just splashed really big,
but if he'd paint a creature, it might be this pig.
Both may be messy, but this looks so sweet,
art does not always have to be neat.

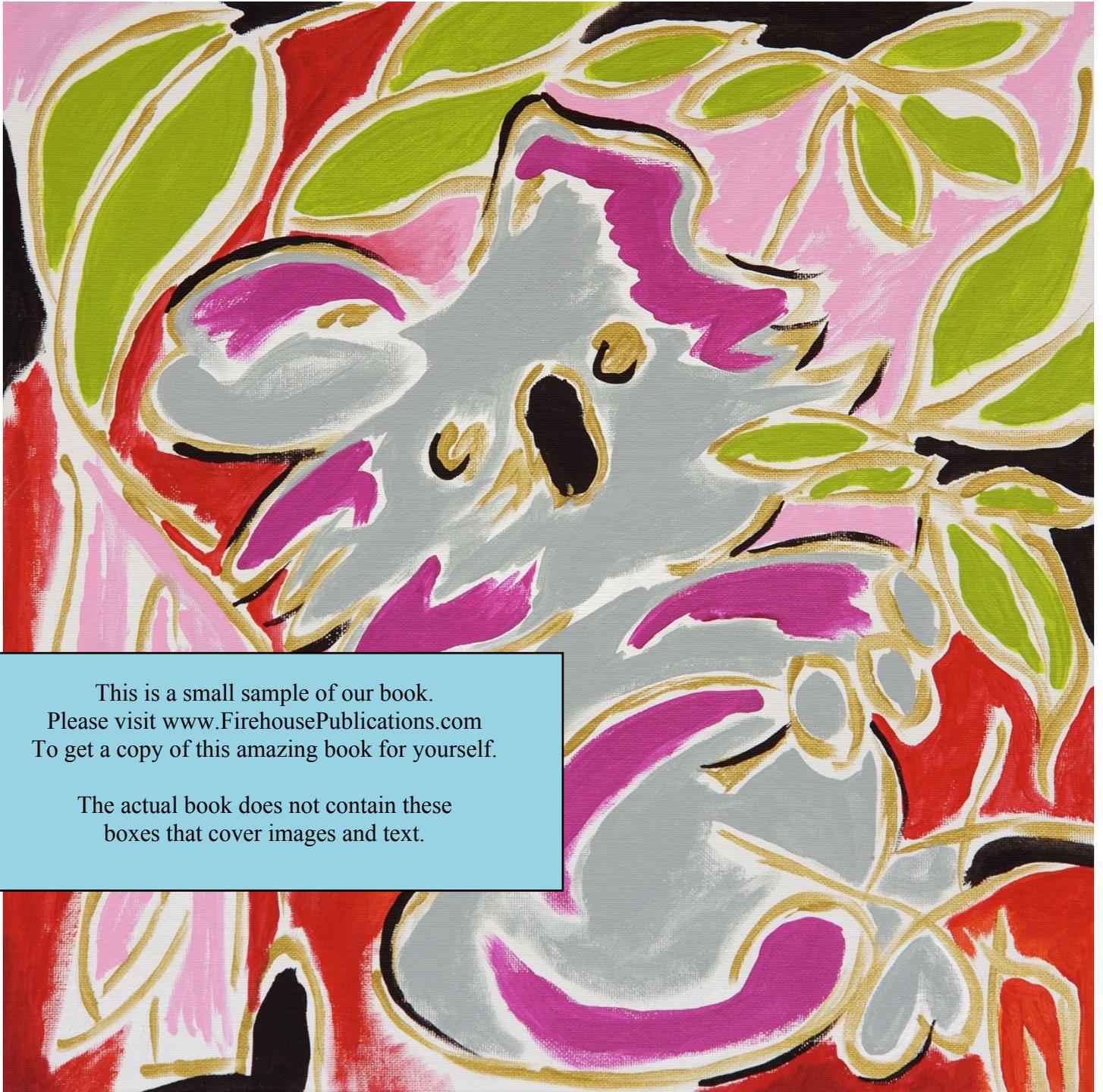


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If Lee Krasner went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting she'd do?
Married to Pollock, Jackson you know,
working together, he was her beau.
Koala is hiding up in a tree,
branches are framing him so you can see
this Australian cutie looking at us
in Krasner's loose style of *expressionist*.
Her paintings are bold with colors so bright,
fearless with hue, it just feels so right.

