



FILM STILL

**"M**ake A World," an instructional drawing book for children written by Ed Emberley, and originally published in 1972, re-presents itself at a uniquely appropriate time today. Whether for ecological, philosophical, economic or aesthetic reasons people are looking to imagine the world in wholly different ways.

*[Y]ou make it all up and you carry it around in little satchels. So you make your life. You make your life what it is.*

Ed Emberley, *December 2007 interview*

Ed is not the first author, nor the last, to speak about creativity, the artistic process or looking at life in a unique way. As a native of Boston and a long-time resident of Ipswich, Massachusetts, in fact, he can be seen to fit into a rich New England literary tradition that espouses simplicity, self-reliance and independence:

*Build, therefore, your own world. As fast as you conform your life to the pure idea in your mind, that will unfold its great proportions.*

Emerson, "The American Scholar"

Ed's elemental and democratic approach to drawing (*anyone can do it!*) contained in "Make A World" provides a visual dictionary that allows for an infinite number of imaginative constructions. The *Make A World* documentary will explore this

visual dictionary concept through discussion with experts in visual theory, art history and psychology.

While communicating ideas about language, images, and cognitive development is integral to the film, it is no more important than conveying the sense of wonder that "Make A World" engenders. Appropriately, the film will feature interviews with contemporary artists, designers, architects and writers who have drawn from Ed's work.

Finally, the most cogent evidence of renewed interest in "Make A World" comes from Japan, where Ed's work has found a new and enthusiastic readership.

*Japan is teaching me about Ed Emberley. Every year that goes by, I learn more about that Ed Emberley of 40 years ago than I knew before.*

Ed Emberley, *July 2007 interview*

So just as Ed relates that he has re-discovered his own voice through experiences with the Japanese audience, we hope to re-discover a sense of child-like wonder by re-visiting (or perhaps visiting for the first time) "Make A World" ourselves.

*Make A World* is currently in production. For more information, please contact [steve@swidinst.org](mailto:steve@swidinst.org).

