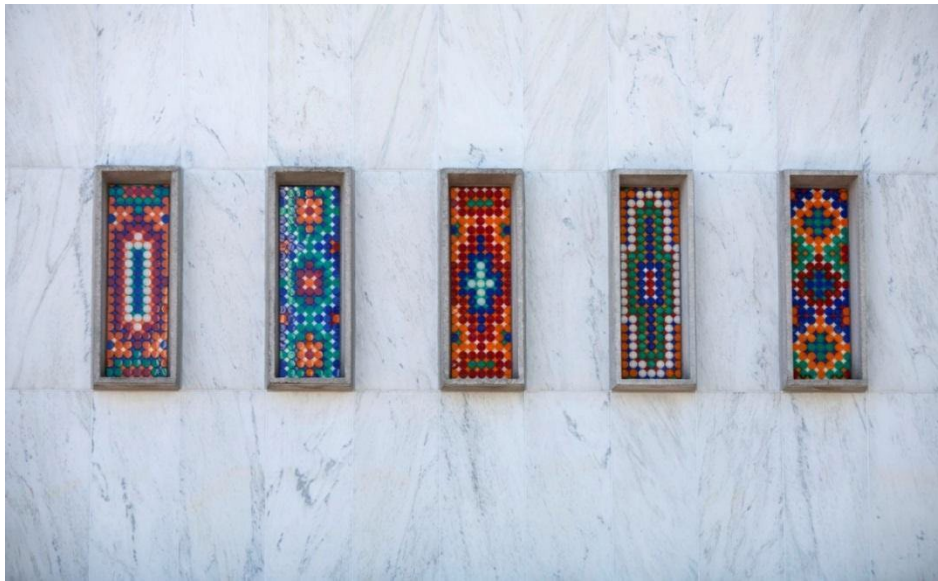


The Hunt is On (take 11)!

A Gallery Hunt through the Hallie Ford Museum of Art



Everyone's favorite squirrel invites you to follow the clues, find the artworks, and spend some time looking at and discussing each one with your friends and family. There are also different levels of difficulty in the questions and suggested discussions, so do a little or a lot, and when you have completed the hunt, take your guide to the desk for a little something to say, "well done!"

In/Out of this World

From our solar system to the land right here on Earth, artists are inspired by the world around them, and even beyond. Let's take a look!

1. **Start in the Carl Hall Gallery on the first floor.** As you enter the gallery look left to find the large photo of the sun. Or is it?

Title:

Artist:

Describe what you see here.

What shapes do you see? What colors? This image was taken in Salem by the artist in 2017 during a solar eclipse (when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, hiding the view of the Sun from the Earth). Think about the decisions she made that create visual interest in this simple black and white photograph of the Sun (a circle) hidden behind the Moon (another circle) – choices such as the exact moment she snapped the picture or the position of the Sun/Moon within the frame. What else do you notice the longer you look?

Good to know!

The 2017 solar eclipse was the first total solar eclipse to cross the United States since 1918. The “path of totality” – the only place you could view the Moon’s total eclipse of the Sun – traveled all the way from Salem, Oregon to Charleston, South Carolina.

2. Speaking of the Sun and the Moon, **look to your left.**

Title:

Artist:

Describe what you see here.

What shapes do you see? What colors? What else do you see? How is this similar to the work we just saw? How is it different? See how the 2-dimensional **shapes** (circles) in the photograph have become 3-dimensional **forms** (spheres) in this work. How has this artist created visual interest (different sizes of spheres, different textures, real movement)?

An orrery (**awr-uh-ree**) is a mechanical model of the solar system that illustrates the positions and motions of the Earth and the Moon around the Sun. It can also include the other planets and their moons, as well as bodies such as asteroids. This orrery's "solar" (light bulb!) panel creates the energy source for its movement.

Good to know!

A sculpture that uses motion is called **kinetic** (kuh-**neh**-tuhk) sculpture. Kinetic sculpture is also called 4-dimensional art because not only does it take up space, it also includes time as it moves through that space.

3. Let's turn our attention from outer space to planet Earth. **Go into the next room in this gallery and look to your right** to the larger work in the middle. Start looking from about two feet away.

Title:

Artist:

Describe what you see here.

What shapes do you see? Where do you see line? What colors do you see? Now, back up a bit until the focus of your eyes changes. What do you see now? The grid that the artist created fades the farther away you get from the work and you can see the image more clearly.

If you counted each square in the grid, it would add up to over 15,000 – that is how many years humans have lived in the landscape the artist is depicting, at the edge of the Great Basin region. This is the earliest known existence of humans living in what is now known as Oregon.

Something to think about:

What do you think the artist is trying to say by putting the grid over the landscape he photographed? How would your experience of the work be different if the grids were not there?

Tales as Old as Time

Many of the stories we tell today have been around almost as long as people have been on Earth. Let's look at art inspired by these tales...

4. **Leave the Carl Hall Gallery and go upstairs. Turn left at the top and enter the Grand Ronde Gallery. Go back to the small room to the left, behind the glass case.** Look for the large white face.

Title:

Artist:

Describe what you see here.

This sculpture represents *Pooq-oobs*, who for many indigenous peoples along the Northwest Coast of British Columbia, Canada is the spirit of a whale hunter lost at sea. While there are some differences in the name and the story among the different communities, *Pooq-oobs* is usually depicted all white, to suggest the effects of drowning, with whirlpool-shaped eyes and lips pursed in an “ooo ooo” cry. It is said that when whale hunters are lost at sea, *Pooq-oobs* swallows their spirits and carries them back to their home villages for their memorial ceremony.