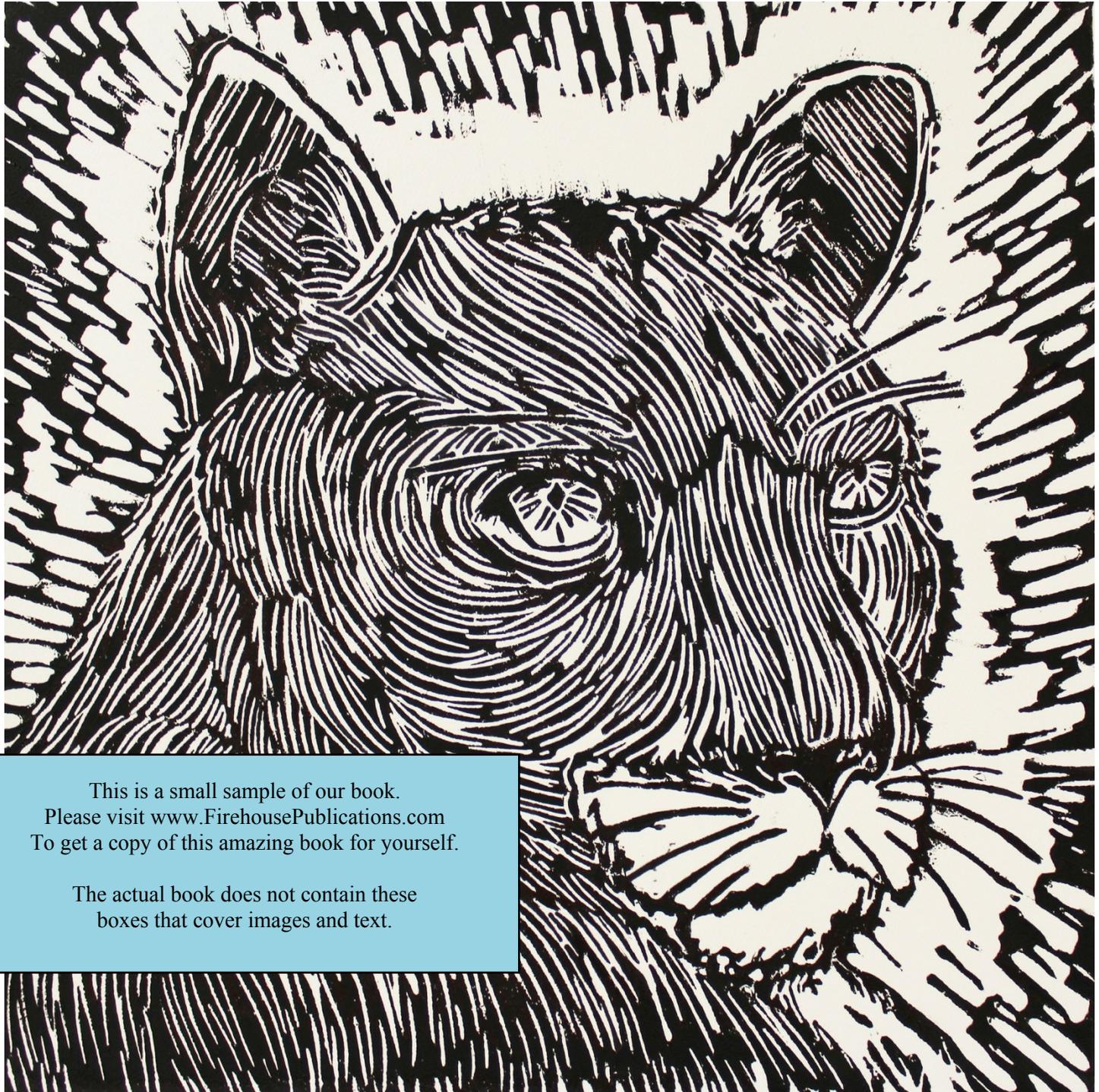


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If Elizabeth Catlett went to the zoo,
is this the kind of print she would do?
This woman of color born in the U.S.
studied in Mexico and learned to express
her feelings and thoughts all through her art,
portraits and printing expressing her heart.
Printers carve blocks with a sharp knife,
ink on its surface to bring art to life.
Here is a cougar in black and in white,
done in her style, does it give you a fright?



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If Salvador Dalí went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
The clocks are all melting, it looks so absurd,
and look at that creature, a weird kind of bird.
Surreal was his style, as if in a dream,
a dodo bird here with time as a theme.
Dodos were friendly, too friendly I think,
for now they're all gone, completely extinct!
Eaten by sailors, and by their crew,
the last one was seen in 1662.

