



# Spencer Museum of Art

## Art Cart at Home: Bird Builder



For this activity you will create your very own birds! First, get inspired by the virtual exhibition [Audubon in the Anthropocene](#) and the painting [Birds of a Feather](#) by Haitian artist Joseph-Valcin Pierre.

*Audubon in the Anthropocene* features a series of prints by artist Matthew Day Jackson. Jackson reworks pictures of birds from John James Audubon's book *The Birds of America* and places them in a modern world affected by humans. *Birds of a Feather* is a painting by Haitian artist Joseph-Valcin Pierre that shows two richly colored birds perching on branches with pink flowers.



Pierre Joseph-Valcin  
[Birds of a Feather](#), 1975

### Look at *Birds of a Feather*

- What colors do you see in the birds' feathers?
- What type of environment do you think these birds live in?
- What kind of weather do flowers need to bloom?

Keep in mind that color is very important for birds. It helps them blend in with their environment so that they can stay safe.

**Fun Fact:** The pink flowers in this painting represent the Haitian spiritual figure Iwa.

### Look at *There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground*

These birds are drawn realistically but the artist chose to use colors that are more dramatic and brighter than in real life.

- Why do you think the artist used color this way?
- What kind of environment do these birds live in?

**Hint:** There are no leaves or flowers on these branches.

- How could you use bright and dramatic colors when making your birds?
- What ways do humans impact natural environments?

**Fun Fact:** Turkeys were reintroduced into Kansas in the 1960s.



Matthew Day Jackson  
[There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground](#), 2015–2016

# INSTRUCTIONS

## For the activity you will need:

- \* One sheet of plain, white paper
- \* One pencil
- \* Colored pencils, markers, or paint. Whatever you want to color in your bird.

## Use the materials to create your bird:

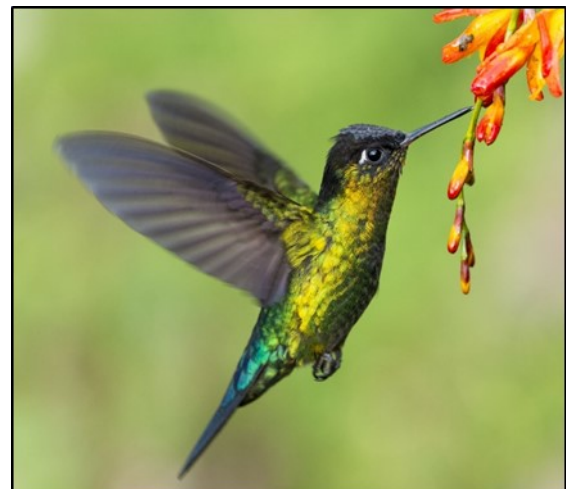
1. Using your pencil and drawing paper, draw your bird.
  - Where does your bird live? Is it hot or cold?
  - Does your bird fly?
  - What does your bird eat?
2. Color your bird in! Use whatever colors and patterns you want on your bird.
  - What patterns does your bird have?
  - Why did you choose these colors?
  - Remember where your bird lives.



**Did You Know:** Flamingos are pink because they eat pink algae and brine shrimp!



**Did You Know:** Owls have huge eyes so they can see better in the dark!



**Did You Know:** Hummingbirds have long and skinny beaks so they can reach into flowers to drink the nectar!