

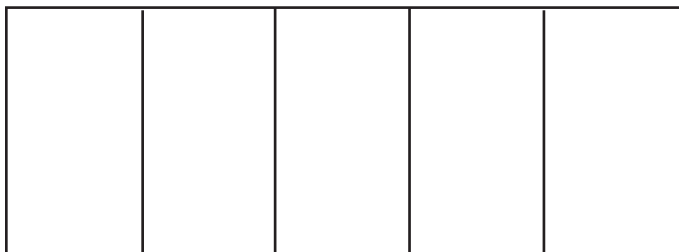
## Impact Outside Nebraska

### Did you know?

Barbara Takenaga's painting process takes a lot of time and patience. She makes her amazing patterns by adding hundreds, or even thousands, of tiny dots and lines to her canvas. All those small details work together to create big, beautiful designs that are exciting to look at!

#### Activity

1. Look at Barbara Takenaga's *Round Trip Time*. What shapes do you see? Are they geometric (like squares and triangles) or organic (curvy and flowing)?
2. In the grid below, draw a simple shape (square, triangle, or circle) in the center of the panels.
3. Add more shapes around it, making them bigger or smaller as they move out.
4. Create a pattern with your shapes, like the repeating ones in *Round Trip Time*. See how the shapes fit together!



## Native Art, History & Collecting

### Did you know?

European hats, such as the top hat, were introduced to Native Americans through trade. By adding embellishments to these hats, Native Americans transformed a symbol of trade into a form of wearable art rich in meaning and tradition.

#### Activity

If someone gave you a hat, how would you decorate it to make it special and yours?



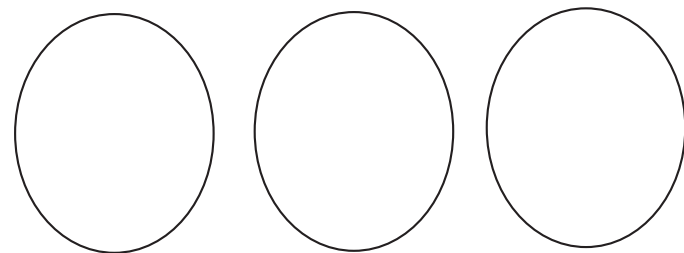
## Teachers & Students

### Did you know?

Aaron Douglas is often called the "Father of African-American Art" because he helped create a new style of art that celebrated African American history and culture. He made art that showed pride in African heritage and helped tell important stories.

#### Activity

Think of a time when you felt a strong emotion—happiness, sadness, or surprise. Draw a self-portrait that shows three different emotions.



## Visiting Artists

### Did you know?

Children on the Oregon Trail often walked up to 15 miles a day. They entertained themselves with simple toys such as rag dolls, marbles, and wooden toys carved from available wood along the trail. To pass the time, they even played games like I Spy.

#### Activity

Let's play I Spy!

Look at the artwork by artist Thomas Hart Benton. Locate the following objects within Benton's artwork. Check off the images you find.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rattlesnake    | <input type="checkbox"/> Barrel        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning Bolt | <input type="checkbox"/> Axe           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oxen           | <input type="checkbox"/> Crow          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steamboat      | <input type="checkbox"/> Corn          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kettle         | <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo Skull |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moon           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunflower     |

How many covered wagons can you find? \_\_\_\_\_

## Artists Active in Nebraska

### Did you know?

Elizabeth Dolan was famous for creating large paintings directly on walls, known as murals. She painted murals in several important places, including the Nebraska State Capitol, the Student Union at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), UNL's Morrill Hall, and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

#### Activity

Draw a picture of your family and include the pet you've always wanted!



## Artists Active in Nebraska

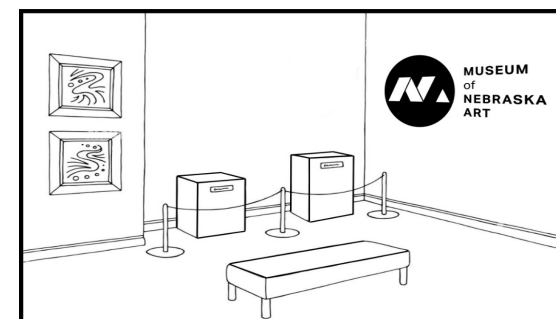
### Did you know?

