

WILD

fabrications

Connections and Discussion Points for Younger Visitors

Just as there are many different animals, there are different kinds of quilts. We invite you to look at the art quilts on display and to take the time to ask questions about the artists' techniques, imagery, and intent. Discuss your thoughts. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions posed. Keep in mind that individual pieces may connect to others in more than one way.

1. Because these quilts won't necessarily be used on beds, art quilting is open to many ways of manipulating fabric and fabric-like materials. In this particular exhibit, the artists were encouraged to "fabricate" animals in fun ways. Identify several traditional, and not-so-traditional techniques used in these art quilts:

- When shapes cut out of different fabrics are sewn together side by side to make a new design it is called **patchwork**, or **piecing**. Find one or more patchwork quilts.

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- **Applique** is fabric shapes placed on top of a background and sewn or glued in place. Find one or more examples of applique.

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- Many art quilters today use **photography** by itself and as a starting point. Find instances where photography is used in the artwork.

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- **Painting** on fabric with brushes or by using printing techniques like stamping or silkscreen is another useful technique. Find examples of paint on fabric.

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2. There are many birds in this collection. Find several examples and discuss how each artist has treated this animal the same, or differently. Are the birds realistic or imaginary, or somewhere in between? What colors are used? How do you think the artworks were made?

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3. Scientists organize animals into related groups. Within the Animal Kingdom are the Phylum Chordata, Cnidaria, Arthropods, Molluscs, and Echinoderms. This exhibit contains mostly Chordata, or animals with spines. Within Chordata are the Classes Amphibia, Aves (birds), Actinopteri (bony fish), Chondrichthyes (fish with cartilage), Mammalia, and Reptilia. Place nine of the animals in the images below into some common classifications.

Amphibian

1

Arthropod

2

Avian

3

4

5

Mammalian

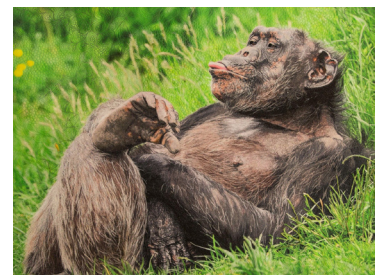
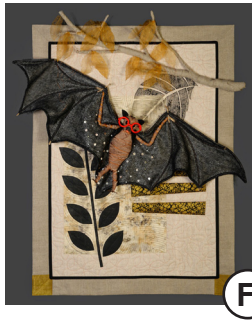
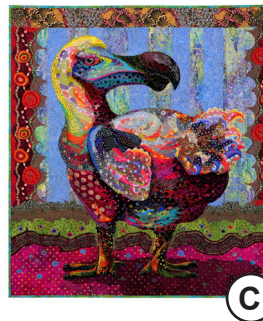
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Reptilian

9

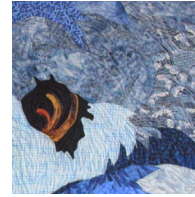
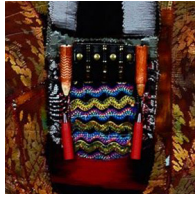
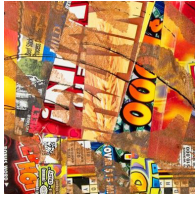


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4. Animals have a wide variety of skin, scales, feathers, and fur. Quilt artists can use a wide variety of colors and textures as well. Match these details to their animal artworks. In what ways have the artists transformed common materials? Which ones do you find most effective?



5. Domesticated animals are those that live closely with people for companionship or to work. Find two examples of domesticated animals in the artwork:

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6. Investigate themes in the artworks. Several artworks in this exhibit call attention to endangered animals, for example, *Now You See Him...* by Cat Larrea and *Can We Save The Whooping Cranes?* by Sara Sharp. Wild animals are often threatened by the activities of humans near and far. What things threaten the Whooping crane or the Polar bear, and what are things we can do to help conserve either of these animals?

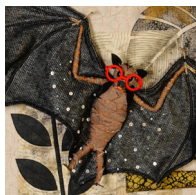
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7. *Blind as a Bat — Not Quite* by Holly Altman is a imaginative representation of a real animal. Do the fun glasses correct its eyesight, or does a bat's use of echolocation mean it "sees" with it's ears instead? What story does the artist tell about this bat?



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8. What do these art quilts say to you? What questions would you ask the artist? If you were to create a piece for Wild Fabrications, what real or imagined animal would you make?

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Examples:

Patchwork and piecing:

The Last White Rhino by Lou Ann Smith

Applique:

In Her Dreams She Dances by Sonia Grasvik

Polka Dodo by Susan Carlson

The Long Necked Cats and the Long Legged Bird by Kathy York

Photography and stitching over photos:

The Kiss by Maggie Vanderweit

No Worries by Jennifer Day

Murder of Crows by Jill Kertulla

Red Eyed Tree Frog by Jan Holzbauer

Painting on fabric:

The Blue Eyed Beast by Sharon Rossi

What Happens in the Swamp? by Christine Holden