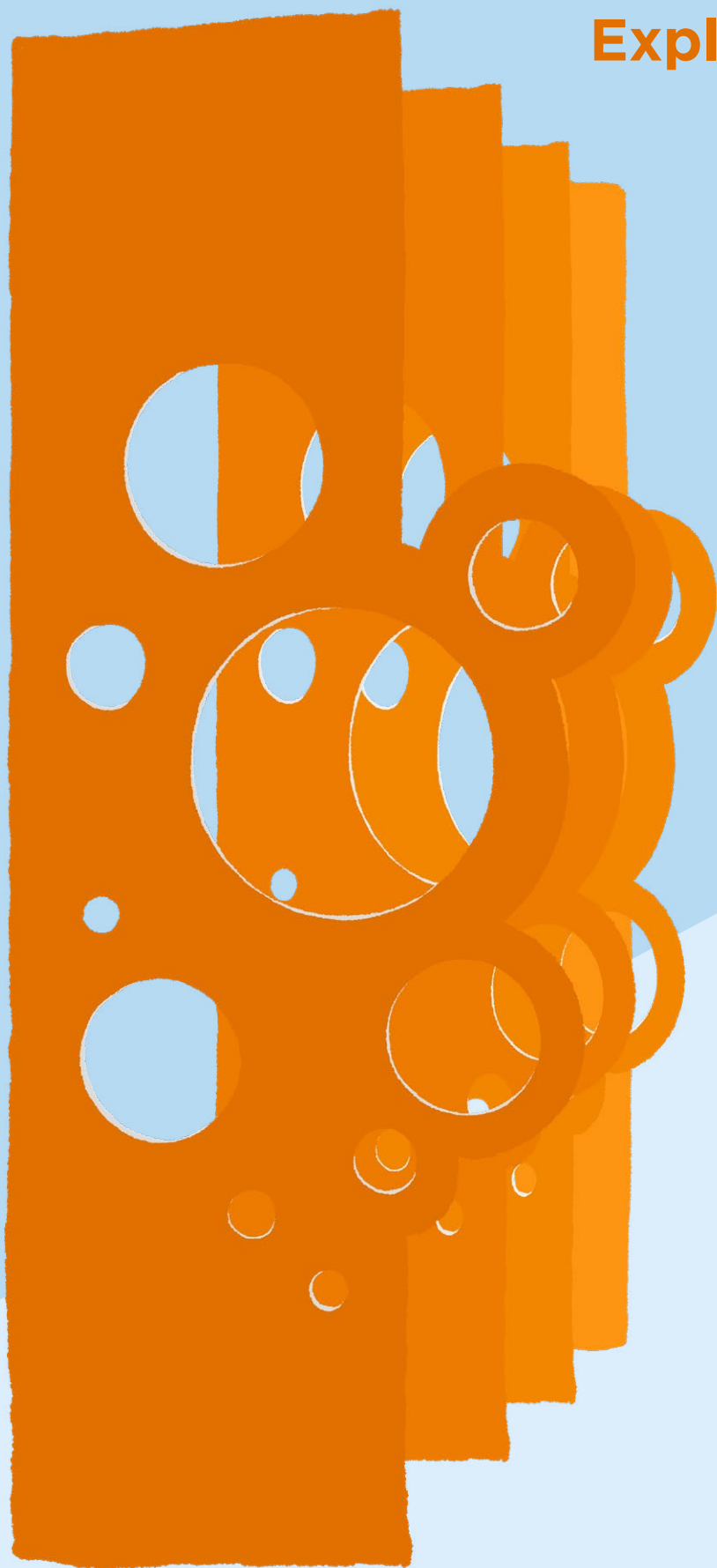


FAMILY GUIDE

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!



1. Nathaniel Kraz, *Don Quixote*

2. Michael McLaughlin, *Boys of Summer*

3. Arthur Carter, *Untitled*

4. Robert Gregson, *Orange Fizz*

5. Louise Jones, *Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall*

6. 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?

