

COLOR WHILE YOU LEARN!

Kitties, flowers, and tumbled baskets, in the Winterthur collection...



Q&A: Did you know that, for hundreds of years, women, men, and children have learned to create art by following instructions in drawing and painting books? Some instructions were simple, showing how to draw circles, squares, and other uncomplicated shapes. Others taught readers how to draw difficult forms, such as humans or animals, and also taught how to understand and use colors in artwork. Just imagine, how many of us would struggle to draw and paint the wonderful kitty and flower-basket picture shown here!

Learn more: Mary Garside's book, with the lengthy title *Ornamental Groups, Descriptive of Flowers, Birds, Shells, Fruit, Insects, &c. and Illustrative of a New Theory of Colouring from Designs and Paintings*, was published in London in 1808. At the time, many women were encouraged to learn skills such as flower drawing and painting. Few women, however, had books published in this period. Mary also was unusual in her detailed approach to her subject. She discussed scientific aspects of color and optics and listed the proper genus and species for the flowers shown in her book. View [Library record for this publication](#).

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When Winterthur reopens, visit Garside's book in the exhibition [Re-Vision 20/20: Through a Woman's Lens](#).

For more family entertainment ideas, see Winterthur's [At-Home Activities!](#)

