

UMFA

UTAH MUSEUM
OF
FINE ARTS

SELF GUIDE

Highlights
of the Collection

UMFA MAP



AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
 Marcia & John Price Museum Building
 410 Campus Center Drive
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-0350
 801.581.7332 • www.umfa.utah.edu

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.

Viola Frey, American (1933 - 2004)
Ethnic Man
Size: 122" h x 45" W x 24" D
Purchased with funds from the Phyllis Cannon Wattis Fund
for Twentieth Century Art
Museum # 2000.11.1A-O
Art © Artists' Legacy Foundation/Licensed by VAGA,
New York, NY

BRUEGHEL



MORE ON BACK: turn card over



“I” spy

Do you know what a maypole is? Have you ever danced around one? This painting is almost 400 years old and shows people dancing around a maypole. **Pieter Brueghel** liked to paint ordinary people doing everyday things, but here he wanted to show ordinary people having a big party. This painting has so much going on you could look at it for hours and still miss something. Let's play “I” spy to try and see something new in the painting. If you are the first to see each of these things, raise your hand.



HINT: I spy a jester has been highlighted on the front

- I Spy skinny dippers
- I Spy two pigs
- I Spy a bagpipe
- I Spy a rooster
- I Spy a boat
- I Spy a jester
- I Spy a pitchfork
- I Spy two dogs
- I Spy a piece of bread
- I Spy a drum

Don't forget that Brueghel liked to teach a lesson, called a moral, with his paintings. Can you guess what his lesson is in *Dance Around the Maypole*? For a hint, take a look at all the fun things that people are doing and then look at some of the not so fun things people are doing. Some things like fainting, fighting, and throwing up sometimes happen when you have too much fun!

Pieter Brueghel the Younger (1564-1637/1638),
Flemish
Dance Around the Maypole, ca. 1625-1630
Oil on panel
Gift of Mr. Val A. Browning for The Val A. Browning Memorial
Collection of 500 Years of European Masterworks
Museum # 1992.020.001



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 c. Chiaramonte
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
Pupis village, Shield,
Wood and pigment
On Loan from Steven C. Chiaramonte
Museum # 2001.1.4

MOSAIC



MORE ON BACK: turn card over



Mosaics & TESSERAE

Do you know what a mosaic [moh-zey-ik] is? Look closely at this mosaic to see all of the tiny pieces of concrete, glass or stone. The small pieces used are called tesserae [tes-uh-ray]. Tesserae are the small squares of stone or glass used in making mosaic patterns. This mosaic was part of a floor mosaic from a Roman villa in the ancient Near East. How long do you think it would take to create a mosaic this size?



Often artists would create designs on their mosaics. What does the design look like in this piece? Can you draw the design in the air or on the floor with your finger?

Mosaic Pavement Panel, Roman (Probably from Syria)
c. A.D. 300 - 400
Tesserae and concrete
Purchased with funds from the John Preston Creer and Mary Elizabeth Brockbank Creer Memorial Fund and Friends of the Art Museum.
Museum # 1990.039.001

OOPS!

One interesting thing about this mosaic is found in the pattern. There is a small section where

one of the bands of gray turns pink and then goes back to gray.

Can you find this? As you look for it, look at the colors and follow the pattern around. It also might help to step back. Do you think the artist made a mistake or do you think he or she did it on purpose? Can you find other “mistakes” in the mosaic?

Tied in KNOTS GAME

You can try to make your own Roman knot work with your friends. Find a place where you have room to move in the museum where you won't touch any artwork. Stand in a circle facing inward. Everyone extends his or her right-hand into the ring and takes a hold of someone else's hand. Then, they do the same with their left hands. Now see if you can untangle the “knot” by ducking under people, stepping over them, or turning around. No matter what happens, you can't let go of hands.

Was it easy to untangle your knot? What does your “knot” look like?



ASMAT

MORE ON BACK: turn card over



ASMAT culture

This area shows artwork from the Asmat culture in Papua New Guinea. Most of the material that the Asmat people use to make art comes from their surroundings. Look closely at what the art in this gallery is made of. What type of environment do you think the Asmat people live in?

Now look at one of the large body masks nearby. Can you imagine wearing a body mask like one you see here? Imagine dancing with it on. What would it smell like? What would it sound like when you moved? How would it feel on your face, arms, and legs? What kind of music would go along with your dance?



Southwest Pacific, New Guinea, Asmat Region
Traditional-style Initiation Figure, late 20th century
Wood and pigment

Gift of Steven C. Chiamonte
Museum # 1998.57.6

Southwest Pacific, New Guinea, Asmat region
Jipae Body Mask
Wood, sago fiber, and pigments

Gift of Steven C. Chiamonte
Museum # 1995.057.001

ASMAT patterns

The Asmat traditionally honor their ancestors with elaborate wood carvings like the shields you see here. They especially revere accomplished warriors. Look around at all the patterns you see on the shields. Can you match the patterns below with one found on a shield?



Southwest Pacific, New Guinea, Asmat region
Traditional-style Jamas Shield, late 20th century
Wood, pigment, and sago fiber
Gift of Steven C. Chiaramonte
Museum # 1998.574

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),
Q'ing Dynasty (1644-1911)
Imperial Vase, with red bats and clouds
Porcelain
Promised gift of Bert G. Clift
Museum # L1978.065

POETRY

Homonym Poetry



The Chinese word *fu* for “bat”, and *fu* 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?