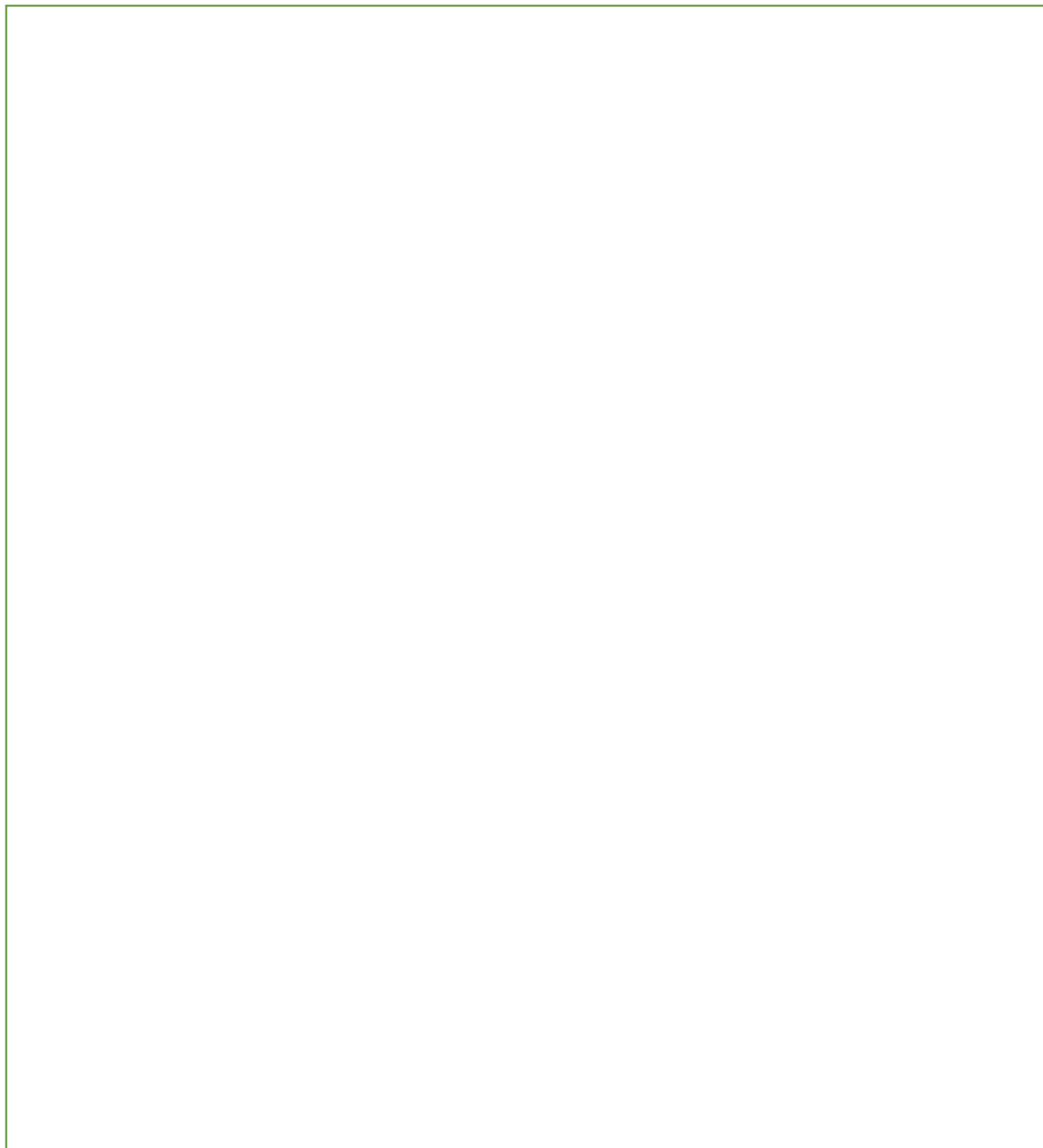
Why would the Museum place this sculpture here, as the first artwork visitors will see?

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!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin green border, intended for a drawing and written response.

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.

