7 A final word

A final word to you as you wrestle with the slime of clay in your own home, the chaos of dirty brushes, the horror of non-stick adhesives: be positive, be critical, but above all be generous to yourself about the outcome of your labours for we all suffer from the same problem — 'I can see what I want to do in my mind but cannot realise it on paper.' Those of us who have been concerned with visual image-making for a lifetime still have exactly that problem, but we go on, and have learned to be critical but generous to our creations. Persevere and be optimistic, for if you feel defeated or unsure, certainly your pupils will quickly feel the same way; and once that drawing/painting is displayed on the wall it will seem 100 per cent more effective to its creator.

Further reading

Practical art

BARNES, R. (1987) Teaching Art to Young Children 4–9, Unwin Hyman.

Art appreciation

GOMBRICH, E. H (1984). The Story of Art, Phaidon (this book is an excellent resource to enable you to become acquainted with the broad sequence of art.)

In addition to these books on art appreciation, the Journal of Art and Design Education (International Periodical Publishers) is an excellent ongoing source of ideas and information. The following articles and many others will encourage you to broaden your thinking in the visual arts:
Vol. 11, No. 2 (1992): 'Teaching Visual Literacy with the aid of a computer' by Terry Genin (p. 185) and 'An Encounter with Computer Art: primary children's reactions' by Jane Chia and Birnie Duthie (p. 209).
