

Mondays with MoMA



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Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. Look closely at the animal in this drawing. What stands out for you and why?
2. Where do you think this scene is taking place?
3. Which elements do you think are real and which are imagined? Why do you think so?

Step 2 Learn more

Minnie Evans was a Black artist who worked in the United States from the 1940s to the 1980s. At the age of 43 she was inspired to start drawing and painting. She used any materials that were readily available but preferred Crayola crayons, as she said, “They are the best.”

Throughout her life Minnie Evans had visions and dreams about religious figures, real and mythical animals, flowers, plants, and faces. She depicted these images in her artwork. She said, “I have no imagination. I never plan a drawing, they just happen. In a dream it was shown to me what I have to do.”

She named this fantastical drawing *Green Animal*. See more drawings by Minnie Evans:
www.artnet.com/artists/minnie-evans/.

Step 3 Activity: Draw an imaginary animal

Materials: pencil, paper, crayons or colored pencils

1. Think of an imaginary animal or creature. You can imagine combining parts from different animals, such as the head of one animal, body of another, and tail end of a third, or it could be a completely unique creature of your own design.
2. Draw your animal on a piece of paper and use crayons or colored pencils to color in your drawing.
3. Think of a place your animal would live and draw details of the environment in the background.
4. What would you call your imaginary animal?

Step 4 Share!

Share your artwork with a classmate and tell them about your imagined creature. Or you can email it to us at MoMA:
schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Minnie Evans. *Green Animal*. c. 1963. Colored pencil, crayon, oil, and pencil on paper. Gift of Mrs. Nina Howell Starr. Estate of Minnie Jones Evans.