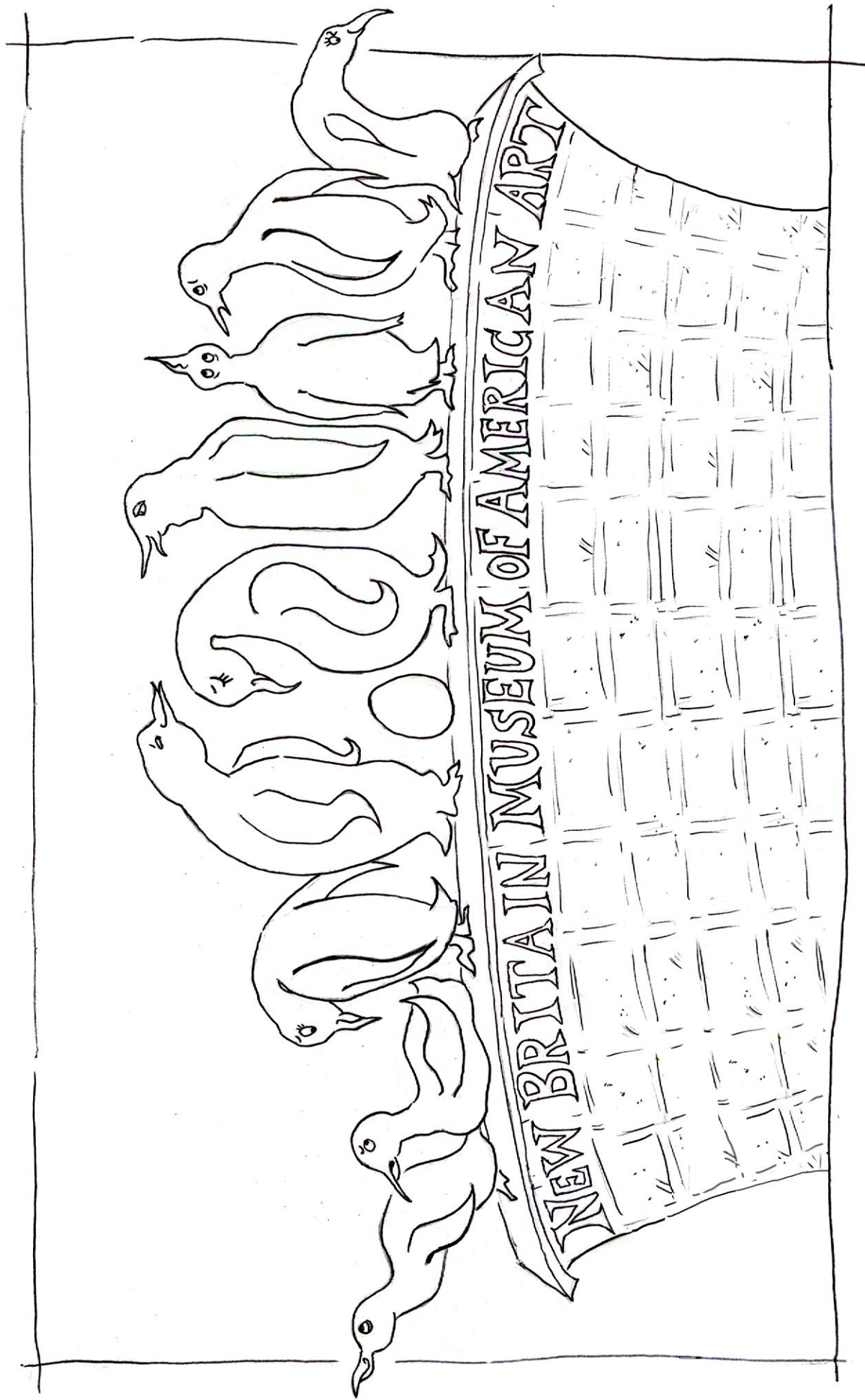
How many bronze penguins do you see in the picture?

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.



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



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?



Across the street on the edge of Walnut Hill Park is a brightly colored artwork by Robert Gregson, called *Orange Fizz*. No matter the season, you can't miss it in the landscape!



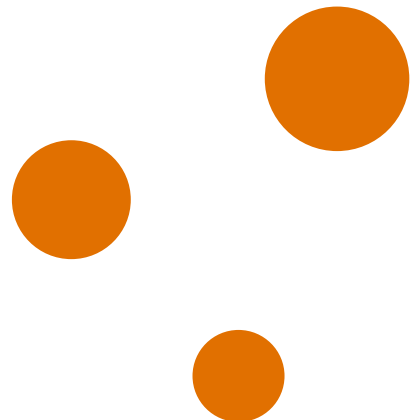
Robert Gregson, *Orange Fizz*, 2015, Aluminum and steel, 10 x 10 ft., Supported by a grant from the Artist's Resource Trust, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, and the Edward A. and Mary W. Mag Fund.

How might the sculpture change as you look at it from different directions?

