

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum

What Might You Do?

The Art of Christian Robinson



December 4, 2021 – February 27, 2022

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What Might You Do?

The Art of Christian Robinson



Playful, yet thoughtfully candid, the artwork of children's book illustrator Christian Robinson highlights the value of different perspectives and being kind to all.

Robinson, a Caldecott Honoree and recipient of two Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honors from the American Library Association, creates jubilant artwork infused with hope. Whether illustrating historical events, biographies, or the possibilities abounding in daydreams, his artwork illuminates social issues, gently and directly challenging assumptions – reflecting the frank questions of a child.



Robinson dedicates *You Matter*, a recent solo project and *New York Times* bestseller, “to anyone who wonders if they matter. You do.” His wordless picture book *Another*, a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book of 2019, poses the questions “what if you encountered another perspective, discovered another world, met another you? What might you do?”



What Might You Do? The Art of Christian Robinson comprises artwork in acrylic paint, colored pencil, and mixed-media collage created to illustrate seventeen books.

Among those books are collaborations with author Matt de la Peña: *Last Stop on Market Street*, which was awarded a Caldecott Honor and the Newbery Medal, and *Milo Imagines The World*.



S.V. Medaris Artist Residency

January 6 – 9, 2022

Wisconsin artist S.V. (Sue) Medaris' prints and paintings of pets and farm animals challenge viewers to consider their impressions of familiar subjects. From vivid, personality-filled portraits of towering chickens to a confrontational depiction of a snarling possum guarding its kill, Medaris' work is instantly recognizable in *Birds in Art* exhibitions. Bold and graphic, Medaris' relief prints explore the humor, drama, and nuance inherent in humans' relationships with animals we live with, consume, and rely on.

January 6 Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Guest Artist Talk

Join Wisconsin printmaker and *Birds in Art* artist S.V. (Sue) Medaris for stories and insights into her relief-printing process and studio practice.

January 7 Friday, 1 – 3 pm

Printmaking Open Studio

Drop by to observe Medaris at work and learn more about her hand-colored woodblock prints.



January 8 & 9

Saturday & Sunday, 10 – 4 pm

Woodblock Printing Workshop

During a two-day workshop, artist S.V. (Sue) Medaris guides teens and adults as they design and carve a block for printing on a press; these small editions of prints can be hand colored or remain monochromatic. Fee: \$85, Museum members; \$100, non-members; lunches and materials provided. Call the Museum at 715.845.7010 to register; scholarships available.

January 29 Saturday, Noon – 5 pm

Snow Sculpture

Team USA Snow Sculptors – Mike Martino, Tom Queoff, and Mike Sponholtz – inspired by Christian Robinson's illustrations – work their winter wonders during their 32nd

year creating snow sculptures at the Woodson Art Museum.



Above: Christian Robinson, *Another* (detail), © 2019, acrylic paint and collage on paper

February 5 Saturday, 10:30 am – Noon

Art Beyond Sight

Individuals with low vision and blindness join Museum educators for a multisensory experience of *American Woodblock Prints* and the illustrations of Christian Robinson followed by art making inspired by artwork on view.

February 19 Saturday, 10 – 4 pm

Practical Printmaking Workshop

Teens and adults join Woodson Art Museum curators for a playful exploration of accessible printmaking processes using everyday materials and household objects. Resulting original prints can be collaged, hand colored, and layered into future mixed-media artworks. Materials and lunch provided; \$50 for members; \$75 for non-members. Call the Museum at 715.845.7010 to register; scholarships available.

Also on View December 4, 2021 – February 27, 2022

American Woodblock Prints

Landscapes, urban scenes, and figurative and expressionist images of American artists' twentieth-century woodblock prints include a range of influences and re-interpretations. Showcasing an array of relief prints, this Syracuse University Art Museum exhibition encompasses work from wood engravers inspired by European avant-garde images and Japanese woodcut designs to Jim Dine's innovations in the 1990s and experimental printmakers who continued to push the boundaries of woodblock prints.



Making the Cut

Relief Prints from the Woodson Art Museum's Collection

As printmaking evolved, artists expanded relief-printing methods in new and innovative ways. *Making the Cut* examines the processes, tools, and techniques used to create relief prints. In his single-color woodcut *Owl*, Leonard Baskin used nothing more than surface grain to create background texture and space. Sherrie York's complex multi-color reduction linocut *Cruisin'* masterfully depicts a pelican moving through abstract water reflections. Complementing *American Woodblock Prints*, *Making the Cut* showcases a range of relief-print possibilities.



