



# Beyond Artworks

## Artists & Their Stories

### Chronicle of Collectibles

What things do people collect? Sea shells, postage stamps, Pokémon® cards, coins, and vinyl records are popular collectibles.

Art museums collect artworks. The art owned by a museum is called a “collection.” Through purchases, gifts, and bequests, the Woodson Art Museum’s collection has grown to include more than 14,000 artworks.

Think about what you collect or might want to collect if you could. How would you decide to include something in your collection? Would it be its shape or color or its rarity? Perhaps it completes a set or reminds you of something you did or a place you visited.

Write or draw a story about something that is either in your collection or you would like to collect. Collect and paste leaves or magazine cut-outs if you like.



**Topical Tidbit:** Nonfungible tokens (NFTs) are digital collectibles – images, songs, GIFs, and videos. Stories about these digital assets are currently in the news.

# Artistry of Ornithology

**J**ohn James Audubon (1785-1851) was an ornithologist; he studied birds. A keen nature observer, Audubon wanted to document all known North American birds. To do so, he carefully sketched each bird he saw and then added color to his drawings.

Audubon completed 435 watercolors for his *The Birds of America*, earning him the title, “Father of American Ornithology.”

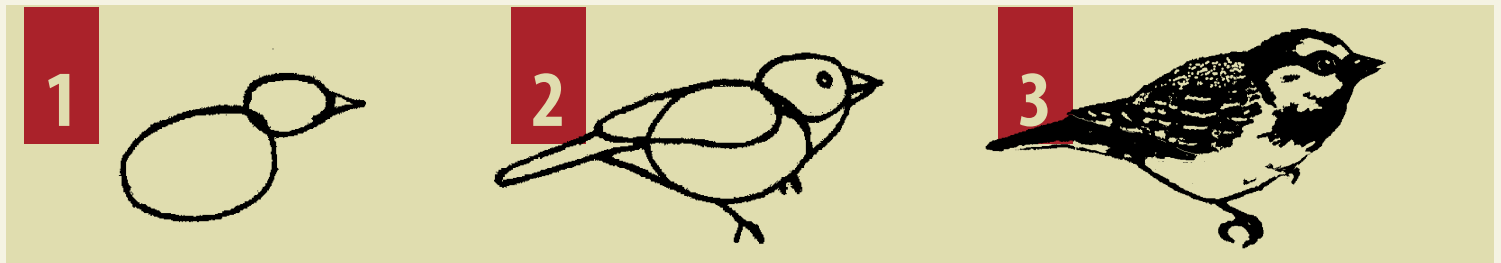
Look at birds out a window or on a neighborhood walk. Study their shapes, feather colors, beaks, feet, and movements. Listen to their songs, too.

**To draw a bird, first think about simple shapes: circles, ovals, and triangles. Follow these steps to draw a feathered friend.**



John James Audubon, *Pacific Loons*, ca. 1834, oil on canvas

- 1. Sketch the basic shapes.**
- 2. Add details, such as an eye, beak, and feet. Add outlines to complete the bird.**
- 3. Add shading or coloring.**



## Audubon's Story

As a scientist, I want accurate bird portrayals. I practice and practice drawing birds. Each year on my birthday, I look at the past year's drawings and toss them into the fire. None are accurate enough; I will keep trying.

To learn more, check out the children's illustrated book, *The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon*, written by Jacqueline Davies and illustrated by Melissa Sweet.

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This Activity Guide complements the 2021 exhibition, *Beyond Artworks: Artists & Their Stories*, drawn from the Museum's collection.

Leigh Yawkey  
**Woodson**  
Art Museum

700 North Twelfth Street  
Wausau, WI 54403  
715.845.7010  
www.lywam.org

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