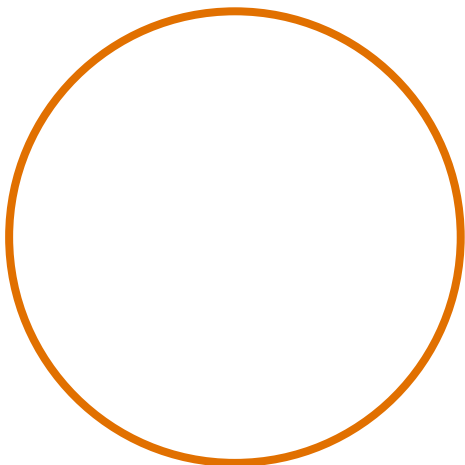
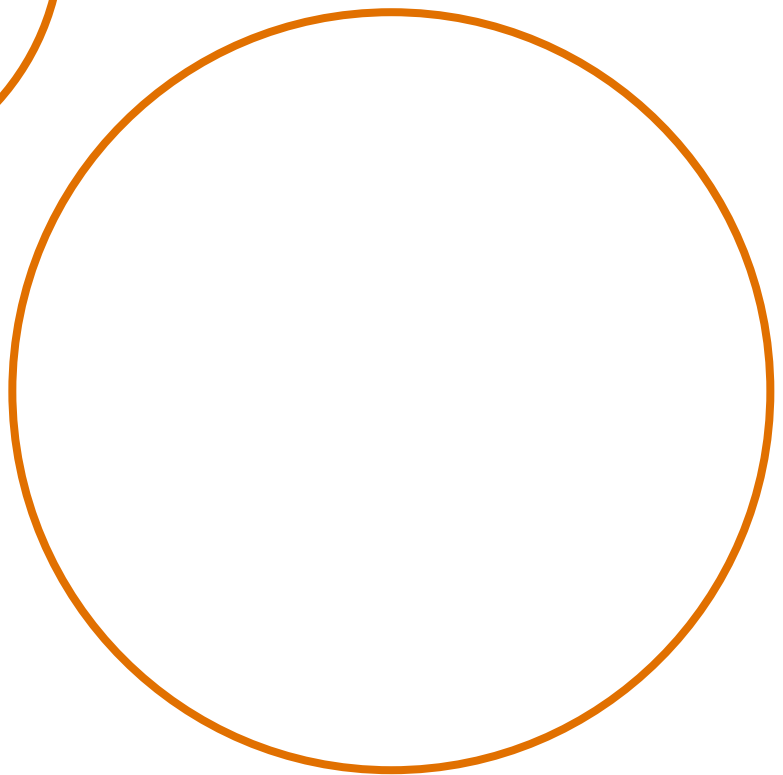
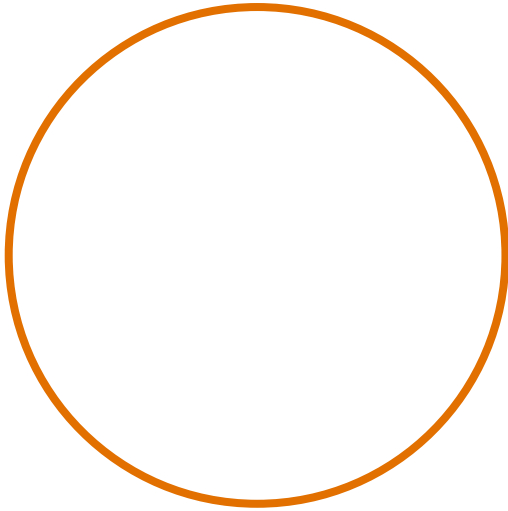
On one side, the sculpture is orange, and on the other it is white.

What feelings or interpretations do you get from looking at each of the differing sides? Why do you think the artist chose these two colors, specifically?

Passerby in the park can poke their heads through the different circles in the sculpture. The circle provides a frame around the landscape. Depending on where the circle is, their view of the park will change.



Imagine you are in Walnut Hill Park. It can be during any season or time of the year. Using the templates below, draw what you think you might see looking through one or more of the circles in Gregson's sculpture.



From the top of the southeast steps of the Museum, visitors can peek inside at the NBMAA's largest artwork on site! Louise Jones's mural, *Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall*, fills the walls along the LeWitt Family Staircase.