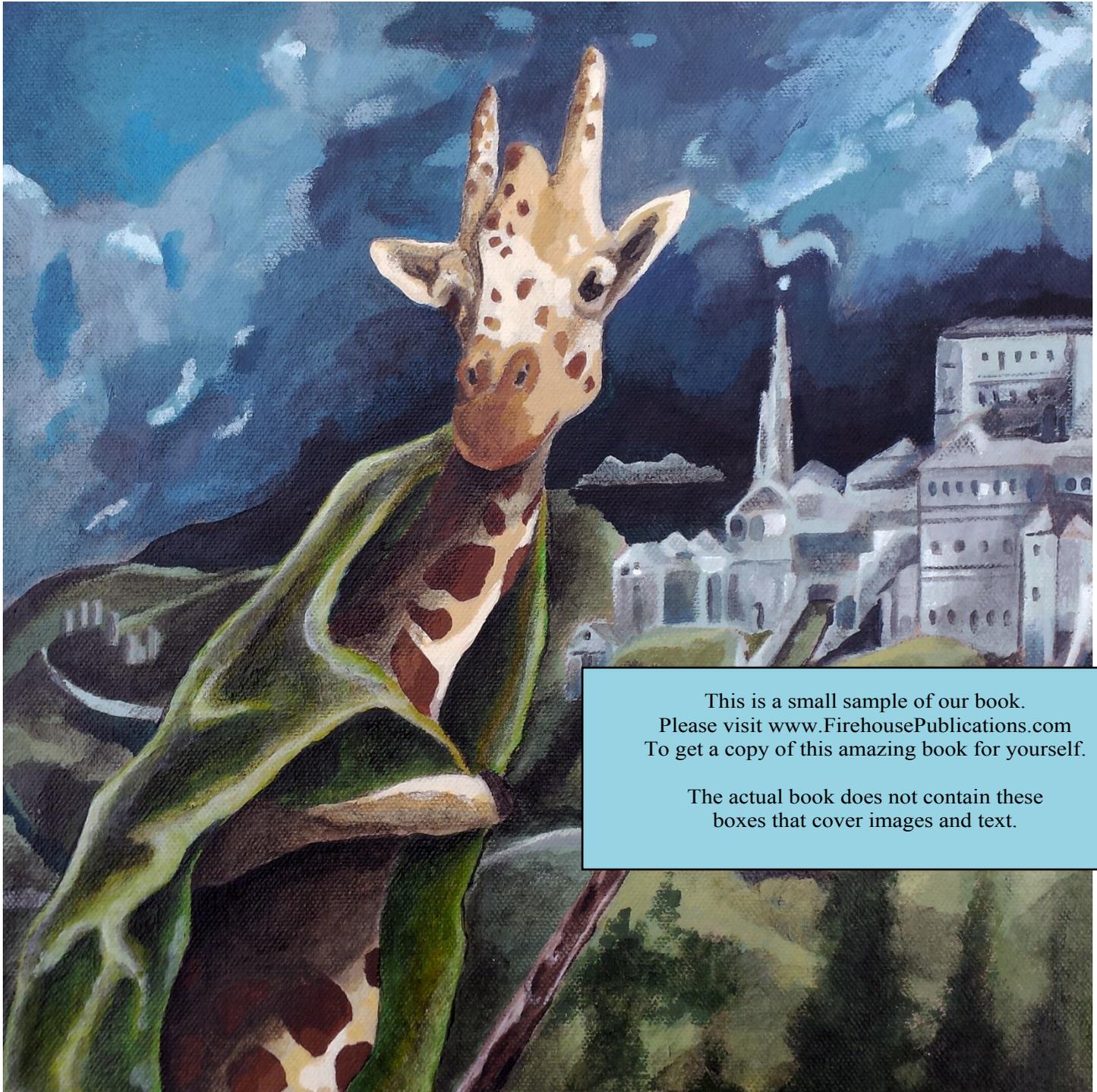


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If El Greco, the Greek, went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
Known by his nickname 'cause honestly, hey,
Doménikos Theotokópoulos was so hard to say!
He'd paint the angels, the saints, and the people,
with capes, and with staffs, and even a steeple.
This Renaissance artist painted it all,
and made them look slender and so very tall.
This giraffe is so lean, with blue stormy skies,
his work was unique, a feast for the eyes.

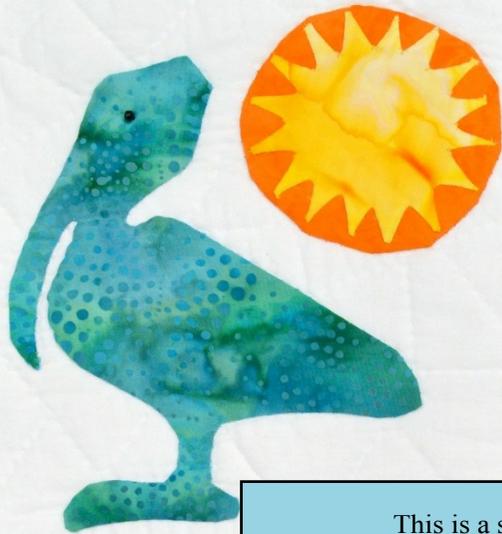


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If Harriet Powers went to the zoo,
is this the kind of quilt she would do?
Born into slavery eighteen thirty-seven,
quilting, her art, was her kind of heaven.
This artist from Georgia led a hard life,
and art was a way to ease up her strife.
Here are some pelicans done in her style,
if you are like her, it will make you smile.
So when life is hard and makes you feel sad,
art breaks away from the hard and the bad.

