

Safari through Art

Tour Description

Discover real and imaginary animals in works of art from around the world. This tour invites children to share what they see and know about animals and their habits. Explore many ways that humans and animals interact, and hear stories where animals play a role.

Tour Objective By looking at real and imaginary animals in art, help children discover the many ways animals, or ideas about animals, have been used throughout time and in many different places.

Means The number of objects that depict animals in the museum's collections are almost endless, so be creative. Draw your selections from many cultures and a variety of media.

Themes

I Spy: Searching for Artful Animals (Grades K-2) In this tour for beginner viewers, the children collect a variety of animals from the museum for their imaginary "safari scrapbook." Before you begin, have the group list the things they need to bring on their safari, such as binoculars and a camera. Look for animals that are strong, brave, good companions, mischievous, or even funny.

Yoshimoto Nara, *Your Dog*, Japan, 2002, 2007.100

Crouching Lion, Greece, 330-317 BCE, 25.25

Owl-Shaped Zun/wine vessel, Shang Dynasty, China, 13th-12th c. BCE, 50.46.116

Hara Yoyusai, *Writing Box/suzuribako* (man on horse), Edo period, Japan, early 19th c., 2001.70.1a-i

Kano school, *A Gathering of Cranes*, Edo period, Japan, early 18th c., 64.61

Mughal school, *Majnun in the Wilderness*, India, c. 1600, 85.80

Elephant Attacking a Feline, Turkey, late 4th-mid 5th c., 69.49.2

Bamileke, *Elephant Mask*, Cameroon, c. 1900, 94.2

Benin (Edo), *Leopard water pitcher*, Nigeria 18th c., 58.9

Iatmul, *Hand drum/kundu* (crocodile), Papua New Guinea, 20th c., 98.37.3

Goodwin, *A "Bear" Chance*, United States, 1907, 70.64

Courbet, *Deer in the Forest*, France, 1868, 14.76

Colima, *Dog*, Mexico, about 100-300, 99.57.3

Tripod vessel with armadillos, Isthmus region, Costa Rica, c. 500, 97.92.2

Guanacaste, *Vessel* (jaguar), Costa Rica, c. 1100-1200, 46.3.6

Pillow (deer), Sung dynasty, China, 11-12th c., 2000.42

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS:
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Allegorical "Millefleurs" Tapestry with Animals (unicorn), Belgium, c. 1530-45, 34.4

Attributed to Humped-Wolf Full-Mouth Buffalo, *Shield*, Apsáalooke (Crow), United States, c.1870, 87.51a,b

Nellie Two Bear Gates, *Suitcase* (horses), Lakota, United States, 1880-1910, 2010.19

Animals and Humans

Explore the various relationships that people have had with animals in different times and places as represented in art. Discuss how art objects show that humans depend on animals for providing labor, protection, sport, transportation, companionship, and their livelihood. Also see ways in which people care for animals, or look for conflicts between humans and animals.

Funerary Model of a Pig Sty, China 2nd c. BCE, 95.118.1a-l

Cricket Containers, China, 17th and 18th c., 2002.271.3, 2000.156.3, 99.128.2, and 99.53.9 (many examples; varies as to what is on view)

Barlach, *The Fighter of the Spirit* (lion), Germany, 1928, 59.16a,b or 83.82

Bassano, *The Element of Water*, Italy, c. 1576-77, 94.45

Costa, *Portrait of a Cardinal in his Study* (St. Jerome and the Lion), Italy, early 16th c., 70.17

Jackson, *Stampede*, United States, 1958-59, 91.150a,b

Stearns, *A Fishing Party Off Long Island*, United States, 1860, 78.26

Cadzi Cody, *Scenes of Plains Indian Life*, Shoshone, Great Plains region, United States, c. 1880, 85.92

Hara Yoyusai, *Writing Box/suzuribako* (man on horse), Edo period, Japan, early 19th c., 2001.70.1a-i

Camels, Tang Dynasty, China, 618-907, 2004.205.1,2a-b

Djenne, *Equestrian Figure*, Mali, c. 1450, 83.168

Kwei, *Fantasy Coffin*, Ghana, 1993, 2010.72

Hunt, *Transformation Mask*, Kwakwaka'wakw, Canada, 1993, 93.42

Mythical Animals Whether real or imaginary, humans have a long history of incorporating animals into stories. Animals appear in mythical, allegorical, and spiritual tales to serve as guardians, mediators to other worlds, or messengers of fortune or misfortune. Explore together what artists' interpretations tell us about animals' roles in various cultures.

Cinerary Box with Cover, (harpies, eagles, rams) Rome, 1st c., 62.20a,b

Mummy Case and Coffin of Lady Tashat, Egypt, 945-712 BCE, 16.417

Jade Covered Tripod (Buddhist lion dogs), China, 19th c., 92.103.22a,b or 92.103.24a,b

Shiva's Family (bull, lions, elephants), India, 10th-11th c., 97.36
Benin (Edo), *Tusk*, Nigeria, 1775-77, 56.33

Allegorical "Millefleurs" Tapestry with Animals (unicorn), Belgium, c. 1530-45, 34.4

Millais, *Peace Concluded*, England, 1856, 69.48

Virgin and Child in a Landscape, Netherlands, about 1492-98, 90.7
Brancusi, *Golden Bird* (mythical Maiastira) Romania, about 1919, 55.39

Piranesi, *Pier Table* (chimeras) Italy, about 1768, 64.70

Haida, *Raven Rattle*, North America, about 1850-1910, 75.55

Olmec, *Mask*, Mexico, about 900-300 BCE, 2002.127

**Focus on Style
(Grades 3-5)**

This tour explores the many ways animals have been depicted in art ranging from realistic, to stylized, to abstract. Discuss the reasons why the artist may have chosen to depict the animal this way. How does the style affect the way you see the animal? How is the culture of the times reflected in the style the artist has used?

Malagan Frieze (birds and snake), New Ireland, Papua New Guinea, 19th c., 85.94

Bwa, *Serpent Mask*, Burkina Faso, West Africa, 20th c., 57.43.2

Djenne, *Equestrian Figure*, Mali, c. 1450, 83.168

Boucher, *St. John the Baptist* (lamb), France, about 1755, 75.8

Klee, *Howling Dog*, Switzerland, 1928, 56.42

Tamayo, *Howling Dog*, Mexico, 1960, P.12,853

Kwei, *Fantasy Coffin*, Ghana, 1993, 2010.72

Olmec, *Mask*, Mexico, about 900-300 BCE, 2002.127

Colima, *Dog*, Mexico, about 100-300, 99.57.3

Haida, *Totem Pole*, Northwest Coast, United States, after 1850, 97.169.1

Hunt, *Transformation Mask*, Kwakwaka'wakw, Canada, 1993, 93.42