

WHAT'S GOING ON

AN EXHIBITION, ORGANIZED
DURING THE PANDEMIC
TO PROCESS THE CURRENT
LANDSCAPE OF OUR COUNTRY
AND OUR WORLD, THROUGH THE
LENSE OF ART.

BURCHFIELD
CONNECTS

VULNERABILITY

WHAT IS VULNERABILITY?

THE word "vulnerability" encompasses both negative and positive meanings. People seek places where they feel safe enough to be vulnerable and grow, but vulnerability is also terrifying when one is exposed against their will. In this moment, vulnerability may be the key to moving us forward. The pandemic has helped remind us how we're all connected- how no is safe until all of us are safe. How no one can truly thrive is all of us cannot thrive. The vulnerability wrought by the pandemic can create greater awareness of the ways in which we can better protect each other through personal accountability and collective responsibility.

TEXT CREDIT: ARCHIVIST, HEATHER GRING

ACTIVITY | SINGLE LINE PORTRAIT

Use this space to draw a face- using a single line. You can drawing this face or look in a mirror and draw your own! Don't let the pencil leave the paper.

Juan Carlos Perdiguero,
Untitled, 1990



SOLITUDE

WHAT IS SOLITUDE?



Amy Greenan,
6801 Maple Rd., 2009;
acrylic on canvas



**WHERE DO YOU
WANT TO SPEND
YOUR TIME?**

HOME confinement at first felt like a punishment, but the pandemic has led to profound changes in the way we live. For many this disruption meant a prolonged experience of solitude, even loneliness. But time spent alone can be experienced in many positive ways, and perhaps the pandemic has allowed us to embrace this greater solitude. Introverted individuals thrive in this state. By drowning out the noise of the world, a space for quiet and thoughtful meditation is created.

TEXT CREDIT: CURATOR, TULLIS JOHNSON

ACTIVITY | QUIET DRAWING

Use this space to draw in a peaceful location. Whatever comes to mind.

PERSPECTIVE SHIFT

LOOK at Ted Millers artwork. Look to the left, then the right, and back to the center. Look high, look low. Did you notice the artwork appearances differently from each view point? Slightly different colors, textures, and the surprise are the shadows. They change too. Finding the intersection where the artwork is held together by three bolts is powerful detail.

The sculpture is titled Event Horizon. I wonder if the event was the artist looking at an incredible landscape from a distance and being in Ahh of the vista?

Imagine the artist was hiking and with each turn on the path the horizon in the landscape changed. The landscape shifts in subtle and not so subtle ways. The artist observing the altering landscape has not changed even if the landscape has, he is still himself. I think this is why the artwork was selected for this section of the exhibition, Perspective Shift.

During the past several months, you and I, our families and our community have been living with a new landscape because of the pandemic. You have not changed but your experience inside and outside your homes has.



Ted Miller,
Event Horizon, 2007;
acrylic and oil on wood,
metal and fiberglass

ACTIVITY | 3D LANDSCAPE

Gather paper, cardboard, scissors, and tape. Create your own 3D landscape.

Hint: Try to make each side of the artwork look different. Ask first if you can tape your sculpture to the wall. Get a flashlight and watch the shadows shift and grow.



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REIMAGINE



Take a close look at this painting titled "The Hand of God". Answer the questions below.

Duane Andersen,
The Hand of God, 1994;
oil and wax on canvas

Why do you think the artist, Duane Andersen, chose this title? Do you think the intent was irony? Or as an homage to what some might consider an idyllic past?

Notice the urban scene in the background. What is the artist saying about cities?

What did you see in the painting that brought you to these conclusions?

Do you believe the image accurately depicts America today, an America of the past, of the future, or an America that never existed?

COMMUNITY

Look at the artwork by Bill Stewart. Are you smiling ear to ear, giggling out loud, and pointing out the funniest things in this colorful whimsical sculpture? Name some of the things you see. A carrot, a birdlike creature, a tiny spider (not alive), a snake, a face with a big nose and red ear. Sketch a few of the things you find funny. (add a sketch box here)

All these creatures are having fun and they all have silly and goofy personalities. Do you have a member of your family that acts like one of the birds or another creature in this artwork? Don't you wish your whole family was this ridiculous every day! They are like one big happy family all connected to a painted table.

Many families are staying home more than usual because of the pandemic. Students stayed home when schools closed. We have readjusted our daily life. Our community has become smaller, more tight, we cling to each other, kind of like the objects and animals in the artwork. We keep laughing and smiling, while holding on, maybe even standing on our heads. Perhaps that's why this sculpture was selected to be in the Community section of the exhibition. To show that nonsense is fun and to remind us our family is our community, our core, even if it's a bit topsy-turvy at times.

