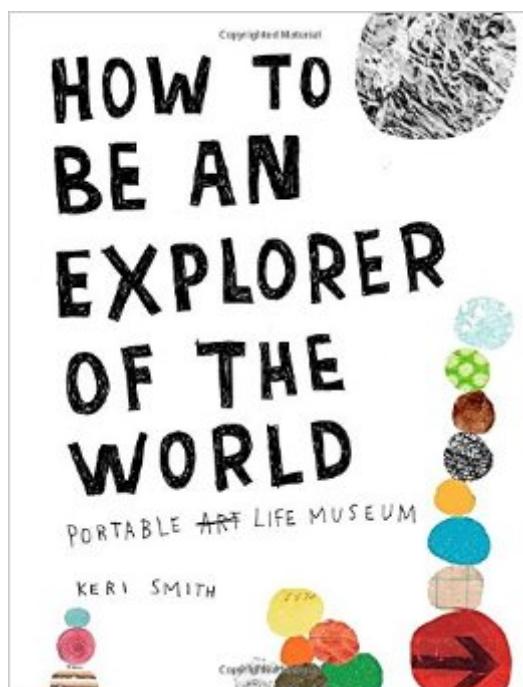


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# How To Be An Explorer Of The World: Portable Life Museum



## Synopsis

From the internationally bestselling creator of *Wreck This Journal*, an interactive guide for exploring and documenting the art and science of everyday life. Artists and scientists analyze the world around them in surprisingly similar ways, by observing, collecting, documenting, analyzing, and comparing. In this captivating guided journal, readers are encouraged to explore their world as both artists and scientists. The mission Smith proposes? To document and observe the world around you as if you've never seen it before. Take notes. Collect things you find on your travels. Document findings. Notice patterns. Copy. Trace. Focus on one thing at a time. Record what you are drawn to. Through this series of beautifully hand-illustrated interactive prompts, readers will enjoy exploring and discovering the world in ways they never even imagined.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (102 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I purchased this book for my daughter, Sarah. She wrote in it and underlined words and left it a rag tag mess. After she passed away in a car accident when she was 16, I loved flipping through the pages seeing her thoughts and observations.

Smith's newest book is the most recent installment in her passionate, ongoing process to distill life and the art process (indistinguishable to most artists) down to its bare matter. If you can embrace playfulness, open courageously to the idea of art as life, are willing to turn off the television and look around you, love to challenge yourself to learn to BE and create from essence as opposed to trend or fancy, *Explorer* is for you. As an author, she seems to live her life exactly the way she writes (as

one can easily pick up when visiting her blog The Wish Jar Journal). As an artist, she is apparently very well read on the subjects of art and life and willing to push beyond art school rules to find her own voice among so many artsy voices that seem to blend together these days. For an insightful, modern perspective on gathering the fodder to create amazing experiences, I was not disappointed with this book. I completely disagree with other reviews which state that this book is not for deep thinkers. I find her simple, freshened concepts to be timely and revolutionary, just what artists have been missing from our creative processes. I also recommend Wreck This Journal and Guerilla Art, also by Keri Smith.

This book encourages collecting -- you'll start a collection of things you find on the ground, things you overhear, things that simply interest you and you've got no real use for. And through these collections, and the arranging and documentation of them, Keri Smith will teach you how to look at the world with new eyes. Once you've hoarded and organised thirty bits of something, you'll have a deeper understanding of the shapes and colours and wonderful uniqueness that can be found anywhere -- in rocks, leaves, sea glass, bottle tops, typography... in anything! The exercises are inspired by different creative minds, including Leonard Cohen and Tom Robbins, and ask you to try experiencing the world through all of your senses, and documenting it using different writing techniques, photography, sketching exercises, and ways of storing, organising and arranging. Space is provided in the back for limited notes, in a lovely format, which it's possible to copy so that you have unlimited pages. Keri Smith is, of course, famous for giving you books that you can destroy. This book is slightly different. Yes, you'll want to take it everywhere with you, and there are spaces to tape, glue, doodle and write inside, but this IS a book, not a coaster, not a place mat, not a chew-toy for your dog. It is not another exercise in creativity through wreckage, but explores a different source of inspiration, in the same easy-going, friendly and encouraging tone as all your other favourite Keri Smith books.

this book is cleverly written and has some wonderful ideas for exploring your world. most all of them are ideas I have never seen before and want to try in my sketchbook. there are examples too. I highly recommend this book for the artist, journaler or someone that just wants to see their world with FRESH eyes!

great book that encourages us all to get outside and experience the world! It's truly awesome. I teach environmental/ecology education, and it is really useful for coming up with new activities to do

with the children.

I like this book more every time I pick it up. When I first opened it and flipped through the pages I was slightly disappointed. The structure of the book seemed like it was put together slapdash without any real thought, and it seemed to me that all of the fun pictures were there to serve the purpose of filling in blank space. After giving the book several chances it started to grow on me and I realized that its real purpose was to make the reader start thinking in a different way by challenging the reader to complete odd tasks, or at least tasks that are out of the ordinary. One of the books main challenges is to get the reader, or explorer, to start recognizing patterns in an every day environment. The book challenges the reader to do this in many different ways, and starts to seem redundant. When I realized that most of the exercises were designed to achieve the same goal, I felt a little cheated. However, after thinking about it more, I suppose repetition is necessary when learning something new. Especially when that something is a new way to think. On the whole, I enjoy the book. Though I think that it would have been better with half the pages and half the price.

I haven't gotten through the whole book as of yet. But I will say I'm already seeing the world around me in a different way. I notice things that I wouldn't otherwise have noticed. I pay more attention to the people and things that are going on around me. I've started collecting things and I soon hope to explore a bit further out of my comfort zone! I highly recommend this book!

I could have saved myself some money if I looked through the book. The majority of the book is about picking up things you find on the ground and collecting them. All Smith goes on about is how if you are bored with your surroundings you're just not looking hard enough, it didn't work for me at all, the book just didn't have that THING in it. Felt like randomness glued together.

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