



FAMILY GUIDE

**Exploring the Grounds
at the NBMAA**

**NEW BRITAIN
MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN ART**

You can still experience the NBMAA's sculpture garden and views of Walnut Hill Park from home with this printable PDF!

This activity packet includes:

- Close looking prompts
- Discussion questions for families
- Drawing activities and coloring pages
- **BONUS!** Related activity sheets from the Museum's Digital Access Portal

A majority of the artworks featured on this virtual tour are sculptures. Sculptures are three-dimensional works of art created by either carving, modelling, casting, or constructing. Sculptures can be made from different types of materials: stone, wood, metal, plastic, fabric, and more!



OUTSIDE

1. Nathaniel Kraz, *Don Quixote*
2. Michael McLaughlin, *Boys of Summer*
3. Arthur Carter, *Untitled*

INSIDE

4. Eva LeWitt, *Untitled*
5. Dale Chihuly, *Blue and Beyond Blue*

As museum visitors pull into the main driveway of the Museum, they are greeted by this first bronze sculpture, *Don Quixote* by Nathaniel Kraz.

Don Quixote is a novel written by Miguel de Cervantes in the early 1600s. The story takes place in Spain, where a rich man named Alonso Quixano, having read many tales about heroic knights, convinces himself that he is a real knight. He takes the name Don Quixote and goes on an adventurous quest with his companion, Sancho Panza. Don Quixote believes the escapades are thrilling and enchanting, when in fact they are all figments of his imagination.

Our heroic Don Quixote stands stiffly at attention as if on the lookout for imaginary people to rescue or giants to attack. The blade of his sword is long and bendy. Does a real sword bend like that?

Why would the Museum place this sculpture here, as the first artwork visitors will see?

Nathaniel Kaz (March 9, 1917 - December 13, 2010) started his art career when he was only nine years old! He became a professional sculptor by the age of 17.

Nathaniel Kraz, *Don Quixote*, 1941, Bronze, 90 in., Gift of Rolf Liebergesell.

If you could choose a fictional character or hero to stand at the Museum's entrance, what would it look like? What would the figure's name be?

Draw and write below!

NAME: _____

Just beyond *Don Quixote*, up the walkway to the stone wall opposite from the Museum's main entrance, visitors are met by our most recent additions to the sculpture garden. *Boys of Summer* is by Michael McLaughlin, an artist who works out of Torrington, CT. This sculpture was purchased by Museum volunteers in tribute to retiring Museum Director, Douglas Hyland, in 2016.



Michael McLaughlin, *Boys of Summer*, 2003-2014, Bronze, 28 x 143 1/2 x 10 in., Museum purchase with donations from 116 Museum volunteers in honor of Douglas Hyland, Director, 1999-2015.

How many bronze penguins do you see in the picture?

