

Write or draw an imagined story of "Omar and the Magic Feather."



**Questions to consider:**

- Where does Omar – the dog – live?
- Where did Omar find a feather?
- Where was the bird?
- What would make a feather magical?
- What magic could Omar perform with the feather?

Activity Guide

# Birds in Art

Many cultures have turns of phrase, expressions, or fables inspired by bird behavior – silly as a goose, like water off a duck’s back, and madder than a wet hen. Jan Martin McGuire titled her 2017 painting *Early Bird Gets the Worm*.



What other bird phrases or expressions can you think of?

The “Wheel of Fortune”-inspired puzzle below conceals a quote celebrating our unique talents.

The grid contains the quote. The letter bank holds the missing letters for each column. For example, in column one, the letters T, B, V “drop” into the three boxes below. The challenge is to figure out the order.

Through a process of elimination and using the red letters as clues, place the missing letters to complete the quote.

one								L	S										
Letter Bank	<del>T</del>	<del>I</del>	H					T	E	<del>G</del>	W		U	<del>F</del>					
	<del>B</del>	<del>E</del>	<del>R</del>	<del>O</del>	<del>S</del>	<del>O</del>	S	A	E	A	<del>T</del>		<del>S</del>	L	D	P	T		
	<del>V</del>	<del>H</del>	<del>R</del>	<del>Y</del>	<del>W</del>	<del>S</del>	I	<del>D</del>	<del>N</del>	<del>S</del>	T	O	X	C	N	<del>G</del>	O	E	
	T	H	E		W	O		D											
					S			L			T			F		N			
	B	I	R	D	S				N	G									
													S			G			
								B	S	T									

The *Birds in Art* activity guide is supported in part by a contribution from the Wausau High School Class of 1959.

## Shape

The elements of art include shape, form, line, value, space, color, and texture. Artists use these elements like building blocks to create paintings and sculptures. Shapes make up two-dimensional artworks – drawings, paintings, and graphics.

Study Nancy Howe's 2018 painting, *Just Beginning*, to find the basic shapes she used to "build" the birds. Look for teardrops and lemons.

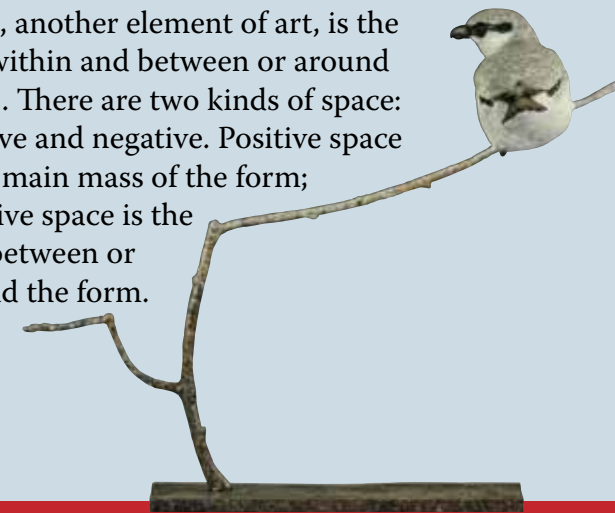
Use the white space below to draw California quail of different sizes using basic shapes.



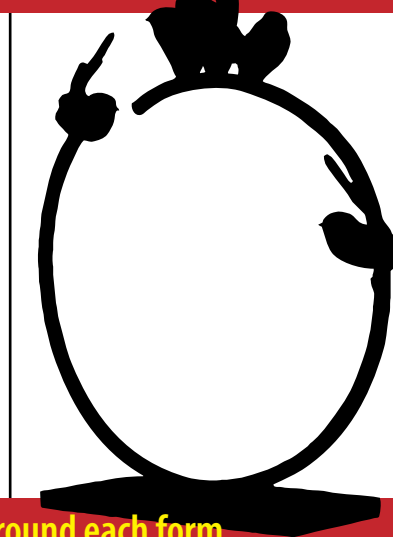
## Form & Space

Sculptures are three-dimensional artworks that are measured by height, width, and depth. Form is the element of art that refers to the mass of an object.

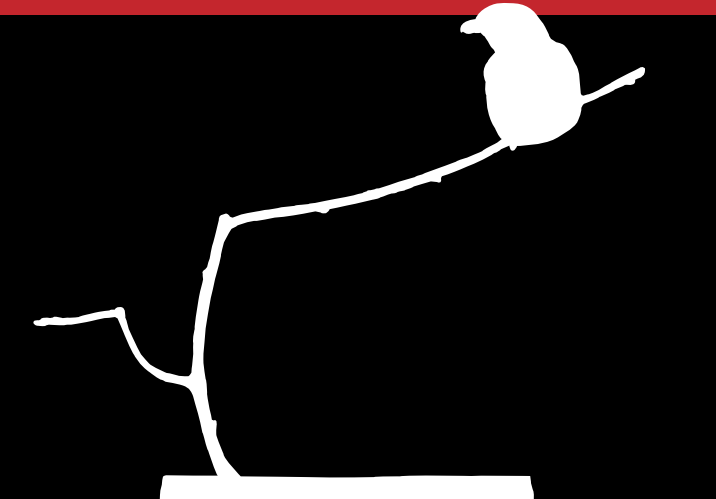
Space, another element of art, is the area within and between or around forms. There are two kinds of space: positive and negative. Positive space is the main mass of the form; negative space is the area between or around the form.



Draw the positive space – the main mass of each sculptural form.



Draw the negative space – the area between or around each form.



Take time to walk around sculpture. How does sculpture visually change when you view it from a different side? Stand directly in front of a sculpture; how does it look? What are the differences?