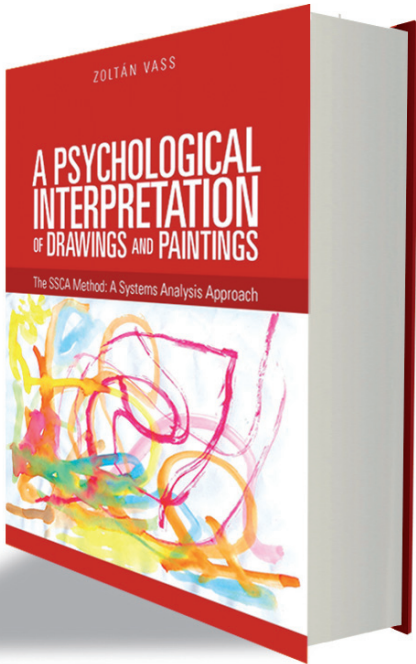


ART THERAPY ASSESSMENT



This book is about the psychological interpretation of projective drawings and paintings. A number of great people have worked on this subject already. This book is about the psychological interpretation of projective drawings and paintings. A number of great people have worked on this subject already—so, what is new in this book?

This book presents the Seven-Step Configuration Analysis (SSCA) method, which is the result of the author's research focused on the objective evaluation of projective drawings and paintings. For the purpose of an objective evaluation, an artificial intelligence model was developed, which led to numerous findings, the results of which are described in this book.

The novelty this book adds to the literature of the psychology of expression comes largely from this research.

Apart from the theoretical findings of the SSCA, some of the practical issues addressed are:

- how to interpret pictures step-by-step
- the basic principles of understanding pictures
- the practical methods and techniques of interpretation
- what to observe: a comprehensive system of pictorial items
- how to avoid a mechanistic, “cookbook” style analysis by using context and configurations
- what the examiner should observe during the creative process (test behaviour)
- model reactions: how the test behaviour reflects the subject's general attitude
- how to recognise the psychological “essence” of a picture

It is suggested that the reader use this book as a manual and, in a certain sense, as a textbook too. The layout of the material, the parts in small print, the text boxes and the detailed explanations of illustrations all serve this purpose.

A PIONEERING BOOK

This book is an extremely valuable and pioneering book: the author gives a rich synthesis of the psychology and psychodiagnostics of drawing and painting, based on a comprehensive literature review (800 references), his vast experience (more than 1,000 pictures from his collection of 360,000 drawings, scribbles and paintings) and his work in education and training. A fundamental aspect of the book is its holistic point of view, which avoids the isolated interpretation of parts, in preference to a systems thinking approach.

This book is both a textbook and a handbook at the same time: it gives a comprehensive overview of the field of visual expression, primarily for those studying it. It is also of great use to anyone simply interested in the visual world. This book is recommended for psychologists, psychiatrists, teachers and other professionals, who are involved in the psychological aspects of the visual world.

Prof. István Hárđi

Vice President, International Society for the Psychopathology of Expression and Art Therapy (SIPE)



Dr. habil. Zoltán Vass, PhD

Associate Professor of Psychology. He leads the Faculty of the Psychology of Visual Expression at the Károli University, Budapest where his activities are teaching and research on the psychology of visual expression. His main scientific achievement is an artificial intelligence-based model of cognition, operationalized in the „Seven-Step Configuration Analysis (SSCA)”. It is a system analysis approach to cognitive representation and inference strategies of psychological thinking. Results were published in seven languages (11 books, 12 chapters, 24 journal articles, 4 expert systems), referenced by 214 independent citations. The SSCA awarded a journal publication prize, besides pre- and postdoctoral grants. On SSCA, 7 symposia were organized. It has led to the establishment of two accredited clinical trainings and a postgraduate faculty (Psychology of Visual Expression, Károli University), with a total of 1492 participants. It is taught or referenced in 113 courses (including ERASMUS), producing 39 students' publications (PhD and OTDK dissertations, journal articles, books, chapters, conferences).

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Zoltán Vass: A Psychological Interpretation of Drawings and Paintings
The SSCA Method: A Systems Analysis Approach



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