

NATURAL OBSERVATIONS



WHO ARE THE “BIG FOUR?”

The “Big Four” refers to the four famous wildlife artists included in *Survival of the Fittest*, Richard Friese, Wilhelm Kuhnert, Bruno Liljefors, and Carl Rungius. These four painters changed the way wildlife artwork was understood by depicting animals in their natural environments, rather than painting them in zoos or man-made habitats like other artists who came before them. Their observations of nature and wildlife helped people see animals and environments in many parts of the world that they could not have experienced otherwise.



HORIZON LINE: An imaginary, physical, or visual line that represents the viewer’s eye level in a drawing. These lines can be used to separate the ground from the sky or to create a sense of depth in a scene



Notice how artist Carl Rungius uses horizon lines to make the bear’s environment look more realistic.

DEPICTING ANIMALS WHERE THEY LIVE

Carl Rungius, *Old Baldface*, c. 1935, oil on canvas, JKM Collection, National Museum of Wildlife Art

COLLAGE: a composition that combines various types of paper and is pasted on a surface

Like the “Big Four” artists, illustrator Eric Carle also focused on visual observations of the natural world. Through his vibrant, colorful illustrations and innovative use of collage, Carle brought nature to life in a way that was accessible and engaging for young audiences.

DEPICTING ANIMALS THROUGH COLLAGE

Illustration from *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*
© [1967] by Eric Carle

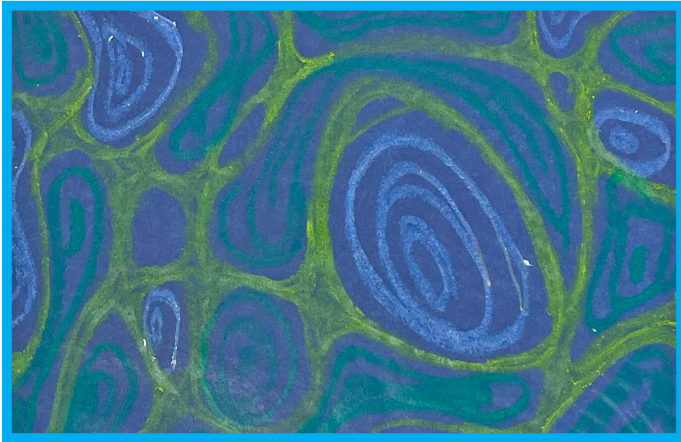


CRITTER COLLAGE

Taking inspiration from the artistic approaches of the “Big Four” and Eric Carle, create your own vibrant animal collage using the textures, colors, and habitats of nature.



1. Use the crayons to create abstract patterns and shapes on the large sheet of tissue paper.



2. Next, use the animal template and trace its shape on top of your tissue paper before cutting it out. Next, glue your tissue paper animal head to the template for stability.



3. Use the other included pieces of paper and tissue paper to cut out details like eyes, ears, or a snout. You can also create texture for your animal's fur!



4. Rip, crumple, or cut the paper to create a background environment for your animal, just like a wildlife artist. Think about where your critter might live.



LIONS, TIGERS,
AND BEARS, OH MY!



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WITH US!



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