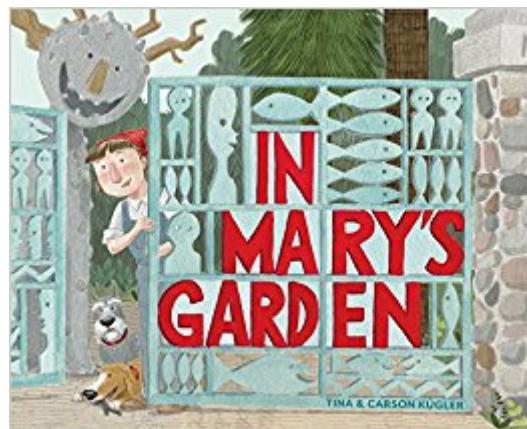


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# In Mary's Garden



## Synopsis

While the rest of her classmates were making pastries in cooking classes, Mary Nohl was making art—anything she fancied out of anything she could find. Inspiration struck Mary even when she wasn't looking for it. Mary used common objects to make uncommon art. And one day, her garden was a gallery. Mary Nohl passed away in 2001 at the age of eighty-seven. Her famous garden gallery is located in the front yard of her Fox Point, Wisconsin, home to this day.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 650 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (March 17, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054427220X

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Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #104,331 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 2000s #44 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Sculpture #65 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2—Children are introduced to a lesser-known contemporary Midwestern American artist in this picture-book biography of Mary Nohl (1914–2001). A spare narrative allows the pictures to describe how, from childhood, Nohl's imagination soared as she explored the many interests that led her to combine found objects with cement to create fantastical creatures, eventually installed in the garden surrounding the Lake Michigan home she built with her father. World travels provided further inspiration for her non-traditional, sometimes primitive, art, ably represented here mostly in spreads that convey the scope and variety of Nohl's work. The illustrations combine watercolor with digital painting, collage, and vintage papers, resulting in a soft

palette and an uncomplicated, accessible drawing style. Children will delight in the whimsy of the art pieces and their placement in the garden as well as the participation of Mary's dogs, Sassafras and Basil, in the discovery process. An author's note, accompanied by two photographs, gives more detail about Nohl's life and the challenge of preserving her home and garden for public enjoyment. •Marie Orlando, formerly at Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY

"This quiet, engaging offering celebrates the artist's vision and her idiosyncratic work." •Booklist "The illustrations combine watercolor with digital painting, collage, and vintage papers, resulting in a soft palette and an uncomplicated, accessible drawing style. Children will delight in the whimsy of the art pieces and their placement in the garden as well as the participation of Mary's dogs, Sassafras and Basil, in the discovery process." •School Library Journal "The Käglers use watercolor, digital painting, collage and vintage papers to portray Mary's world and sculptures...A friendly chronicle of an offbeat artist." •Kirkus "Chalky mixed-media collages are punctuated by items of significance...a quiet homage." •Publishers Weekly "The authors embellish their picture-book biography of artist Mary Nohl (1914–2001) with touches of whimsy...The illustrations...digital collages of scratchy, affectionate paintings on an assortment of papers...mirror this sense of wonder." •Horn Book Magazine "An appealing and kid-friendly introduction to Nohl's art." •Bulletin

Mary Nohl's life in art is worthy of a graphic novel and I hope Tina and Carson Kugler take that on next. This book made me want more!

Inspired our preschool class to create their own sculptures from found objects!

Beautiful book!

Great storybook for young kids.

a beautiful book, tells the story of "the witches house" well

In Mary's Garden is a picture book biography that will captivate kids. My children are 4, 6, 9, and 11, and they all love this book. You can't help but be drawn into Mary Nohl's world, and the way the

illustrations are done, it's like you're standing by her side and getting a glimpse into her imagination. My younger kids like the sculptures Mary creates, and my older kids like the idea of seeing creatures in the world around you, waiting to be built. The illustrations are a wonder in this book: layered and gorgeous, gauzy and fantastical bits of Mary's imagination combined with beautiful details of the items Mary has gathered to make her art. The thorough and in-depth author's note in the back gives more information about Mary Nohl, how she was viewed when she was alive, and what is happening with her house. I recommend this book if you're interested in showing kids an example of seeing art everywhere, how to make art from the objects around you, and how to be true to yourself and your creative vision.

What a delightful book! I'd never heard of this artist before, but the book inspired me to find out more about her. I think kids would enjoy the delightful illustrations, and the fascinating story of this artist's life and interesting works.

I was in the Milwaukee Museum as Tina Kugler was reading 'In Mary's Garden' to about 20 children and they were enjoying this book thoroughly! While I watched the presentation, I was captured by the story of Mary Nohl, but it was really fun watching the children's reactions to the book.

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