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**Kinetic House-Tree-Person Drawings: K-H-T-P: An Interpretative Manual**

[Image of book cover]

By Robert C. Burns
Synopsis

This book contains the first documentation of combining house, tree, and person into a single drawing. It helps enrich clinician’s test batteries and aids psychologists and physicians in understanding the emotions and self-awareness of their clients. It is richly illustrated and teaches the important skill of using visual metaphors in clinical settings to understand and assist clients. The author covers all aspects of drawing interpretation, including size, placement, stroke or line characteristics, and the possible individual characteristics of each element within the house, tree, and person drawings.

Book Information

Hardcover: 230 pages
Publisher: Routledge; 1 edition (April 1, 1987)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 087630448X
Product Dimensions: 7.7 x 0.8 x 9.7 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (20 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #333,435 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Small Homes & Cottages #197 in Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Clinical > Mental Health #544 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Mental Illness

Customer Reviews

If you want to learn more about the use of drawings in assessing clients, "Kinetic-House-Tree-Person" is a great book to read. I was fortunate to have studied with Mr. Burns and his work is outstanding in the field of interpretations of kinetic/house/tree/person drawings. Through this book, I have learned how to interpret the drawings of my clients. The kinetic/house/tree/person drawing is an important diagnostic tool in working with children and adults. Mr. Burns’s extensive use of diagnostic drawings with his clients of all ages is thoroughly documented throughout his books. Not only do I highly recommend this book, but his others as well. While many of them are out of print, you won’t be disappointed if you are fortunate enough to find one. For sure, you want to add "Kinetic-House-Tree-Person" to your collection of clinical resources.
I started using art projection when I was a psychologist for a child adolescent unit in a state hospital. A good way to engage angry or depressed children without threat is to ask them to draw something, unless they have poor perceptual motor skills. But getting them to draw will tell you something about that right away. It is important to know what to expect in average drawing skills and this book helps with that. It also gives a place to start with children who have difficulty with verbal expression. This is not the Be All-End All text but it is worthy of being a companion to other art evaluation tools. It is for the subjective anecdotal information to supplement the more objective tools.

For those who want easy answers to deciphering drawings, then this book is a *must read.* But reader beware-- this research is not particularly sound and the original text was written in the early 70’s, approximately 30 years ago-- and this book was not significantly updated since then. Hello! Our family values and ideas about family have changed since then, but that is not addressed in this volume. An art therapist worth their salt does not use this type of unreliable assessment to work with clients. I apologize for disagreeing with the last reviewer, but I believe this volume is more of a *must avoid* rather than any type of a classic in the field of art therapy.

This is not the original I was trained to use but it works as well or better than Goodall’s. I use it twice a year and have found the student responses are more in depth for interpretation than their psychoeducational or psychological reports. You can find more quickly where the "hope" level is and put energy into those who are reachable and refer those who aren’t. I have collected hundreds of these samples over the years and find most are right on the mark. Of course, it mustn’t be used as a diagnostic tool but it works well as a verifier of info.

I’ve had this book in my library since the mid 1970s when I worked as the Director of Art Therapy at a private psychiatric facility in CT. For anyone who wishes to understand the subconscious wanderings within a family. Good book.

Book is exactly what I expected and wanted. Don’t expect to get a evidence based research heavy source of info here- it is what it is. Drawings and various ways to interpret. You probably need clinical psych training to really understand how this stuff works but for me, I take it at face value and find it very interesting.
A fun book that provides interpretations and insight into individuals based on a simple drawing. If for nothing else, it provides lots of entertainment and is something to do with friends and family.

This is an easy to read and understand primer of a specific projective test. It provides very good illustrations and explanations of the drawings without giving the idea that one can "simply cookbook" the explanations. It is helpful if the reader has some prior knowledge of projective theory and application.

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