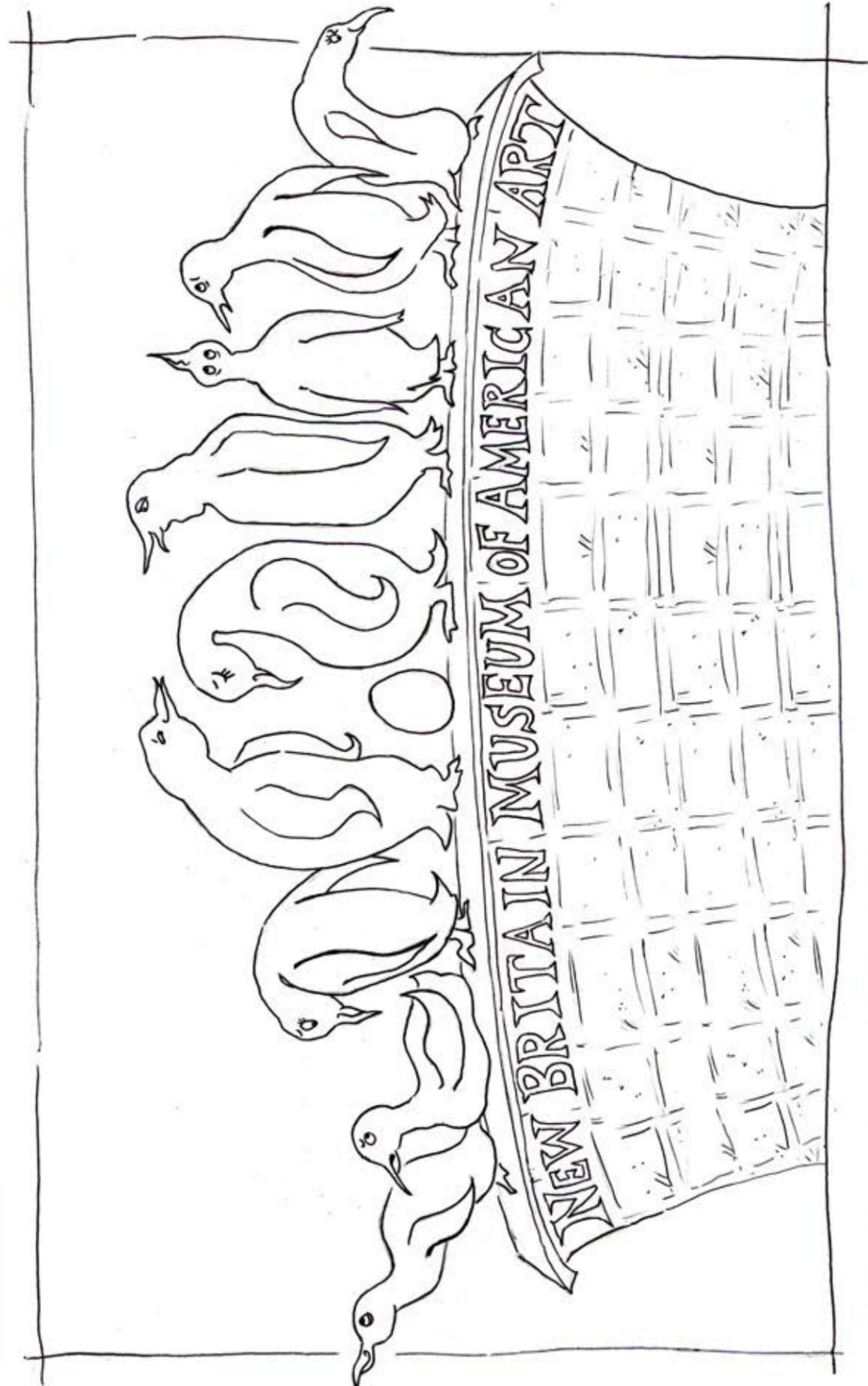
What do you think this colony of bronze penguins is doing? What makes you say that?

Although the group is clustered together as one, if you look closely, each penguin shows its individual personality by a quirky posture or interaction with a group member. Does this penguin colony remind you of the different personalities in your family or groups of friends? If yes, how so?

Which one of the bronze penguins would you be and why?

Penguins are very sociable and like to be in groups. A group of penguins on land is most commonly called a colony, but other terms include waddle and rookery. Colonies of penguins do everything together—swim, hunt, breed, and migrate—as one big community or family.

#ColorOurCollection
#NBMAAatHome



NEW BRITAIN
MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN ART

MICHAEL MCLAUGHLIN (b.1967)
BOYS OF SUMMER, 2003-2014
SCULPTURE, BRONZE

THE NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART



Arthur Carter, *Untitled*, 2003, Stainless steel, 87 x 128 x 78 in., Gift of the artist.

At the corner of Lexington Street and Walnut Hill Park D. Road, passerby's can view one of the NBMAA's sculptures, *Untitled*, by Arthur Carter.

What shapes do you see? How might you think someone's perspective of the sculpture would change as they walk around it? Does the sculpture resemble anything? This sculpture is labeled as *Untitled*. What title would you give this artwork and why?

CARDBOARD TUBE SCULPTURES

Look around your house for cardboard tubes, such as toilet paper or paper towel rolls. With scissors, cut the cardboard tubes into smaller pieces of 1/2 - 1 inch widths. Depending on how many cardboard tubes you have, you can cut up as many or as little pieces as you want. Then, on top of a cardboard base, piece of paper, or paper plate, start building a sculpture using the cardboard circles and glue. See how many variations you can build using the cardboard circles. Can you make a really tall sculpture? Can you make a really wide sculpture?