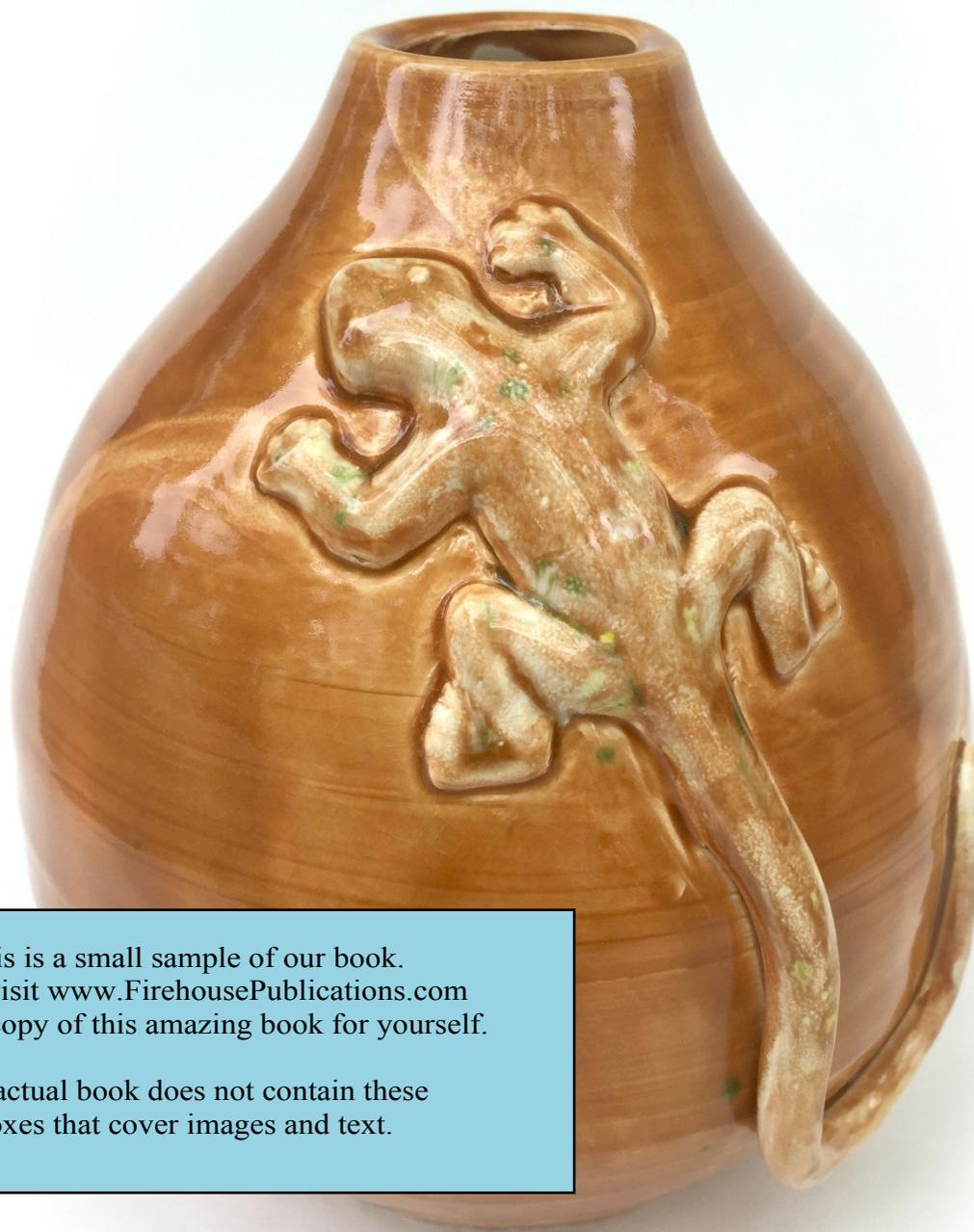


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If Iris Nampeyo went to the zoo,
is this the kind of vessel she'd do?
Tewa her tribe, Hopi her home,
her people were forced to move and to roam.
Native American, land of her birth,
she made all her art from our mother earth.
Clay that was dug from ground with her hands,
turned into art and honor her lands.
Here, in her style, we see a small newt,
hardened in fire, and pulled from the soot.



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If Rufino Tamayo went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
This artist from Mexico, Oaxaca State,
loved painting watermelon, isn't that great!
This tiger agrees and grabs a big slice,
this modern art feline doesn't look nice!
Those teeth look so sharp, the valley so red,
I don't think I'd like to have that near my bed!
Surely intense, this painting has heart.
When paintings have feelings, we call it art.