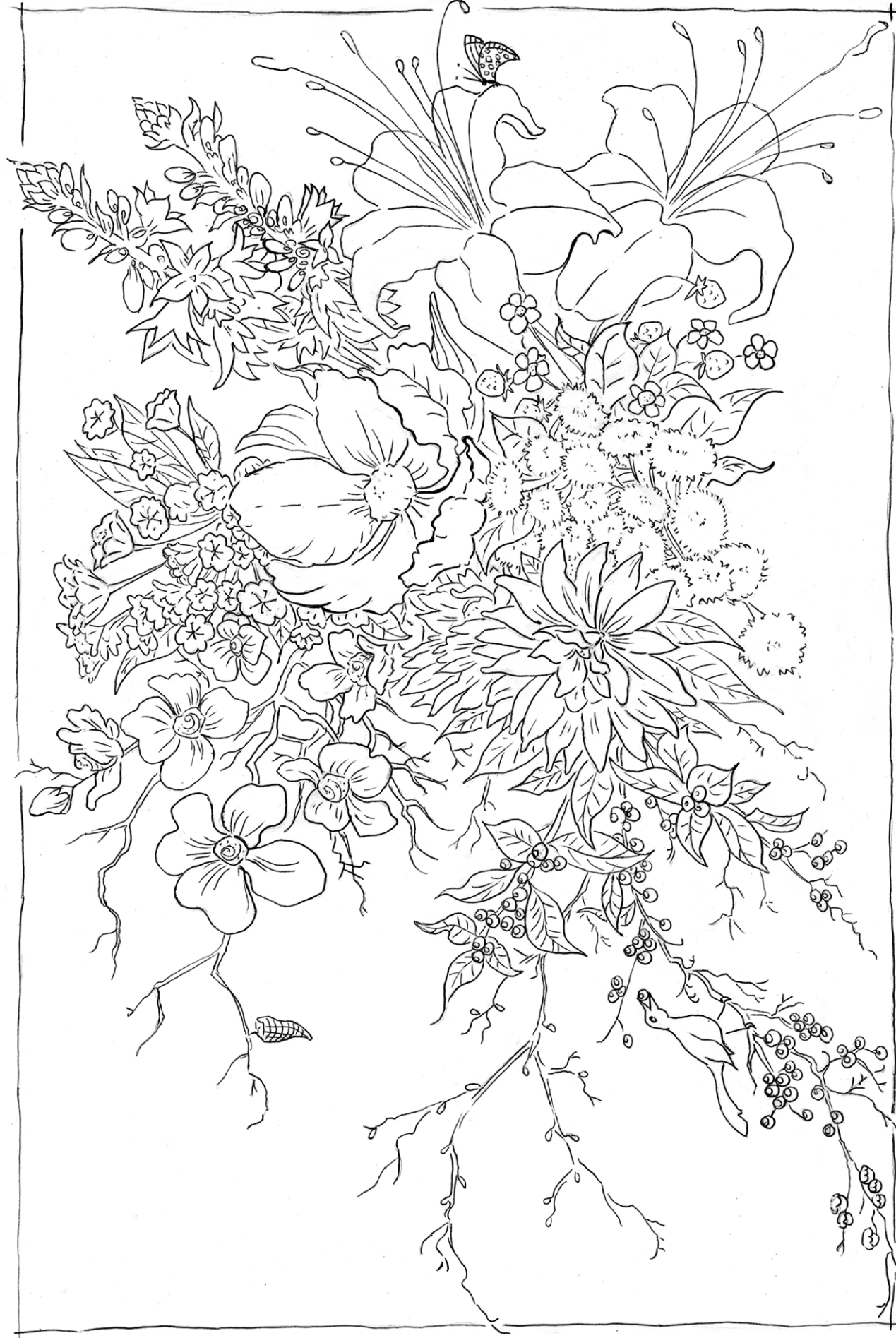
Louise Jones, *Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall*, 2019, Site-specific installation, Charles F. Smith Fund and the Howard Fromson Endowment for Emerging Artists.

Jones creates large-scale botanical paintings that are specific to the locations of her murals. Her murals are inspired by the native plants and flowers near and around each work site. At the NBMAA, Jones incorporated plant and flower species found on the Museum's grounds and the New England region.

Can you identify a specific plant from Jones' mural?

Can you believe Jones completed this mural in just one week?

To see the creation of Jones' mural, click **HERE** to view to our time-lapse video.



LOUISE "OUZI" JONES (b. 1988)
"WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER, FALL," 2019
SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATION

THE NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

On the north side of the Museum, from the parking lot, visitors can see one of the Museum's most beloved artworks through the window: Dale Chihuly's *Blue and Beyond Blue*. The massive sculpture hangs in the Education wing staircase from the third story.



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!

