COLOR ME WCMA!

CREATED BY AGENTS FOR CREATIVE ACTION
Agents for Creative Action (ACA) is a cohort of undergraduate students who create original projects and programs that enliven WCMA’s collections, exhibitions, and spaces.

While meeting remotely during the 2020-2021 academic year, members of ACA created designs and prompts inspired by works of art from the museum’s global collection. Their drawings showcase artworks from a range of styles, media, and time periods.

We hope you enjoy spending time reading about their selections, looking closely at the art, and filling in the pages that follow with color and reflections of your own!

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BOOK DESIGN & LAYOUT

Rachel Buccalo
“I like how Monro creates a two-dimensional depth and monotony between the figures.”

Rachel Buccalo

What could the circles in this piece represent? Why do you think Monro drew so many circles?
"I was intrigued by the curious perspective in the original painting, and upon research, I enjoyed the sketches that Cadmus made for this final composition."

Paul Cadmus created many sketches taken from different perspectives before painting this final version. Use the blank space here to do some sketches of your own.
“I want to see where these animals go next.”

Rachel Buccalo

Well, where do you think these animals are off to?
"I think about Cociyo — no joke — multiple times a day. I’ll just be doing work and he pops into my head. His age, mystery, and his casual indifference fascinate me to a point of sacredness. Maybe I’m overshooting, but that’s the whole point of art, right?"

Ethan Richmond

This is the Lightning God Cociyo. Having been around for over a thousand years, what do you think he thinks about?
“The Sol LeWitt was the first piece of art at Williams that I fell in love with! On my college tour of the school, I remember entering WCMA and being immediately overcome with awe.”

Ethan Richmond

Sol LeWitt’s “Wall Drawing #1089” is not actually a work of art, but a set of instructions. What do you think these instructions look like?
DEATH ON THE RIDGE ROAD
Grant Wood, 1935

“I chose this work because of the tension exhibited. Though it’s stationary, you can almost see the cars driving towards each other, creating a sense of pressure and stress.”

Emily Du

How does this painting make you feel, and why? How does the title “Death on the Ridge Road” affect the emotional impact of this image?

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WINGED GUARDIAN SPIRIT

From Kalhu (Nimrud, Iraq), Neo-Assyrian Empire, ca. 880 BCE

“This work brings to mind important questions, not just about art and history, but also about museum practice.”

Ingrid Song

This ancient relief sculpture from the Northwest Palace of King Ashurnasirpal II was excavated in the mid 19th century and procured for Williams College by alumnus Rev. Dwight Whitney Marsh. What factors must museums consider when they decide to collect a work?
FLOWER STUDY
From Rajasthan, India, late 18th century

“I like this work because of its simplicity, and the majesty in the fact that out of a few carefully positioned lines, such a beautiful image can appear.”

Emma Larson

Spend some time thinking about the most beautiful flower you’ve ever seen. Where were you? What kind of flower was it? What did it smell like?

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Robert and Joseph Cornell, 1967

“I have many musician friends, and I thought it would be fun to imagine all kinds of wild animals playing instruments.”

Alexa Walkovitz

Draw the rest of the orchestra!
I love the simplicity of this woodblock print... There's a sort of quiet beauty about this piece.”

Emily Du

Titled “Beauty in front of a Mirror,” what do you think this artwork reveals about the beauty standards of the Edo period (1615 – 1868)?
Peep!
Squaauk!
CHIRP

Bok!
CLUCK!
CHIRP!

Squaauk

Bok-
Bok!

Bok!

CLUCK

(*CHICKEN NOISES*)
THE STORY OF
GOCKEL, HINKEL,
AND GACKELEIA

J. F. Schreiber, ca. 1915

“I love chickens and I even have a chicken purse. They speak to me.”

Alexa Walkovitz

What do you imagine these chickens are saying to each other?

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THE FLYING WOMEN

Mundo Meza, 1975

“I love how this works captures the greater-than-itself nature of performance and dance. The women are not just dancing on stage, they are flying.”

Javier Robelo

Different colors evoke different feelings.
Blue can be calm.
Red can be angry.
Yellow can be happy. As you color this painting, consider: what kind of dance do you want it to be? What songs do you imagine these figures dancing to?
Robert Rauschenberg, 1977

“I like that this whimsical picture of a cow exists within an exalted pop-art scene. I’m enchanted by the idea that anything could be the content for great art.”

Joseph Messer

Robert Rauschenberg incorporated everyday objects like signs, advertisements (or in this case, a bag of cow food!) into his vibrant designs. Think about an object you encounter during your day — how would you transform it into a work of art?
BEAUTY IS SHOE, SHOE BEAUTY...

Andy Warhol, 1955

“Warhol would gather friends and fellow artists to create these works together. Like a puzzle, each piece here is meant to show that a variety of energies can come together to create a beautiful and appreciative unison.”

Victoria Liu

Andy Warhol once said: “I see art in everything... It’s art if you see it as art.” Use this space to draw your favorite clothing item as a work of art.