

art attack

MARK KISTLER – HALF HOUR OF PENCIL TIME

WORDS BY **MARYLENE VESTERGOM**

Imagine hosting daily live streams of half-hour drawing sessions for hundreds of thousands of kids worldwide, giving families a much-needed break from the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For native Houstonian and Emmy Award-winning artist Mark Kistler, call it a regular day at the office. For Kistler, who is well-known for the PBS children's shows *The Secret City* and *The Imagination Station* and his many online lessons on markkister.com, being able to share his knowledge and passion for drawing is a huge part of his initiative to spark the imagination of kids in the visual arts.

To say that Kistler is busy is an understatement. He's on a one-person mission to help kids of all ages find their inner artist – one whisper pencil line at a time. After all, "the visual arts help define a society's imagination, and our kids are a vital part of its potential."

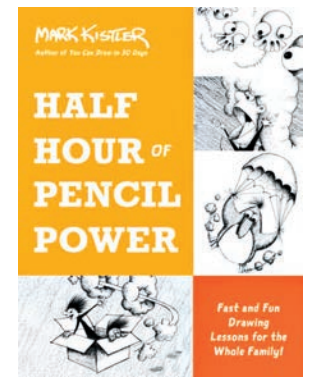
"I've been teaching drawing since I was 15 years old. It's always been a battle to keep the visual arts in schools," he says. "Forty-five years later, it hasn't changed. Some school districts have absolutely no art teachers until high school. Teachers are expected to teach everything. In my experience, you need subject matter experts. That's why I love what I do and, most importantly, seeing how parents and teachers have witnessed first-hand how drawing has helped their kids flourish. So, whether you're using my books or my online



tools or signing up for my Summer Art Camps, kids can tap into their creative potential."

Each year Kistler and his team work tirelessly to schedule Kistler's Visual Arts events around the world, inspiring millions to expand their thinking from flat, lifeless drawings to the magic of 3D.

"Most people draw flat. It's not wrong, but I want to give the kids and parents and grandparents the choice to be able to draw in 3D. By understanding the 12 Renaissance words of drawing — overlapping, shading, perspective, horizon and contour lines, foreshortening, placement, sizes, shadowing, etc.,



— instead of drawing a stick house, that house comes to life by adding perspective and shadows. A puff of clouds now floats in the background by drawing random sizes."

All of these techniques are explained in Kistler's book *Half Hour of Pencil Time* and can be seen at Draw3D.com.

"I try to inspire everybody who draws with me to chase their dreams. Dream it. Draw it. Do it." And if you do so, you're in good company, as many of Kistler's alums have achieved their dreams while working on professional projects like *Shrek*, *Madagascar*, *Toy Story*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks*, *The Incredibles*, *The Simpsons*, *Frozen*, *X-Men*, *Despicable Me*, *Lion King*, *Little Mermaid*, and many more.

The *Half Hour of Pencil Time* is filled with fun, "how-to" drawing activities for all ages and skill levels. So, whether you're following Kistler on his YouTube channel or reading his books, he will be by your side every step of the way.

Drawing with Kistler is an adventure – you will laugh at his stories; he will encourage and challenge you.

"If you can write your name or draw a straight line, anyone can learn to draw in 3D," says Kistler.

And remember, a word to the wise. "Everyone has a license to flop and make mistakes, not only on a piece of paper but in life itself." You have to fail, as Kistler points out, to be able to succeed at anything. So, pick up a pencil and enter the magical world of Mark Kistler. You, too, can draw in 3D.

Social Media: markkister.com | Draw3D.com | markkistler.com/art-camps | youtube.com/user/MarkKistler