Celebrate Whimsy

The whimsy of brightly colored tin toys – providing delight and entertainment without digital technology – inspired two Birds in Art 2020 artists. The absurdity of a duck on a bike and toys “talking” to each other makes one smile.

Imagination and storytelling can refresh the mind and mood.

Consider these ideas for a story to write, draw, or perform. Imagine . . .

✎ A lighthearted or whimsical situation in which a favorite childhood toy is a main character
✎ A ridiculous character accomplishing everyday tasks
✎ The name, personality, and mission of the duck on the bike
✎ A response to the title of Elaine Twiss’ artwork, “Say What!”
Celebrate the Arts

Extraordinary avian art is shared and appreciated at the Woodson Art Museum – all year long, every year, across decades – and as *Birds in Art* 2020 demonstrates, even during a pandemic.

The arts – visual, performing, musical, and literary – enrich and enhance lives and communities. During challenging times, the arts can be a lifeline providing distraction as well as joy.

Imagine the wire fence in this artwork is a musical staff and each bird is a note. Artist Emily Lozeron used the musical notes from Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons – Winter” to arrange the redpolls. If played, the result is a couple bars of Vivaldi’s famous violin concerto. Birdsong, musical performance, and the visual arts are celebrated in this painting.

*Use the key below to decode the message.*

**Key**

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**Message**

“Art enables us to ![music notes] ourselves and ![music notes] ourselves at the same time.”  

*Thomas Merton*

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*Birds in Art* is an international juried exhibition organized annually by the Woodson Art Museum.

*Thomas Merton (1915–1968) was a writer and Trappist monk. Learn more about him at www.merton.org.*