

Creative Beginnings

A hands-on innovative approach to artmaking for adults and children

By Lindy Solomon

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Written by Lindy Solomon, author of *Khula Udweba*, a handbook about teaching art to children, first published in 1989 and still in print and demand, *Creative Beginnings* is her second book, designed to stimulate and support facilitators, caregivers and parents working with children in the field of art.

Young children are spontaneous and free in their creative expression. Adults working with them need to rediscover and explore their own creativity to be able to share the magic of artmaking and see the world through new eyes.

In *Creative Beginnings*, you will be taken on a creative journey to discover how to:

- Explore and express your own creativity in a meaningful way
- Use a wide range of materials and techniques
- Inspire children to create
- Use art processes to assist healing
- Use a child-centred art teaching methodology
- Set up a well-organised, free choice Open Art Area for young children
- Understand and appreciate young children's artmaking

Creative Beginnings is richly illustrated with children's artworks as well as art made by adults attending Creative Beginnings courses.

This book is the first in a series of CDP (Curriculum Development Project) titles to be published by STE over the next twelve months. The others are:

- *Khula Udweba* 2nd edition
- *Creative Journeys* – introducing music to young learners
- *Creative Journeys* – an Arts and Culture teacher support resource for Foundation / Intermediate Phase
- *Creating Change* – Arts and Culture teaching and learning in the Senior Phase
- *Creative Use of Alternative and Waste Materials*
- *Creating Together* – A Democracy and Human Rights approach in Arts and Culture teaching and learning
- *Many Languages of Meaning* – Arts and Culture multi-modal teaching and assessment methodologies

About the author:

Lindy Solomon was born in Cape Town, educated at Rustenburg Primary and High Schools and obtained her BA at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town. During her studies she taught at the Community Arts Project and in 1983 obtained a Higher Diploma in Education at the University of Cape Town. She went on to teach maths and English at Ocean View High School and then art at Rustenburg High School, where she was involved in the cross-cultural dance/music/art performance group 'Abamanyani' and helped set up 'The People's Creative Space', a forum for creative community sharing.

In 1987 she co-ordinated the art education project, *Khula Udweba*, at the Funda Centre in Soweto. She trained twelve community art teachers and set up an outreach programme for approximately 300 children to do art in Soweto, Katsieng and Alexandra.

In 1989 Lindy wrote her first book, *Khula Udweba*, which is a handbook on teaching art to children. This book was reprinted in 1993, 1996 and will be printed a third time this year.

Lindy spent five years teaching art to adult beginners before joining the Curriculum Development Project (CDP) for Arts Education, where she designed and piloted the first CDP ECD Training Course.

Lindy taught twelve Early Childhood practitioners from Soweto, Alexandra and Katsieng to use art effectively with young children under the age of eight living in disadvantaged areas with limited resources. Much of the material developed at this time forms the basis of this, Lindy's second book, *Creative Beginnings*.

In 1997 she moved to Cape Town and trained ECD practitioners from local Early Childhood organizations prior to setting up an art school, *The Art Sanctuary*, at home to teach children and adult beginners. During this time she began to explore art as a powerful tool for self-healing via process-driven art where the creative process is the focus, not the final product/result.

In 2005 Lindy set up the project, *ASTAR – Awakening Spirit through Art* and trained art teachers in this innovative approach and methodology, which she developed during her 25 years teaching art.

In 2006 she established the *ASTAR Network* of art teachers in Cape Town, a group committed to non-judgmental process-driven art teaching.

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