



Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum Art Activity: Flowers and their Pollinator Friends

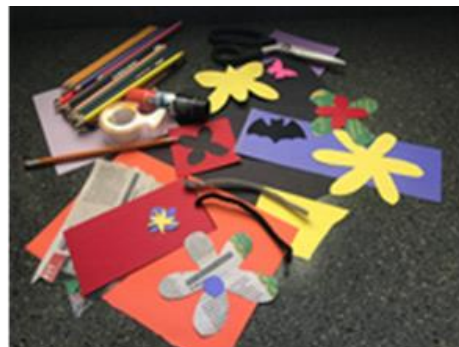
Biodiversity refers to all plants and animals on earth. It can be measured as a local ecosystem or where we live. Since we live in the Southwestern desert, our ecosystem is going to showcase plants and animals that can survive our hot, desert climate. In our ecosystem, plants & animals are connected and can help each other. The flowers we see make nectar. We rely on pollinators such as bees, bats, birds, and butterflies to help flowers grow by moving the nectar and pollinating the blossoms. Some artists make artwork about certain plants and animals that need our help to survive and some artists make artwork that celebrates the beauty and variety of life.

Key Artworks and Website Links:

- Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's *Flora and Fauna* exhibition, Fall 2019
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mesaartscenter/albums/72157712189322416>
- Artist, Frank Gonzales, *Night Breed*, 2018, Acrylic on panel, 48 x 48 inches-Image below
- Artist, Frank Gonzales, *Melodrama*, 2019, Acrylic on canvas, 72 inches in diameter-Image below
- Take a tour of [Frank Gonzales' backyard](#) to see a variety of plants and animals.

Supplies:

- Black poster board
- Pencils, Crayons/pastels/neon crayons
- Scissors
- Pre-cut flower shapes (Large, medium, small on construction/recycled paper)
- Glue sticks, double-sided tape
- Pipe cleaners
- Bird, bee, bat and butterfly shapes



Ready to make a flower picture?

- Draw as many big and little flowers as you can fit on your paper.
 - Can be any type, any color, and any size. You can draw some over the top of others to make them look closer!



Finish with paper flowers:

- Start with the biggest shape and glue (glue stick) smaller shapes on top.
- Use double stick tape to stick flower to picture.
- Add as many flowers as you want!



- Finally cut a bee, bat, bird, or butterfly
- Attach it to pipe cleaner

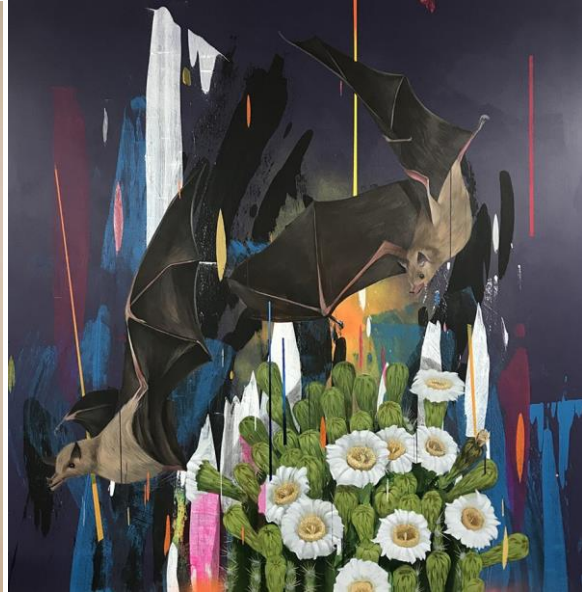
- Tape bottom of pipe cleaner to paper under a petal to float over flowers. Flowers and their pollinator friends at work!



Frank Gonzales' artwork:



Frank Gonzales, (Tempe, AZ)
Melodrama, 2019
Acrylic on canvas, 72 inches in diameter
<https://frankgonzales.net/home.html>



Frank Gonzales, (Tempe, AZ)
Night Breed, 2018
Acrylic on panel, 48 x 48 inches

Lesson developed by artist Shelly White, Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's Art Education Specialist.