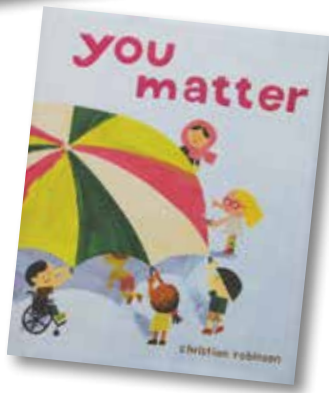
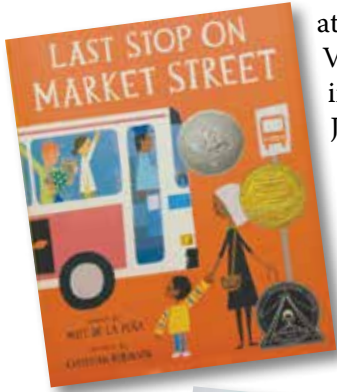
Top, from left: Frederick O'Hara, *Picador*, 1959, color woodcut on Japanese paper; Jim Dine, *Fourteen Color Woodcut Bathrobe*, 1982, color woodcut on wove paper

Above, from left: Walter I. Anderson, *Horizontal Pelican*, 1945, hand-colored linocut on wallpaper; Sherrie York, *Cruisin'* (1/16), 2015, reduction linocut on Rives BFK paper

Exhibition Extras

Art Park Inspired by Christian Robinson's diverse storytelling and illustration techniques, drop in to the Museum's interactive gallery to create a visual narrative with collage, paint, and image transfers. Play with prose on our word wall and experiment with mirror-image text, a fundamental printmaking characteristic.

Books Perfect for holiday gift-giving, books featuring Christian Robinson's illustrations are available for purchase at the Museum's Visitor Services desk in partnership with Janke Book Store.



Janke
book store

Art Kits Free, take-and-make art materials for all ages include instructions to complete hands-on projects complementing artwork on view. Art Kits are supported by a grant from M&T Charitable Foundation and Wilmington Trust.



Videos Get insights into relief printing via videos to watch on the Museum's YouTube channel or by downloading our free audio tour app on your smartphone or tablet.

Activity Guide Explore exhibition themes and ideas for creative conversation and making, free, in print and online.



Christian Robinson, *Last Stop on Market Street*, © 2015, acrylic on paper

Additional Winter Wonders

Sample these options, complementing artwork on view in the galleries, throughout this winter as re-imagined programming continues.

Stop-by Studio Always open and stocked with Art Kits and books, free to keep or share; pick up Art Kits for in-gallery or at-home art making.

Pop-Up Possibilities Additional opportunities to look, learn, and make may pop up. Follow the Woodson Art Museum on social media for details; Museum members will receive an email notice.

Art à la Carte Gather at a table and chairs in the galleries or in Art Park for hands-on art making. Seize pop-up opportunities when the Art à la Carte cart appears.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Acknowledgments

What Might You Do? The Art of Christian Robinson was organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas. *American Woodblock Prints* was organized by the Syracuse University Art Museum.



The Woodson Art Museum thanks members, donors, grantors, and sponsors who support exhibitions and programs. BMO Harris Bank is the presenting sponsor of *What Might You Do? The Art of Christian Robinson*.



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Museum Hours

Tuesday – Friday	9 am – 4 pm
First Thursday of each month	9 am – 7:30 pm
Saturday – Sunday	Noon – 5 pm
Closed Monday and holidays, including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day	

Contact Us

Phone: 715.845.7010
Email: info@lywam.org
Online: www.lywam.org

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Weekly blog Woodson Wanderings



Cover: Christian Robinson, *You Matter*, © 2020, acrylic paint and collage on paper

Inside cover, clockwise: Christian Robinson, *Just in Case You Want to Fly*, © 2019, colored pencil on paper; Christian Robinson, *The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade*, © 2014, colored pencil on paper; Christian Robinson, *Another* (detail), © 2019, acrylic paint and collage on paper

Top: Christian Robinson, *Just in Case You Want to Fly* (detail), ©2019, acrylic paint and collage on paper; below: Christian Robinson, *Josephine*, © 2014, acrylic paint on paper

