

# MUSEUM DISCOVERY GUIDE



## LOOKING CLOSELY The Art of Observation

This Discovery Guide belongs to

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MUSEUM OF AMERICAN BIRD ART  
*at Mass Audubon*

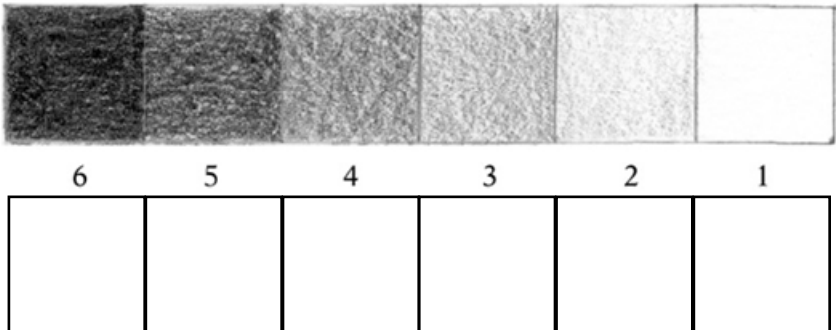
## TAKE A CLOSE LOOK

The artists in this exhibit enjoy being outside to observe and record in a sketchbook what they see around them.

Artists Larry Barth and David Sibley used a pencil to create bird drawings. Pencils can be used to shade lightly and darkly.

Use the pressure of your pencil to see if you can create a variety of light and dark marks (called “values” by artists).

### VALUE SCALE



## AROUND THE WORLD

The artworks show observations from regions all over the world. Siberia, Amazonia, Poland, Africa, and Alaska are just a few examples of far-away places where these artists traveled. Where in the world would you like to travel, and what would you like to record in your sketchbook while there?



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## USE YOUR SENSES

Good observation skills are all about using your **eyes** to look closely at something. You can use your other senses to notice what is around you too.

Listen carefully. What you hear with your **ears**?

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Take a deep breath. What do you smell with your **nose**?

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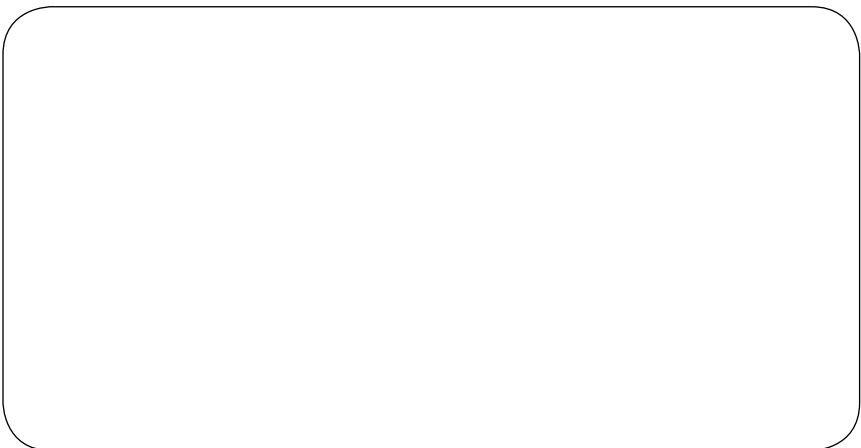
Observing animals and insects in their natural habitat takes skill. circle the things that you think artists should do while observing in nature.

*Be patient*      *Be noisy*    *Move around a lot*      *Looking closely*

*Listen carefully*    *Sit still*      *Try to touch animals*      *Laugh loudly*

## LOOK EVEN CLOSER

Go back to an artwork that you have already looked at. Look very closely and see if you observe something in the artwork that you didn't notice was there the first time. What did you observe the second time around? Sketch part of the work below.



Include the new details you've observed.

## WHAT CAN YOU SPOT?

Find the following:

- An artwork with an animal that lives in a habitat in Massachusetts
- An artwork with an animal that lives in a habitat in another country
- An artwork with a butterfly or moth
- An artwork created with paint
- An artwork with people in it
- An artwork showing more than one bird
- An artwork with a colorful plant
- An artwork created with clay

## SCIENCE AND ART COME TOGETHER

Some scientists and artists spend a lot of time observing animals, insects, and plants. By looking closely they learn many things about habitats and the creatures who live there. Imagine you are an artist or a scientist.

**Write** some things you might learn if you watch a bird very carefully.

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**Write** what you might learn if you look very closely at a leaf.

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