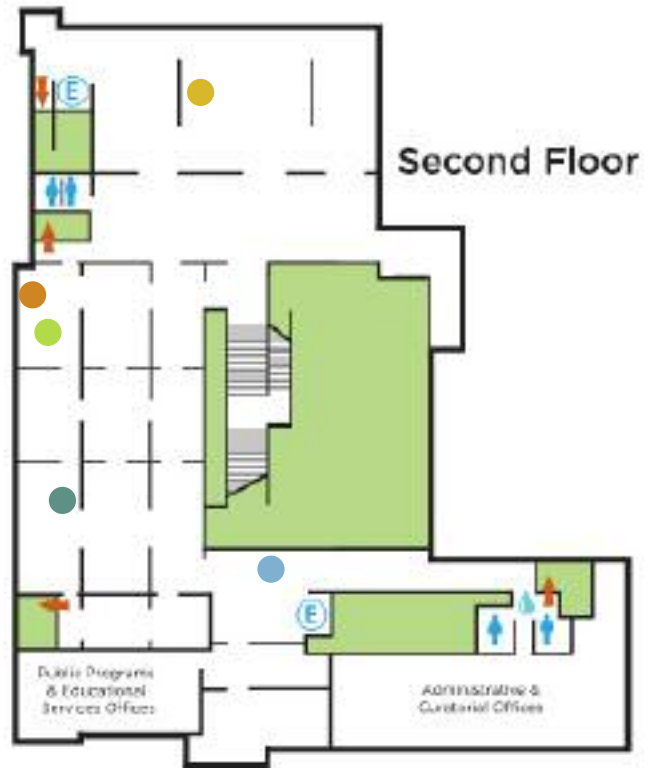


UMFA
UTAH MUSEUM
OF
FINE ARTS
SELF GUIDE

Bats!

UMFA MAP



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ? | Visitor Services Desk | ☎ | Public Telephone |
| E | Elevators | ♿ | Accessible Public Restrooms |
| 💧 | Drinking Fountain | ➡ | Emergency Exits |

WELCOME

to the Utah Museum of Fine Arts

Your Passport to a World of Art



This folder will help you and your group explore some exciting works of art at the UMFA. With this folder, you will spend time with several pieces of art from different places around the world. Before you get started, it is important to review the museum manners with your group.

MUSEUM MANNERS

1. No touching. Fingers damage art.
2. Please walk and use respectful voices.
3. No food, drink or gum allowed in the galleries.
4. Pencils only, no pens in the galleries.
5. Umbrellas, backpacks and large bags must be checked at the information desk.
6. Photography is allowed in the galleries under the following conditions:
 - Objects owned by the UMFA may be photographed. Objects on loan may not be photographed. The label next to the object will indicate if it is on loan.
 - No flash.
 - No tripods or large camera bags.

Wald Frey, American (1933-2004)
Bronze
Size: 122" h x 45" w x 24" d
Funded in part by the Richard K. and Shirley S. Hemingway Foundation
for the Utah Center for the Arts
Museum of Fine Arts
Art & Architecture Legacy Foundation/Utah Center for the Arts
New York, NY

ALLEGORY OF AIR



MORE ON BACK: turn card over



Johannes Vermeer (1632 - 1691) and Hendrik van Balen I (1574/1575 - 1622) or
Hendrik van Balen II (1620 - 1661), Pieter Paul Rubens
An Allegory of Air, ca. 1630-1635
Oil on panel
gift of W. A. Croening
Museum # 1993.054.002

READ A STORY

This painting was created as an allegory of air. An allegory is the representation of an abstract meaning through real forms. The artists wanted to show everything that reminded them of air so they included as many kinds of birds they knew, and included bats! There may be as many as three bats in this painting. How many can you find?



Today we classify bats as mammals but in the 15th century a bat was thought to be a bird.

The Bat, the Birds, and the Beasts

by Aesop

If you were to create an allegory of air what would you put in it?

Ideas:

- a hot air balloon
- an inner tube
- an airplane
- clouds
- bubbles

A great conflict was about to come to pass between the Birds and the Beasts. When the two armies were collected together the Bat hesitated about which to join. The Birds that passed his perch said: "Come with us," but he said "I am a Beast." Later on, some Beasts who were passing underneath him looked up and said "Come with us," but he said "I am a Bird." Luckily at the last moment, peace was made and no battle took place. The Bat came to the Birds and wished to join in the rejoicings, but they all turned against him and he had to fly away. He then went to the Beasts but soon had to leave or else they would have torn him to pieces. "Ah," said the Bat, "I see now."

The moral is: He that is neither one thing nor the other has no friends.



Jamas Shield

MORE ON BACK: turn card over

The Asmat people inhabit the vast waterlands on the south coast of the island of New Guinea in Indonesia. Historically, the Asmat culture focused on warfare and headhunting. Shields give protection from both the physical and spiritual powers of the enemy.

A shield often represents an ancestor. It is named after him and the ancestor's spirit is believed to be present in the shield and make the owner fierce, powerful and invincible.

Shields often have powerful symbols or designs on them. Many designs are headhunting symbols.



This shield has a bat design on it. Can you see the bats? The fruit bat is a powerful symbol because it represents the headhunter. The fruit bat goes to the top of the tree where the fruit is to pluck it off, just like a headhunter goes for the head.

If you made a powerful shield, what symbols would you put on it to protect you? An animal? A superhero? An ancestor?

Southwest Pacific, New Guinea, Asmat region
Traditional-style Jamas Shield, Late 20th century
Wood, pigment, and sago fiber
Gift of Steven L. Chaisson
Museum # 1998.57.4

BE A BAT

You too can be a bat!

