

# OUT OF THE BAG

# ART MODULE ANN McCALL: FLORA + FAUNA



Ann McCall, *Forest and Fauna #1*, nd.

## ART MODULE | ANN McCALL: FLORA + FAUNA

### INTRODUCTION

Taking cues from Ann McCall's artwork, students create their own collage artwork based on the theme of flora and fauna.

### OBJECTIVE

This guide provides information and an activity lesson to inspire students to explore artistic creation and learn about Canadian artist Ann McCall and her colourful and layered work. *Forest and Fauna #1* is part of a larger group of *Faune et Forêt* (or Fauna and Forest) artworks that combine elements of the two natural realms, into a series of engaging prints. The subject matter underscores McCall's longstanding interest in the natural world and environmental concerns. *Forest and Fauna #1* is part of the Burnaby Art Gallery's Education Collection.

### AGE GROUP

Grades 1-5

### PROGRAM LENGTH

45-60 minutes

### CURRICULAR TIES

- » Creative expression develops our unique identity and voice.
- » Describe and respond to works of art.
- » Inquiry through the arts creates opportunities for risk taking.
- » Creative experiences involve an interplay between exploration, inquiry, and purposeful choice.
- » Artists experiment in a variety of ways to discover new possibilities and perspectives.
- » Interpret and communicate ideas using symbolism in the arts.
- » Explore elements, processes, materials, and techniques of the arts.
- » Observe and share how artists use processes, materials, movements, technologies, tools and techniques.

### ARTWORK

*Forest and Fauna #1*, 18cmx18cm. EC2017.4.1

### ARTIST BIO

Ann McCall uses drawing and printmaking to explore natural and landscape-based imagery, including wildlife and environmental concerns, largely drawn from personal observation. Working with printmaking allows her a close engagement with materials and a hands-on approach to art-making. Since 1977, she has shown her drawings, prints and paintings in Canada and internationally in group and solo shows. McCall received a BA from McGill University, studied drawing and printmaking at the University of Pittsburgh, and completed a BFA at Concordia University. She has lived and worked in Montreal, Quebec since 1974

### QUERIES

- » Describe some of the imagery found in McCall's work.
- » Discuss some of the techniques the artist has used.
- » How does the title relate to the content of the work?
- » Discuss the use of colour and the **cropping** of imagery.

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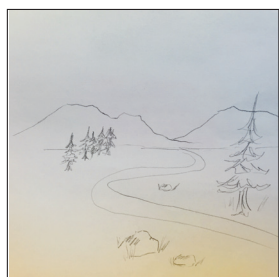
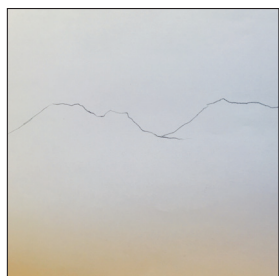
### ART ACTIVITY

#### Flora + Fauna Collage

**Materials:**

2 sheets white paper (12" x 12" approx.)	Scissors
Pencil + eraser	Glue
Pencil crayons or markers	Flora and fauna-based imagery (plants and animals)

McCall's series *Faune et Forêt* focuses on the natural world and includes animals like foxes, moose, raccoons and deer, as well as landscape elements such as trees, plants and flowers. McCall's printmaking process layers these subjects in interesting and varying ways: through imagery chosen, considered use of colour and arrangement or **composition** of each work. The result is a dynamic collage-like artwork that asks us to think about the natural world, the relationships in it as well as our own potential connection to it. In this work, McCall has used the layered printmaking process of **chine collé**, and **serigraphy**, a form of **screenprinting**. For this art activity, students will consider McCall's natural imagery and subject matter, while creating their own layered collage-based artwork.



- » Think about different kinds of animals, plants and landscapes. McCall has used a deer, a branch with pinecones, a cedar bough, and a forested hill as a **background**. All of these seem to belong to a mountainous setting. Imagine your own setting — what kinds of animals and plants would be found there? For example, a prairie landscape might include a horse, some grasses, prairie flowers and rolling hills in the background. A different mountainous setting could include a bear, a pine tree branch, salal and a hilltop in the background.
- » Notice how McCall has cropped her images. In doing so, she focuses on one area of the subject as opposed to seeing the whole. This provides a greater emphasis on specific parts and image details.
- » Pick one animal, two parts of trees or plants (branches, pinecones, trunks) and one landscape for the background. For inspiration, see some of the other works McCall created in this series. Also explore any books or magazines that have imagery of flora and fauna for inspiration.
- » After choosing an idea for the background landscape, draw it in pencil on the 12x12 inch paper. Start by drawing in the main features, such as the ridgeline of a mounting range, or the horizon line of the prairies.
- » Next draw in any details, such as whole trees, rocks or clouds in the sky.
- » Once the background landscape has been drawn in, colour in with coloured pencils or markers. Try varying the pressure of the coloured pencils to create areas of different colour intensities. Leaving white space can also be interesting, as McCall has done.
- » After choosing ideas for the three other elements (trees/plants and animal), decide what size and shape these should be. How will they look when placed on the background, what parts of it they will cover and how they will relate to each other? To practice, try cutting out a few blank rectangles, squares and circles of varying sizes from white paper. Lay these over the background and move them around to experiment with different arrangements.

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## ART ACTIVITY



## Flora + Fauna Collage

- » Next, decide which tree, plant or animal will fit each cut-out shape best. McCall has used varying shapes and has cropped the subjects of her images: we don't see the full branches with pinecones or cedar bough. She also shows only a part of the deer - a tight cropping of its head, ear and eye. How is this different than if she had shown the whole deer? Look at your subjects and decide on croppings you like. Cut out more shapes if needed. Draw in the subjects on the shapes and colour them in.
- » Arrange the images of **flora and fauna** on the 12x12 inch background. After deciding on a final placement, glue each one down.
- » The finished work will reflect your personal expression of some of the themes McCall uses, as well as colour usage, composition, to explore the subjects of the environment and the natural world. Create a title for your work and sign your name at the bottom!

## TERMS

**Composition** Arrangement or placement of objects or visual elements.

**Chine Collé** A layered printmaking technique that involves adhering a thin sheet of textured or coloured paper onto a base paper layer, over which an image can be printed.

**Cropping** Removing parts of an image.

**Serigraphy/Screenprint/Silkscreen** An image printed onto paper or other surface by forcing ink through a pattern cut into a piece of cloth stretched on a frame. A Serigraph is a type of screenprint.

**Foreground** Part of an image or photograph nearest to the viewer.

**Background** Part of an image or photograph farthest from the viewer.

**Flora + Fauna** Types of plants and animals indigenous to a specific area.

## SHARE

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