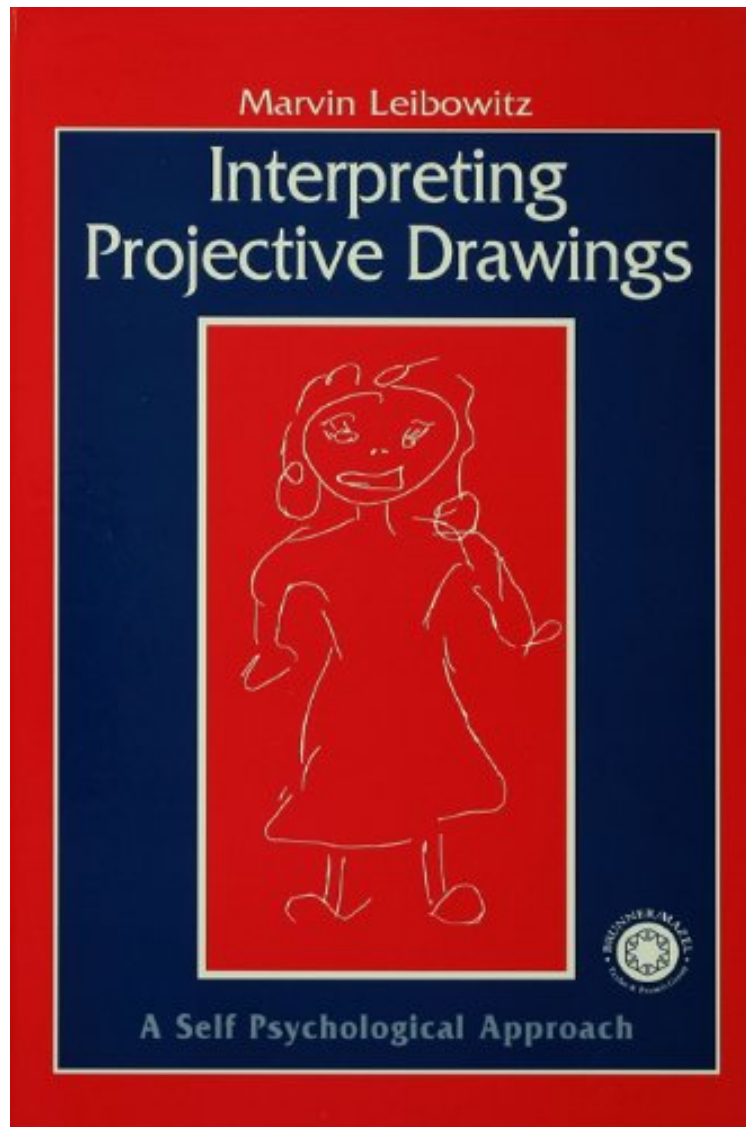


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# Interpreting Projective Drawings: A Self-Psychological Approach

*Marvin Leibowitz*

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**Marvin Leibowitz : Interpreting Projective Drawings: A Self-Psychological Approach** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Interpreting Projective Drawings: A Self-Psychological Approach:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Excellent clinical resource!!!By Harvey M. CanterClinicians doing psychological assessments that utilize projective drawings (and grad students learning how to do them)will find this economical tome a welcome resource of ideas around practice and interpretation. It is far more articulate and precise than the typical "cook-book" guides that one may encounter, which present an overwhelming, unintegrated array of

interpretive assertions. While not a comprehensive guide to projective drawing techniques, Leibowitz's book nonetheless is very complete with regard to the method that it treats. The book has a basis in Kohut's developmental theories, but it is not a strident piece of propaganda for that school of thought. Leibowitz recommends that practitioners take a two-step approach to interpreting drawings--one that is an initial "impressionistic" response, and then a more detailed, methodical "structural" investigation. In this second step, the clinician looks at the specific formal aspects of the drawing (line, placement, shading, etc.) and then some of the more symbolic aspects of the pictorial content. He recommends use of House, Tree, Person (Male and Female), and Animal figures, followed by a brief Inquiry about each rendering. There are loads of pictorial examples, and some rather extensive case studies as well, with an emphasis on how drawings can give important clues about the baseline issues in treatment, and how progress on these issues can be literally seen to improve over time. This is one of the more instructive aspects of the book. While not an "Evidenced-Based Approach" in terms of controlled statistical analysis, the implications are nonetheless quite evident to a clinical observer. I would not recommend this book as a first book on the topic, and certainly not as the only book a clinician should consult. In terms of "cookbooks" the chapter in the Ogden book (3rd Ed.) is still excellent, and the chapter in Groth-Marnat's standard text on Psychological Assessment is also quite good. Oster's book "Using Projective Drawings in Clinical Practice" is also outstanding and has some fascinating alternate drawing approaches, my favorite being the "Draw-A-Person In the Rain" technique. I also like Cantlay's "Detecting Child Abuse", and Malchiodi's work on drawings of children of domestic violence. There are, of course, specific guides to the H-T-P and Kinetic Family Drawings that are quite useful, too. I am glad that I have the Leibowitz book in my library as it adds a very clinically-sensitive, integrative, and therapy-based approach that is not typically included in the usual manuals and guides on this topic.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. book, Interpreting Drawings  
By Carolyn lamunier  
I am getting back into this sort of work after many years. I found the book very helpful. The only problem is that although the text refers to drawings in color, there are no drawings in color in the book. So it is hard to see what the author is referring to. The book was expensive and should have used color drawings when referred to.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Helpful  
By Bekah  
This book is helpful for anyone attempting to interpret projective drawing assessments, such as the H-T-P. Such personality measures typically have little in the way of an interpretation manual, making a book like this invaluable. When I recently administered the House-Tree-Person drawing test, this book helped me find themes throughout the three drawings that were useful in my interpretation and integration.

Published in 1999, *Interpreting Projective Drawings* is a valuable contribution to the field of Psychiatry/Clinical Psychology.

"[The] author of" *Interpreting Projective Drawings* deserves praise [for addressing the issues of the lack of established norms and no consistent underlying theoretical framework in] the use of this sometimes criticized by ultimately time-honored, technique. [The] book is relatively brief, easy to read and not obsessively detailed . . . [and] although aimed primarily at practicing psychologists, psychoanalysts . . . will also find this volume informative and useful." - "The Psychoanalytic Quarterly, Summer 2002