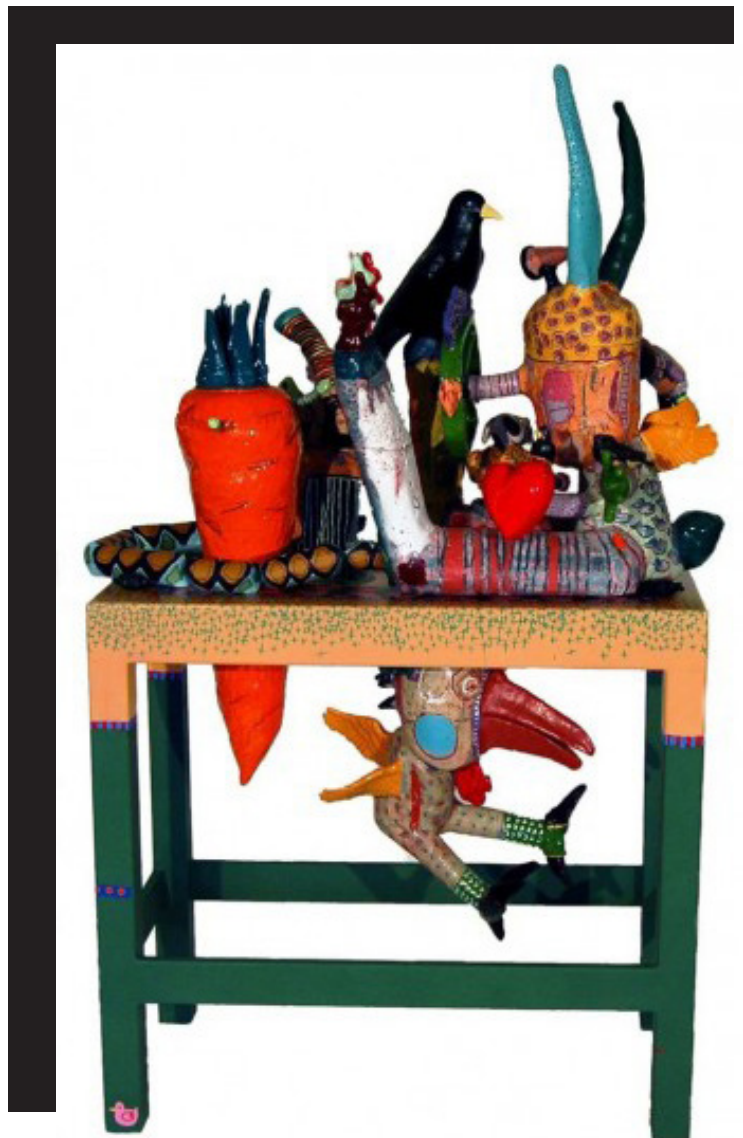
ACTIVITY | WHIMSICAL CREATURES

Gather paper, colorful markers, tape and scissors. Create your own outlandish family. Include funny animals big and small, and maybe a carrot too. Cut out your creatures and ask if you can tape them to the top of a table and don't forget the best place underneath the table.



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Bill Stewart,
Thumper, 2005; glazed
ceramic and painted wood



WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

What does the word community mean to you?



Bridgette Robinson,
450 Jefferson, c. 1985; Pastel on
Strathmore paper



**Take a close
look at this
painting titled
"450 Jefferson".
Answer the
questions below.**

It's called 450 Jefferson. Does it look like your neighborhood? If so, how? If not, why not?

Try opening your eyes to the rhythmic colors of Bridgette Robinson's neighborhood. If you open your ears and you'll hear the music spilling out from beyond the bricks? What types of music do you hear?

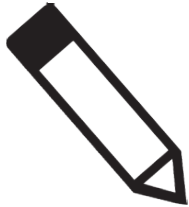
In addition to bright colors, the artists used wavy lines and distorted shapes in this piece. What do these choices tell us about this neighborhood or those living here - the community?

Now try writing your own poem expressing your thoughts or feelings about this neighborhood, or the community in which you live.

HEALING

G

WHAT IS HEALING?



LOOK AT THIS WORK OF ART.

Notice: it's a broken piece of pottery stitched together, with no effort to hide the splits and cracks that interrupt an otherwise eloquently smooth surface.

In this work of art by clay artist Kathi Roussel, we are presented with a bowl that's been broken - then repaired, complete with cracks and thread, and the visible puncture marks where needle passed through the clay. Why would this work be "museum-worthy"?

Have you ever had a cut so severe that you needed stitches to close the wound to help it heal? Did you share the story of how it happened by showing off the scare it left you with to your friends? What was the story you shared?

Sometimes, in the process of repairing things that have broken, we actually create something more unique, more beautiful and more resilient. Can you think of a time in your life when the "repairs" to your life made you stronger, more resilient, and possibly more joyful? Can you describe this experience?

Kathi Roussel,
Cracked and Sewn Ceramic
Bowl, 2008; clay, wax, thread



BURCHFIELD CONNECTS

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