



Mischief, 2019
Tara Banks
Oil on canvas
Gift of Gary Wattis
P.2019.007.001

If you have seen a rabbit before, you know that the real rabbits are not red, yellow, or blue. Why do you think the artist chose these colors? Imagine this picture painted in grey or brown tones. Would it be as much fun to look at? Why or why not?

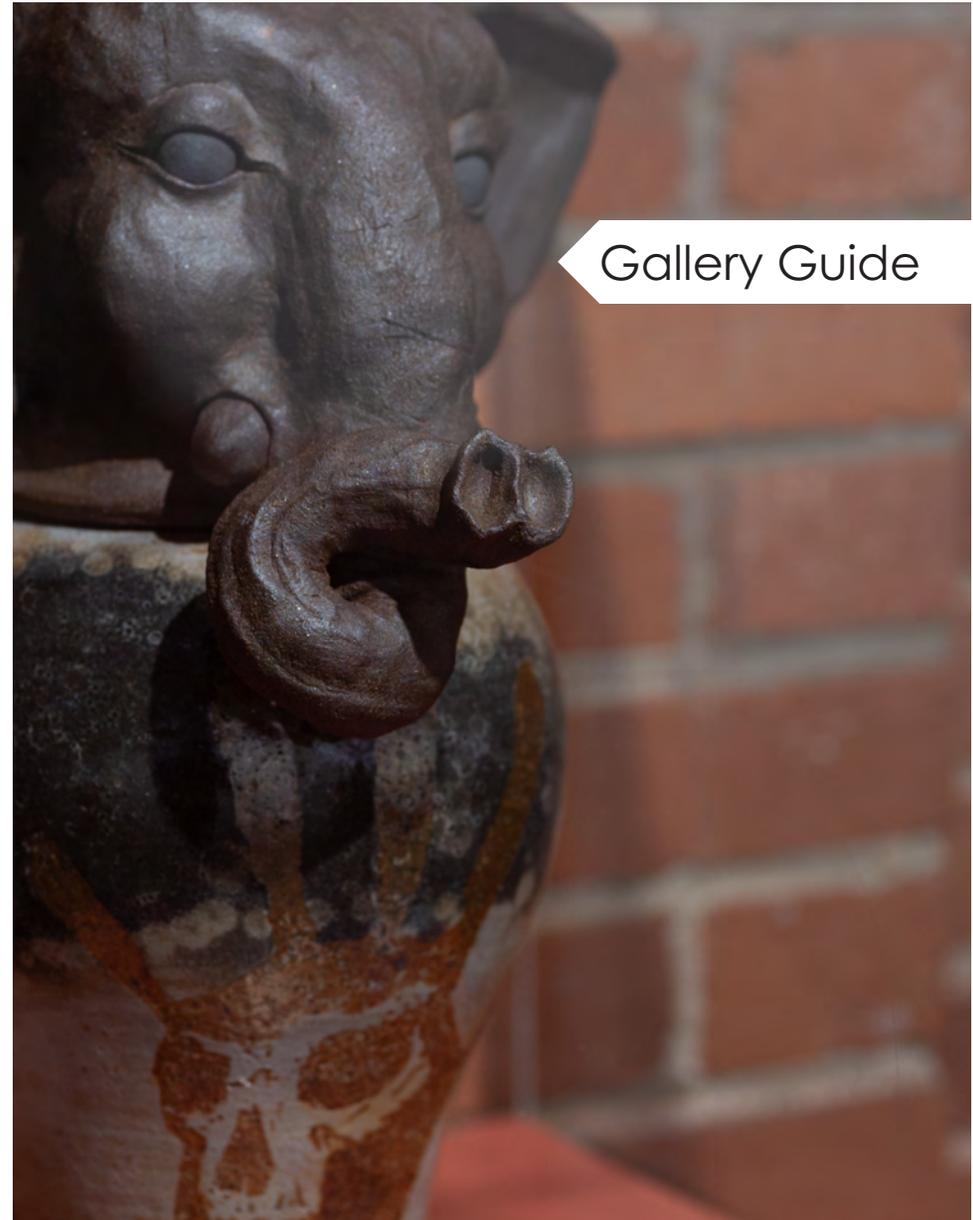
Artists painted animals from prehistoric times. The animals in the "Museum Menagerie" exhibition are very different from each other and are unique in their own way. Some are shown in their natural environment, while others exist in imaginary settings or on their own. Some of the animals look real and familiar, others look exotic, and some are products of the artists' imaginations.

Take a promenade (walk) through the menagerie. What animals do you see? Which of them live close to your home, which are from far away and which come from the artists' imaginations?

MUSEUM MENAGERIE

Works from the Permanent Collection

January 12 - April 18 2021



ABOUT THE SHOW



Independence Rock
Jim Kopp, 2014

The art found in this gallery is figurative. Figurative art describes artwork that is derived from a real object sources and so is, by definition, representational.

In the Western imagination, ancient cave paintings tend to conjure images of Lascaux, the cave complex in southwestern France, which is famous for its exceptionally detailed depictions of humans and animals. The Lascaux paintings, however, are a mere 17,000 years old. The oldest known examples of figurative art, or imagery that shows more than just abstractions, occur in Southeast Asia. Now a painting of pigs discovered in a cave in Indonesia sets a new record for the earliest figurative art—at least 45,500 years old—according to research published on January 13, 2021, in Science Advances.

me·nag·er·ie

noun: A menagerie is a collection of captive animals, frequently exotic, kept for display; or the place where such a collection is kept, a precursor to the modern zoological garden.

Among the over 8,000 pieces in the Nicolaysen Art Museum's permanent collection, there are a wide variety of artworks inspired by animals. Please enter our menagerie and enjoy both two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of domestic and exotic animals produced in nearly every medium.

From art about rural life and urban growth to myths and legends, animals have been a source of inspiration for many artists. Art can help us explore our relationship to wildlife and can help us think about how we care for animals and the environment.



Dated pig painting at Leang Tedongnge site in Indonesia

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