Along the walls of the LeWitt Family Staircase hangs the NBMAA's largest artwork on site: *Untitled* by Eva LeWitt.



Eva LeWitt, *Untitled*, 2021, Coated mesh fabric, Howard Fromson Endowment for Emerging Artists, 2021.30

Eva LeWitt's vibrant, handmade sculptures are fashioned from everyday commercial and industrial materials. She casts, dyes, and cuts these pliable, soft, and often synthetic materials before composing them in captivating arrangements of hanging geometric forms and gradations of undulating color. Conceived for the NBMAA's LeWitt Family Staircase, her work is comprised of a monumental sculpture made of bands of colorful coated mesh fabric whose shifting linear composition creates a dynamic and uplifting experience.

Click [HERE](#) to learn how to create your own art project inspired by Eva LeWitt's colorful wall installation.

Walking up and down the Education wing staircase, visitors can see one of the Museum's most beloved artworks: Dave Chihuly's *Blue and Beyond Blue*.



Dale Chihuly, *Blue and Beyond Blue*, 2000, Blown glass and steel, 107 x 82 x 77 in., Stephen B. Lawrence Fund.

Dale Chihuly is an American sculptor who pioneered a new way of working by letting molten glass find its shape organically. His glass sculptures are asymmetrical, irregular, and unlike that of traditional glass.

In the early years of his career, Chihuly was inspired by the stained glass windows he saw in churches and cathedrals on a trip to Europe. He took a liking to glasswork because of the transparent and luminous qualities glass has. Now as an established artist, Chihuly creates his own versions of glass artwork that ornaments windows.

Chihuly was commissioned by the NBMAA to design and assemble this glass sculpture to hang from the ceiling of the brightly lit LeWitt Family Staircase, where you just visited. Eventually, the sculpture was moved to this north side staircase.

This sculpture is made of 257 pieces of blown glass and weighs more than 600 pounds!

Imagine the workforce and mechanics it took to install the sculpture in the ceiling.

What is the effect you get from the glass sculpture hanging in front of a large window? Would you get the same effect if the sculpture hung in a dark, confined space? Why or why not?

#ColorOurCollection
#NBMAAatHome

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP LOOKS GOOD ON YOU!

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE NBMAA? FOR STARTERS:

Support the mission of the oldest Museum dedicated solely to acquiring American art	Enjoy a 10% discount at the Museum Store, online store, and the Museum Café - PLUS double discount the day you join
Basic Memberships are fully tax-deductible	Subscription to the Member Newsletter magazine
Get unlimited free general admission to NBMAA and 9 other museums in New England	Invitations to exhibition openings, lectures, concerts, and gallery talks
Cash-in on discounted adult and children's learning	Participation in the annual Nor'Easter Members exhibition