Look carefully at this bat design. Can you pose your arms like a fruit bat?

Bats can "see" at night because they use sound to navigate in the dark. They make a high pitched sound that bounces off of objects. The bats then use the echoes of the sound to avoid running into things and to find food.

Try being very quiet and listen for echoes in the museum. Can you hear any? Where is the sound coming from? Do you think it bounced off of walls, the floor, other artwork?



Shield Patterns

A pattern happens when shapes or objects start to repeat themselves in the same manner over and over again. Look at the other patterns on the shields in this gallery. This shield shown to the left, represents the shield owner's ancestor, through the pattern.

Can you find more patterns on the other objects in this gallery?

Southwest Pacific, New Guinea, Asmat region
Pupa village, Shield
Wood and pigment
On Loan from Steven C. Charamonte
Museum # 2003.4

BAT EFFIGY HEAD



MORE ON BACK: turn card over

This bat sculpture was made thousands of years ago by the Mayans of Central America. The bat represents the guardian of the Underworld. The bat ruled over darkness and was a powerful force against enemies. The bat is important in Mayan stories and mythology.

Mayan Mythology

The Hero Twins became great ballplayers, as their father and uncle had been, and one day the lords of Xibalba summoned them to the underworld for a contest. The twins saw this as an opportunity to avenge their father's death. Challenged to a series of trials, they passed every one they were given. They survived a night in the House of Cold, escaped death in the House of Jaguars, and passed unharmed through the House of Fire. They almost met defeat in the House of Bats, when a bat cut off one of the twin's heads. The lords of Xibalba took the head to the ball court as a trophy, but the other twin managed to return the head to his brother and restore him.

Why would Mayans make a sculpture of a bat?
Where do you think the Mayans would have display this bat?
Do you think the bat looks kind or ferocious?



Fun Fact:
Mayan word for bat is *Zotz*.

Mexico, Central Veracruz region, Nahuatl culture, Early Classic
Period (200-600)
Bat Effigy Head
Earthenware
Purchased with funds from Friends of the Art Museum
Museum # 1987.0.43.002

MATCH THE BAT

What type of bat do you think this Mayan sculpture is depicting?



Big Brown Bat



Vampire Bat



Hoary Bat



Red Bat



Spotted Bat



Western Mastiff Bat

Hint: The Mayans revered this type of bat because it was similar to *Camazotz*, a Demon Bat-God that drank blood.

Answer: The Vampire Bat



PEACH PLATE

MORE ON BACK: turn card over

In China, five bats with peaches symbolize good luck and longevity. The *Wu Fu*, or five bats of happiness, stand for the Five Blessings:

- LONGEVITY
- WEALTH
- HEALTH
- VIRTUE
- A PEACEFUL END



Find the five bats on the plate?
Hint: take turns looking on the back of the plate...

In Chinese culture, peaches are called the “fairy fruit”. They are emblems of marriage and a symbol of Spring. Peaches also give immortality to the Immortals, so they may live forever. The peach tree of the Gods was said to blossom once every 3000 years and the fruit of eternal life took another 3000 years to ripen.

Saucer Dish (peach plate)
Chinese, Yongzheng period, c. 1723-1735
Porcelain
Promised gift of Ben G. Cole
Museum #L.909.057

STORYTELLING

The story of Fancha and the Magpie

There is another Chinese porcelain plate depicting animals and fruit in the Museum storage. Look at the picture here to see what it looks like.

This is a trick question because the fruit is a plum blossom (not yet a fruit) and the animal is a magpie, the bird of joy. In China, magpies and plum blossoms mean good news will be coming soon.



The story of Fancha and the Magpie
Bukulirongshun and his family were all heroic and skilled fighters. The neighboring tribes all thought of them as a threat. They formed an alliance and decided to wipe out the rising tribe but a boy named Fancha escaped. The neighboring tribes tried to catch him but Fancha kept running until dusk fell. The boy was almost caught when a magpie lighted on his head. He stood motionless so that he looked more like a tree trunk in the dim field. The hunters did mistake him for a tree and ran on in another direction. It was the magpie that saved Fancha, the only survivor of the tribe.

Make up a story about the bats and peach plate.

Chinese
Plate decorated with Magpies on Tree Branches,
20th century
Porcelain
Promised gift of Bert G. Clift
Museum # L1978.060

IMPERIAL VASE



MORE ON BACK: turn card over

What do you see on this vase?
Look closely. Can you see red
bats and clouds?

The word for 'luck' in Chinese
is *fú*, and the word for bat is
bian fú. So the bat is considered
good luck! Red Bats are
especially lucky because the
color red is protective against
misfortune.

This is the symbol for *fú*:

福

The bat with depicted
clouds is a wish for
"your happiness to
be as high as the
heavens."



What are some things we
consider lucky in America?

S___ ROCK
_ORSE__OE
R_____ FOOT
NUMBER S_____

Can you name any others?



Let's count bats

How many bats can you
count on this vase?
Try counting one side and
then the other. Or you can
circle around the vase in a
spiral.

Chinese, Qianlong Period (1736-1795),
Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)
Imperial Vase, with red bats and clouds
Porcelain
Promised gift of Bert G. Cliff
Museum # L1979.065

Answer: 42

POETRY

Homonym Poetry



The Chinese word *fú* for "bat", and *fú* for "good fortune" are homonyms. A homonym is a word that is pronounced the same but has two different meanings.

The word bat in English is a homonym as well. What is another definition for the word "bat"? Can you think of any other English homonyms?

Create a poem using the word "bat" or another homonym you can think of. Will your poem rhyme or not? What will the poem be about - one definition of your homonym or both?