Although this is carved into the shape of a mask, it is too large and heavy to be worn and instead functions as a sculpture to display on the wall. Many indigenous artists working today make and sell works that are similar or identical to masks or other ritual objects, but are meant to be sold in the art market.

Good to know!

Artists create with art with line, shape, color, etc., and the way they arrange them is called **composition**. Look at the composition of this mask. What shapes do you see? Where do you see line? Note the way the artist creates **mirror symmetry** — if you draw a line down the center of the face, the right side would be a perfect reflection of the left. Only the added hair and cedar strands break this symmetry. This is called, unsurprisingly, **broken symmetry**.

5. For another ancient story, **leave the Grand Ronde Gallery and cross the landing to the Mark and Janeth Sponenburgh Gallery.** Turn to your right as you walk into the gallery and find the small glass-topped case with two decorated containers. Look for the smaller container with one handle.

Title:

Culture:

Describe what you see here.

This is a type of ancient Greek vessel (container) called a lekythos (**leh-kee-thos**). It was made for storing oil, probably olive oil, and was often used in funerary ceremonies. Its shape tells us something about its special use: the small body holds only a small amount of oil and the narrow neck helps to pour it carefully.

This lekythos is adorned with figures and other decorations. How has the painter used shape and line to create patterns? Look at how the painter created the figures. They are black shapes with details painted on, or in some cases like the folds on robes, they are scratched into the black background to show the red clay underneath.

The main character on this lekythos is the sphinx (**sfincks**), who is seated on a column. The sphinx was a monster with the body of a lion, the head of a woman, and eagle's wings. She was sent by the gods to the ancient city of Thebes in Greece to punish the people for a long-ago crime. There she sat on top of the city walls, asking all the young men of Thebes the same riddle: "What walks on four feet in the morning, two feet in midday, and three feet in the evening?" When they couldn't answer it, she ate them.

Finally, a young man named Oedipus (**eh-duh-puhs**) solved the riddle: "The answer is 'man.' A man crawls on all fours in the morning of his life, he walks on two feet in the midday of his life, and he uses a cane for extra support in the evening of his life, when he is old." The sphinx was so upset that he answered correctly that she threw herself off the wall. The city was saved and Oedipus became its king.

Something to think about:

The sphinx is depicted here with two older men, not Oedipus, who is the hero of this story. We know this because they are both pictured with beards and walking sticks. Perhaps they illustrate the "evening" of man in the riddle? Maybe the painter was depicting another part of the story? What do you think?

Daily Life

While some artists like to tell stories, others are inspired by everyday life – the things we need, the people we see, the places we go. Let's explore!

- 6. Go into the red room next to this one** and look for the glass-topped case standing in the center. Now find the small brown and golden-brown vessel shaped like something you would wear on your foot.

Title:

Culture/Place:

Describe what you see here.

What shapes do you see? Where do you see lines? How would you describe the surface? How do you think this object was used?

This is a lamp! Fuel of some sort – like olive oil or animal fat – is put through the hole in the center to fill the body of the lamp, and then a wick made of a twisted fiber is placed in the smaller hole in the front to soak up the oil. After lighting the wick, the lamp is carried by the protruding handle to light the way.

This lamp is called a “slipper lamp” because it is shaped like the footwear. Can you find the other lamp in this case? How is it similar to the slipper lamp? How is it different?

Good to know!

Humans have been using lamps for a very long time. While the first handmade lamps were created over 5,000 years ago, simple oil “lamps” made from indentations in stone or out of shells have been found in archaeological sites from over 10,000 – 15,000 years ago!

7. Some artists find everyday people, rather than kings and queens or supernatural beings, to be very interesting subjects. **Go into the green room and turn to your left** to find the glass-topped case filled with objects so small they fit in the palm of your hand. Now find the mother and child.

Title (in this case, what the objects are called):

Culture:

Describe what you see here.

How do you think the artist made this object? What materials do you think the artist used? (find the answer in the label).

What details has the artist included that tells us something about the woman and the child, their relationship, and what they are doing?

This object, called a *netsuke* (net-tsoh-kay) was originally used as part of clothing. Traditional garments in Japan, like the *kimono* (kee-moh-noh) the woman is wearing, had no pockets. An item could be suspended from a belt-like sash – called an *obi* (oh-bee) – by a cord. The cord is attached to the *netsuke*, and tucked under the *obi* so that the *netsuke* hangs over the top, holding the item in place.

Good to know!

As western fashion became popular in Japan, pants, tops, and dresses replaced traditional garments and *netsuke* became unnecessary. The tradition of miniature sculpture continued with *okimono* (oh-kee-moh-noh), which are similar to *netsuke* but do not have two holes in the back to attach to a cord. This sculpture of the mother and child does have the two holes so we know it is a *netsuke*!

8. Other artists are drawn to familiar places, where people go for work or play. **Go into the purple room and look to the right.** Find the painting with the lake.

Title:

Artist:

Describe what you see here.

Imagine you are one of the people going out in the small boat.

Describe your afternoon on the lake – what kind of day is it? What is the weather like? What do you see? What do you hear and smell? What are you doing on the lake – are you going somewhere or are you just there to relax and enjoy the day?

Look at the brushstrokes and the way the artist has used the paint – how does it help to create the atmosphere you described?

IMAGES