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If Michelangelo da Caravaggio went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
Known for his temper, reckless in life,
carried a sword and sometimes a knife.
His painting so gorgeous and dramatic too,
heavy with shadow and a dark hue.
His models were people he'd see every day,
but here capybaras painted his way,
ready to fight o'er a table of food,
maybe somebody said something too rude.

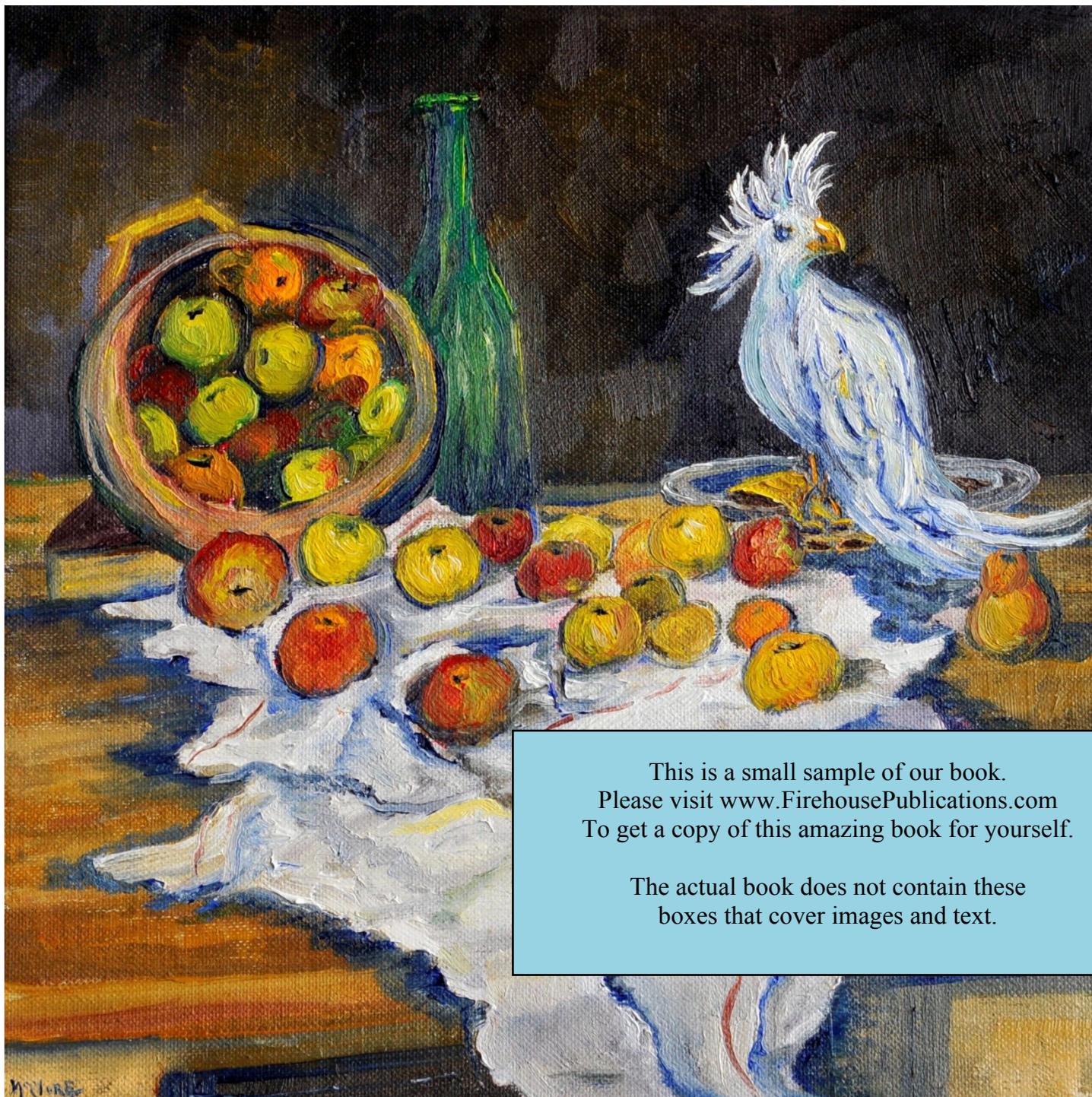


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If Paul Cézanne went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
This painter, a famous impressionist,
with work that inspired expressionists.
Brushwork so bold and color so warm,
helped give his paintings their unique form.
Cockatiel bird is perched on this table,
he'd eat all that fruit, if he were able,
See how this artist shaded with blue,
contrasting colors, reveal vivid hues.