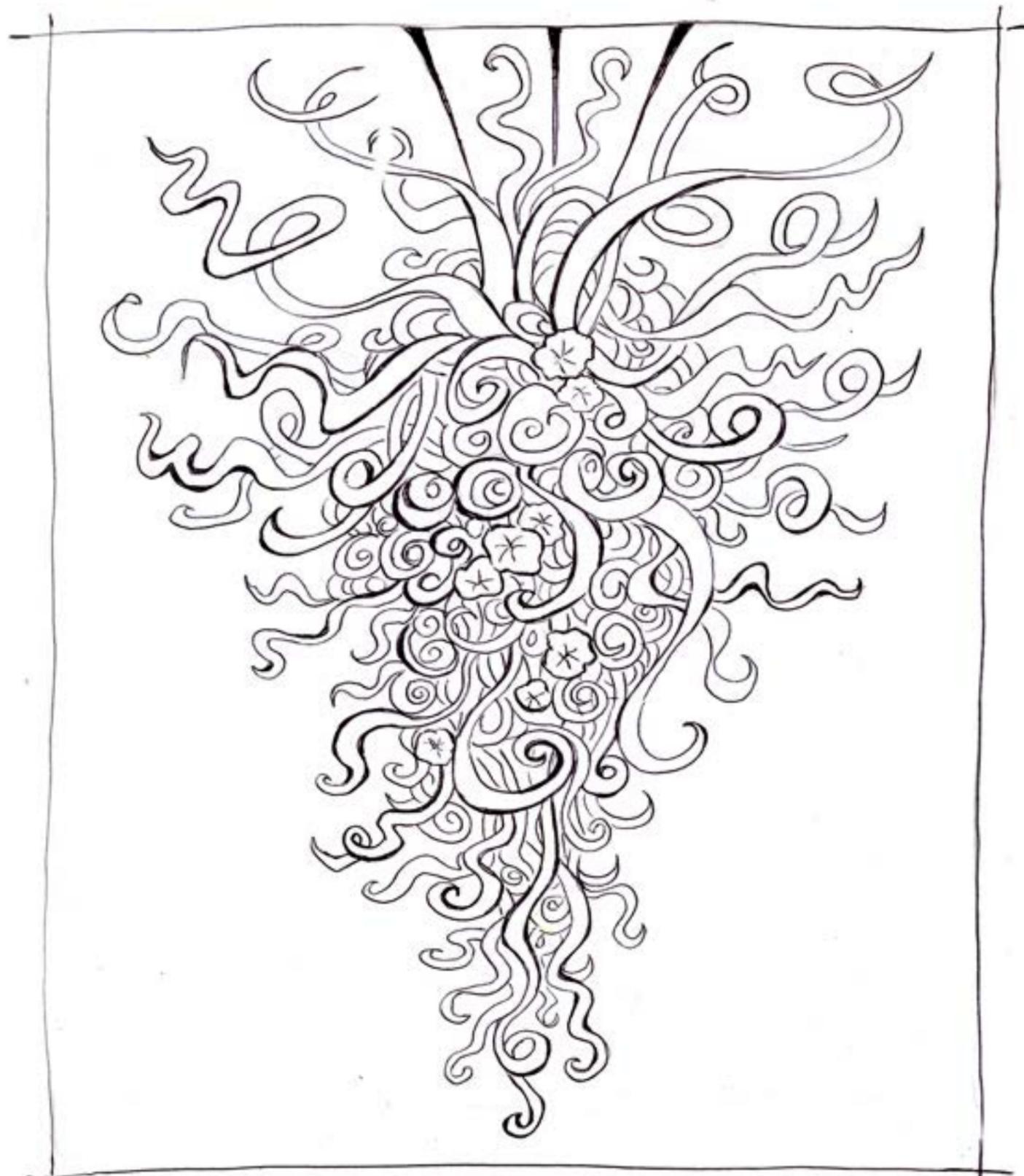
THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING.

Upgrade to the Circle Level Membership or higher and get more access, experiences, and opportunities like free admission to the 1,202 art museums and galleries, historical museums and societies, botanical gardens, children's museums, and zoos in the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association® network.

LET'S MAKE
THIS EASY.
JOIN HERE:



BASIC LEVEL
MEMBERSHIPS BEGIN
AT ONLY \$45



DALE CHIHULY (b. 1941)
BLUE AND BEYOND BLUE
BLOWN GLASS, STEEL

NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART
56 LEXINGTON STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT
(860) 229-0257 | WWW.NBMAA.ORG



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Family and Community Programming is supported by Stanley Black & Decker; American Savings Foundation; Community Foundation of Greater New Britain; the New Britain Commission on the Arts and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Office of the Arts; Greater Hartford Arts Council; George A. and Grace L. Long Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee; and Legrand Wiremold Charitable Contributions Committee.

Cover: Dale Chihuly, *Blue and Beyond Blue*, 2000, Blown glass and steel, 107 x 82 x 77 in., Stephen B. Lawrence Fund.

GENERAL ADMISSION

Members FREE
\$17 for Adults
\$12 for Seniors (age 62 and up)
\$10 for College Students
\$10 for 13-17 years old
12 and under FREE

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday: CLOSED
Wednesday-Sunday
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

SATURDAY ADMISSION

Free from 10 a.m. to noon
thanks to support from
the American Savings
Foundation.

MUSEUM CAFE

Wednesday-Sunday
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please inquire at the Front
Desk for any assistance
you may require. We are
wheelchair accessible
and have two wheelchairs
available free of charge.

DIGITAL

www.nbmaa.org
facebook.com/nbmaa
twitter.com/nbmaa
instagram.com/nbmaa56
tiktok.com/@nbmaa56