

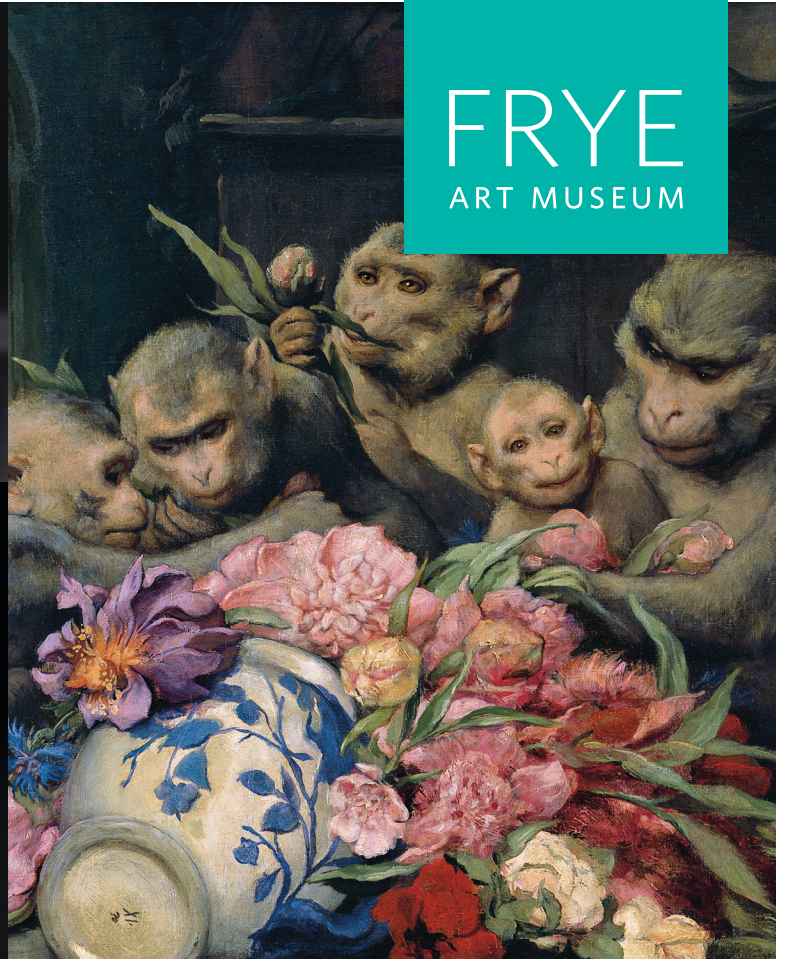
Images: Gabriel von Max. *Botaniker (The Botanists)*, ca. 1900-1915. Oil on canvas. 25 x 31 3/4 in. Frye Art Museum, Founding Collection, Gift of Charles and Emma Frye, 1952.117. Photo: Eduardo Calderón

Brian O'Leary. Untitled, 2019. Sculpted Model Magic clay with marker ink, feathers, and beads on foam. 5 1/2 x 8 x 1 1/2 in. Photo: Heather Ratcliff

Anne O'Leary. Untitled, 2019. Sculpted Model Magic clay with marker ink, feathers, and beads on foam. 2 x 6 x 2 1/2 in. Photo: Heather Ratcliff



**Animals as Inspiration Activity**



FRYE  
ART MUSEUM

## ANIMALS AS INSPIRATION ACTIVITY

In Creative Aging, art-making projects are designed to emphasize creative decision-making and the tactile experience of working with different art mediums. Such projects build self-confidence and foster a sense of play for people living with dementia. This activity allows a care partner to encourage creative exploration and experimentation with a person living with dementia and provides an opportunity for both to discuss and make art.

For this activity, you'll look closely at a painting in the Frye Art Museum's Founding Collection and create a sculpture of an animal in response to it.

### MATERIALS

- Crayola Model Magic or Play-Doh (or any soft clay)
- Markers
- Pipe cleaners or craft wire
- Sequins, buttons, beads, feathers, or other embellishments
- Glue (optional)
- Cardboard or heavy paper to use as a working station and base for the sculpture

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

- First, take a few quiet moments to look at the image of *Botaniker* by Gabriel von Max on the back of this card. Then use the following open-ended questions for a deeper discussion about it.
  - What's going on in this painting?
  - What do you notice first in this work of art?
  - Look at the background of this image. Where might this scene be taking place? What do you see that makes you say that?
  - Close your eyes and imagine you're in this painting. What do you hear? See? Smell? Feel?

- Let's look at the monkeys' expressions. How are they feeling?
- Why do you think the artist chose to capture this moment?
- What do you notice now that you didn't see before?
- After some conversation, encourage your artist to use that inspiration to create a sculpture of an animal. The animal could be real or imagined—there are no rules!
- Let the artist experiment with the Model Magic or Play-Doh in their hands. How might you change the clay with your hands? By rolling, pinching, or folding?
- Your artist can add details to the sculpture by using markers and/or embellishments.
- When the sculpture is complete, look at it from all sides and discuss what you've created together.
  - What do you see?
  - What do you like best about the sculpture?
  - How did it feel to work with clay?

### TIPS FOR LOOKING AT ARTWORK

- Focus on a theme if you're discussing multiple artworks.
- Always begin by looking together in silence.
- Ask open-ended questions.
- Allow for response time so that everyone can think about what they would like to say.

Visit [fryemuseum.org](http://fryemuseum.org) for resources for art materials, additional information for this project, and more.