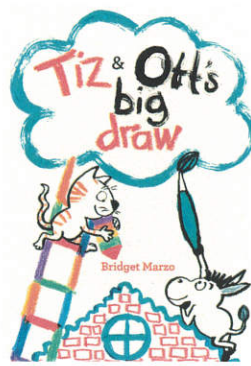


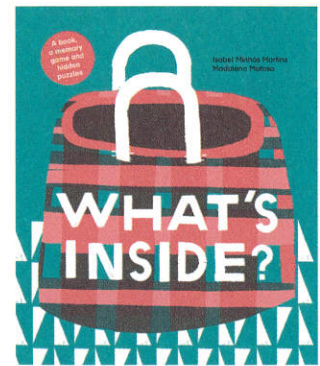
Ruth Green  
**STANLEY'S PLAN**

Tate Publishing, March 2015  
Hardback, 32pp, £9.99  
ISBN 9781849763059



Bridget Marzo  
**TIZ & OTT'S BIG DRAW**

Tate Publishing, October 2015  
Hardback, 32pp, £9.99  
ISBN 9781849763100



Isabel Minhós Martins  
Illustrated by Madalena Matoso

Translated by Isabel Alves and Bergen Peck  
**WHAT'S INSIDE?**

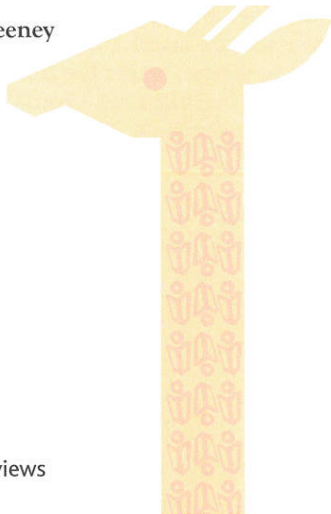
Tate Publishing, February 2015  
Hardback, 32pp, £12.99  
ISBN 9781849763622

Ruth Green is a printmaker who has previously written (and illustrated) the popular *Noisy Neighbours*. This, her second book, is a beautiful and engaging production which will win a place in many children's hearts.

*Stanley's Plan* is about a dog called Stanley who is always hungry; he smells and then sees a pie up on a shelf. He tries to enlist his friends the cat, the spider, the mice, the birds, the hedgehog and the owl to help him get it down. They dissuade him, for what turns out to be the kindest of motives. The story is a sweet, straightforward one that, while never being preachy or moralistic, teaches that good things come to those who wait. The rhyming text is ideal for beginning readers and for reading aloud to younger children.

The visual style – Green describes her inspirations as being 'mid-century design and the British countryside' – lends this book a timeless, classic quality. The pictures are clear and unfussy, with the animals' unique yet archetypal representations. Each page is bright and colourful. The artwork combines with the story itself to render the book a beautiful, highly engaging piece. 3–8

Seamus Sweeney



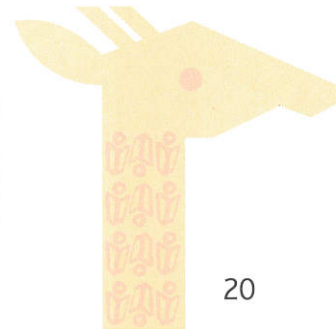
Tiz and Ott are two friends with a big plan – to paint themselves a house. Well, at least Tiz the cat has the big plan; Ott the donkey exhibits all the characteristics of his species by being stubbornly lazy and refusing to join in properly. While Tiz works, Ott dabbles.

But Ott's lethargy turns to alarm when Tiz mischievously draws a lightning bolt and their drawing comes to life and whips up a storm of paint and crayon lines! Ott is nearly lost and Tiz has to save the day, using her imagination to scribble and scratch and scumble and splatter and doodle and dollop and drip and dash their way out of danger and back to the lovely home they have created.

Bridget Marzo is the illustrator and author of several books for very young readers and she brings all the creativity of these previous offerings to *Tiz & Ott's Big Draw*. The book is all about the expressiveness and tactile glee of creating with colour – the two characters, who are beautifully drawn, are literally immersed in the joy of painting, and Marzo's own joy, as well as her love and enthusiasm for creating, shine through.

At the back of the book there are handy guides to drawing our two heroes, as well as an inventive visual glossary of painting terms. 4–8

Alan Nolan



When I started reading the book, I couldn't help thinking of the beautiful books of André Letria (illustrator and founder of the brilliant Pato Lógico publishing company in Portugal). It is a three-colour book and at first glance it looks like an OCD person's dream: spreads full of objects arranged in a more or less random order.

If this begins to sound like a beautifully illustrated book with little literary value, don't worry: *What's Inside?* is much more than a pretty face. Every single object included in the page is accompanied by a small description: 'A ball of string', 'Two bottle caps'... Initially, we think we have been presented with a simple book for very early readers... But some descriptions are more intriguing, like 'the pitcher that my mother loves and my father hates'. And then the magic happens when you realise that all those items are related to others from different spreads. As you advance through the book and visit the kitchen counter, a bedroom wall, a handbag, you keep coming back to previous locations, exercising your memory and making connections. Not only that: the associations between items and places spark stories in the reader's head that go well beyond the boundaries of this book in a way that no other book I can think of have ever triggered to this extent. It is absolute genius. You can spend hours reading *What's Inside?* and it can be a new experience every time you come back to it. An incredible book: beautiful, smart and infinite. 4–8

Alé Mercado