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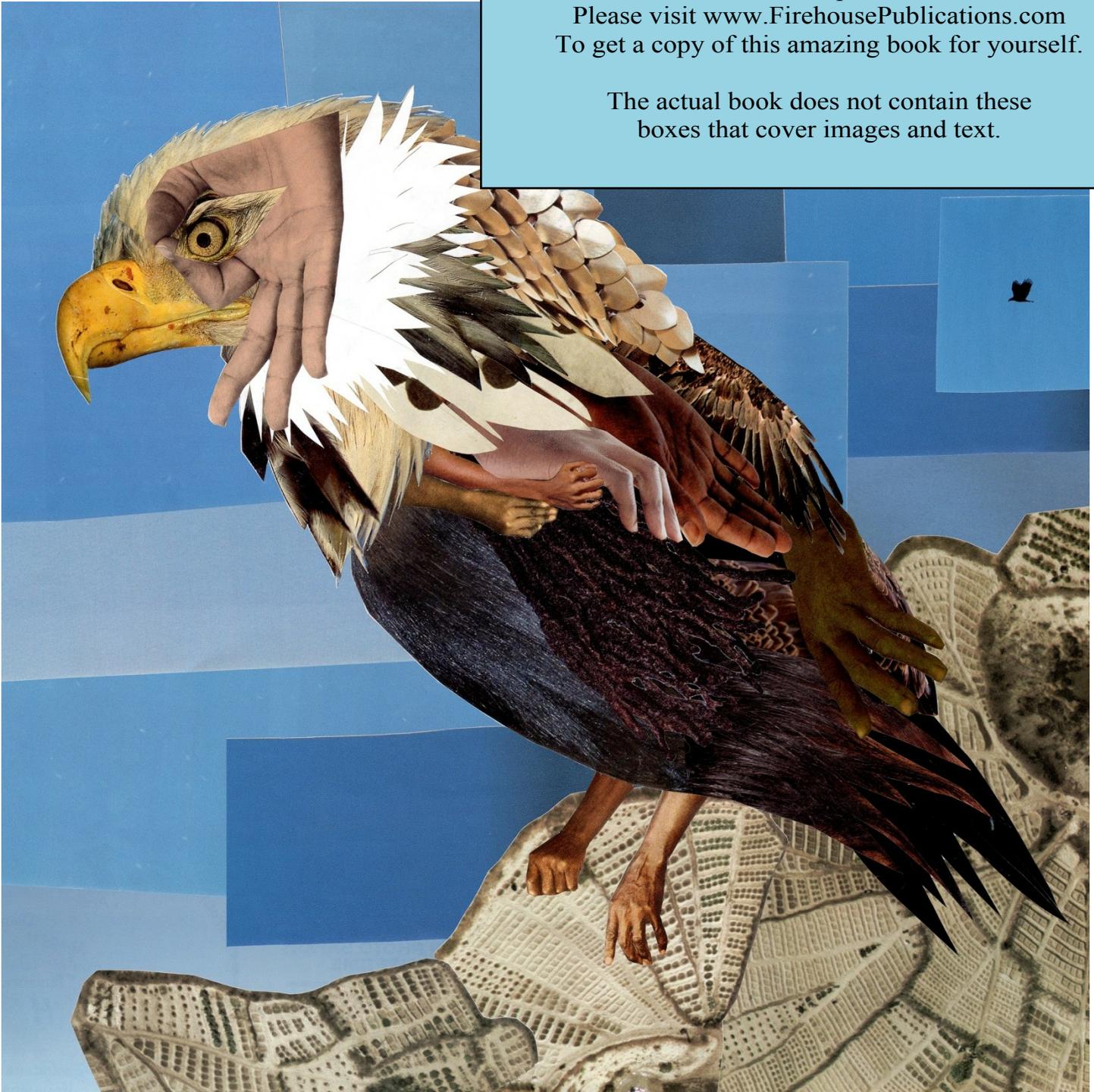
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If Romare Bearden went to the zoo,
is this the kind of collage he would do?
He was a soldier in World War Two,
and studied in Paris where he learned to do
art that depicted American life,
for people of color, and of their strife.
Here a bald eagle, done like he might,
symbol of peace, and doing what's right.
Hand over hand, helping each other,
color ignored, just sister and brother.

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If Hyman Bloom went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
A rabbi is what he wanted to be,
and the Russian empire he had to flee.
Often his art was filled with the pain,
from Aryan Nazis to old Pharaoh's reign.
Here by the water sits a baboon,
surrounded by colors and deep maroon.
Blue for the tears that were shed by the Jews,
red for their pain, in uncomfortable hues.