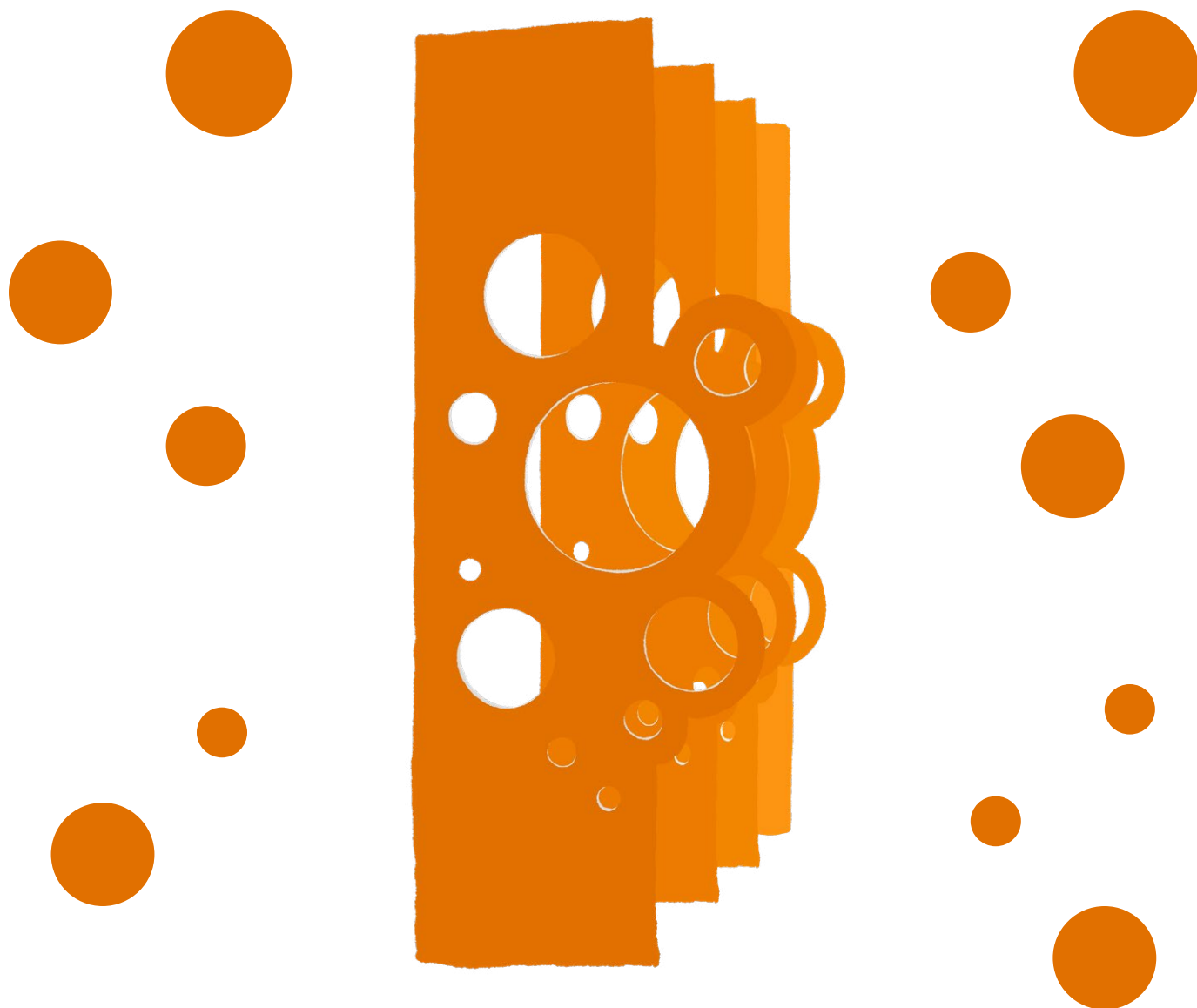
Imagine the workforce and mechanics it took to install the sculpture in the ceiling.

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?



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: Illustration by Veronika Zhikhareva based on Robert Gregson's *Orange Fizz*, 2015, Aluminum and steel, 10 x 10 ft., Supported by a grant from the Artist's Resource Trust, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, and the Edward A. and Mary W. Mag Fund, 2015.2

GENERAL ADMISSION as of July 1, 2021

Members FREE
\$15 for Adults
\$12 for Seniors (age 62+)
\$10 for Youth (age 13-17)
\$10 for Students
Children under 12 free

SATURDAY ADMISSION

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

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday/Tues: CLOSED
Sunday, Wednesday,
and Friday: 10 a.m.-5
p.m. Thursday: 10
a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday: 10
a.m.-5 p.m.

MUSEUM CAFÉ

Open from 9:30 a.m.-2
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.

ON THE WEB

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