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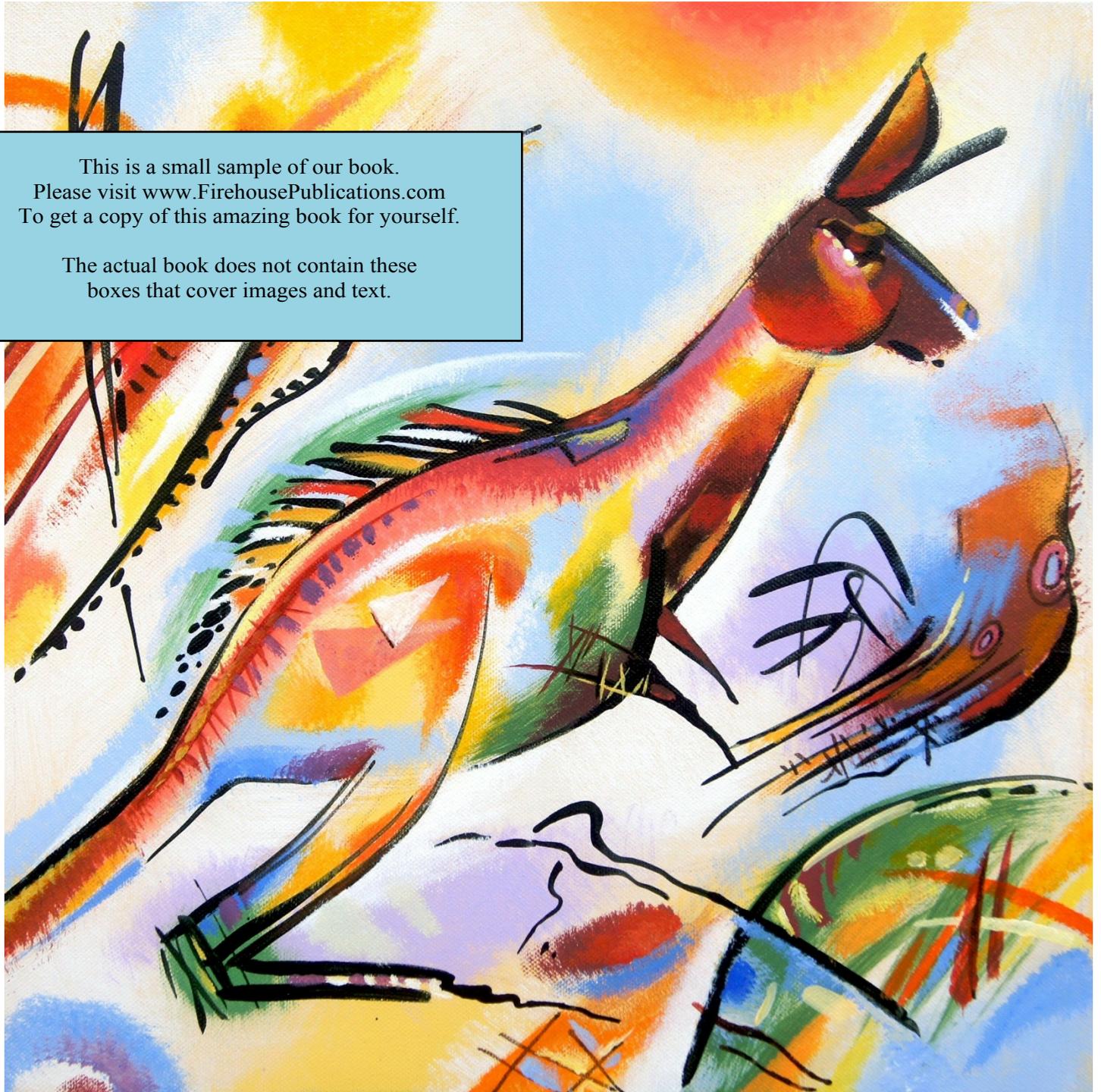
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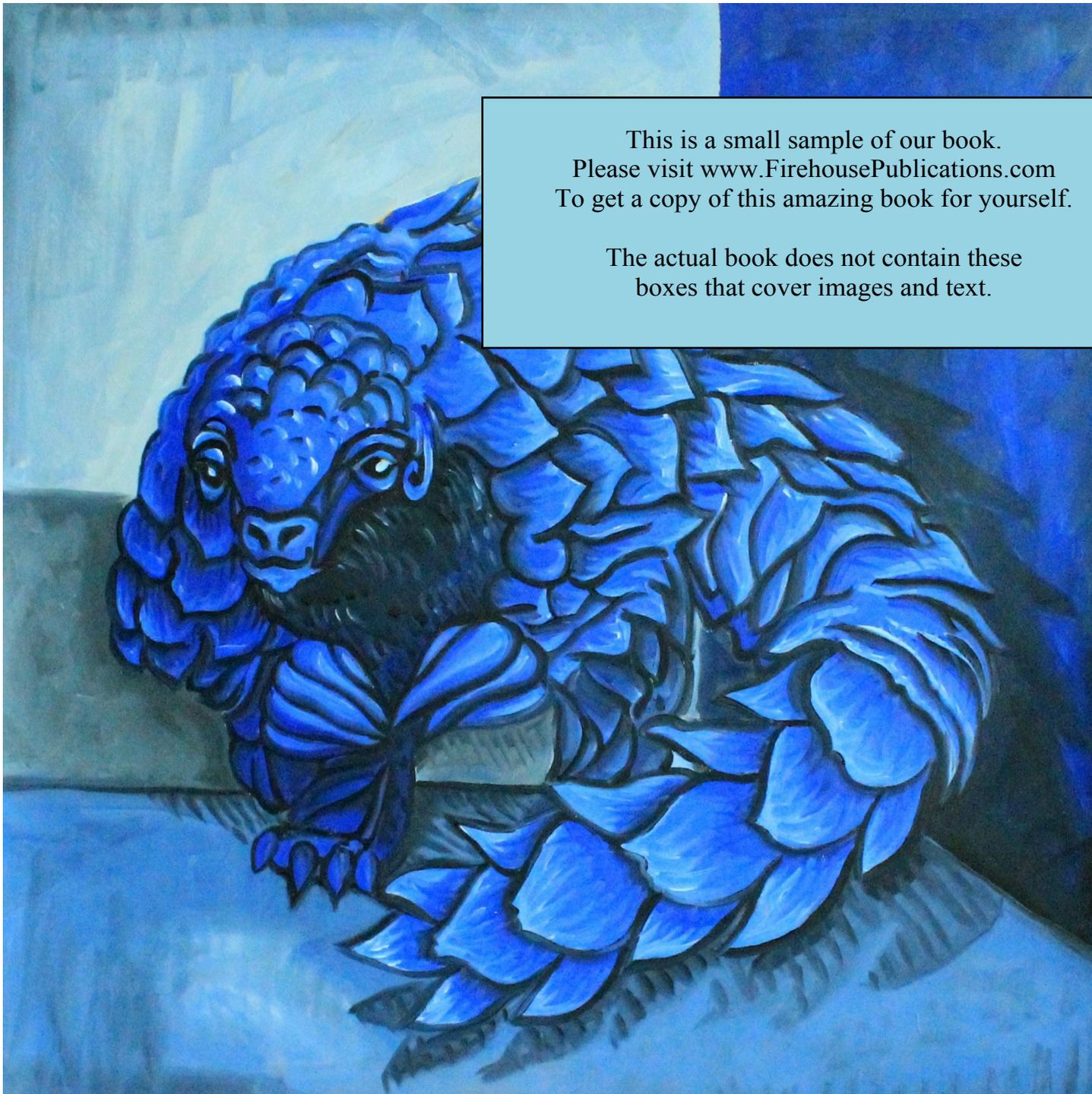
If Wassily Kandinsky went to the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
This Russian born artist invented a style;
expressionism, it took him a while.
He painted his feelings with color and stroke,
all without subject, it wasn't a joke.
He thought that art should be what you feel,
not like a photo that held no appeal.
A kangaroo here is done like he might,
with colors and lines, I think it's done right.

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If Pablo Picasso must leave the zoo,
is this the kind of painting he'd do?
A pangolin here in blue and cyan,
standing but hunched like a friendly old man.
This critter from Africa can roll in a ball,
so lions can't eat him, or hurt him at all.
He's really not blue, but painted that way,
'cause blue is a feeling when it's hard to say,
"Goodbye, my reader, we've come to the end,
this book is now over, we thank you, new friend!"



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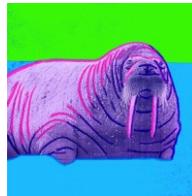
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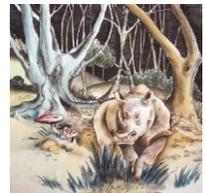
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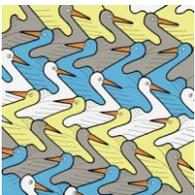
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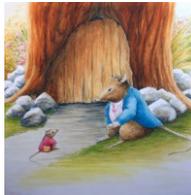
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113: Connie McClure
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This book is dedicated to art teachers everywhere.

Art teachers know, when we grid, measure, and draw—we use geometry. When we make sculptures—we use engineering. When we mix colors—we reveal information about physics. When we create illustrations for stories—we learn about literature. When we review the styles of art from da Vinci to Banksy—we teach history. When we write about art—we strengthen these skills. When we create works of art, we solve complex visual problems in creative ways.

Evidence supports the fact that art students are more successful than their non-art involved peers by a significant margin. Students who take art succeed at higher rates than their peers on tests like the SAT, on average, by 100 points. The author's own students in 2013 scored 155 points higher than their peers, and were 50% more likely to pass the State assessment!

Please be an advocate for the arts in your own community.

See how it all started with our first book,
If Picasso Had a Christmas Tree



Many free lesson ideas and hand-outs at:
www.artedguru.com/ifpicasso.html



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