A lamp is more than just an object that gives light; it can be a work of art! Anything created or designed to be interesting, expressive, or beautiful can be art. Artists like Cedric Hartman design lamps or other everyday objects using unique shapes, materials, and styles to make us stop and look. They want us to think about how an object appears, how it makes us feel, and the story behind it. That's why a lamp can be a piece of art!

#### Activity

Imagine you are an artist designing your own lamps.

1. **Shape:** Draw the shape of your lamps. Are they tall, short, round, or square?
2. **Materials:** Think about what your lamps are made of. Are they shiny, rough, smooth, or bumpy? Use your pencil to sketch and design your own lamps.



# FAMILY GUIDE

## IN SEARCH OF OURSELVES

A Reinstallation of the  
Museum of Nebraska Art's  
Permanent Collection

In Search of Ourselves is made possible by generous support from the Terra Foundation for American Art, the National Endowment for the Arts, and conservation support from the Peck Stacpoole Foundation.

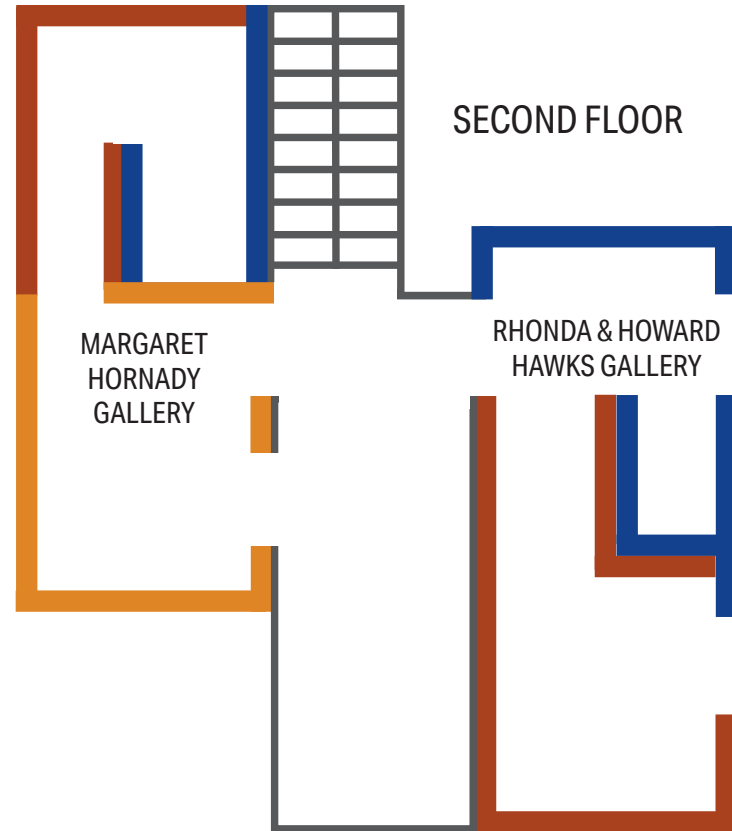
terra Foundation for American Art

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS  
arts.gov

# CUT APART ARTIST CARDS



Use the MONA artist cards to explore the *In Search of Ourselves* exhibition. The cards assist you in closely examining the artwork, answering questions, and trying activities in the museum or at home.



## What is Nebraska art?

What comes to mind when you think of Nebraska art? A painting of Chimney Rock or a prairie landscape? Nebraska art can be all of these, but it's also much more!

There's no single way to define Nebraska art. This exhibition explores some of the 5,000 artworks in the Museum's collection and asks, "What is Nebraska art?" We look at how different artists connect to Nebraska and its story.

## Museum Activity

Between the Community Studio and the Gift Shop, you'll find a pegboard where visitors can share their writings, drawings, and stories, expressing their interpretations of "What is Nebraska Art?" Paper and supplies are available in the Community Studio.

Answer: 11 Covered Wagons

## Artists Active in Nebraska

Artists who were either born and remained in Nebraska or moved to Nebraska and made it their home.



Elizabeth Honor Dolan, *Untitled (Spirit of the Prairie sketch)*, circa 1930, oil on canvas, Gift of Carl H. Rohman in memory of Carl P. & Beatrice D. Rohman

## Artists Active in Nebraska

Artists who were either born and remained in Nebraska or moved to Nebraska and made it their home.



Cedric Hartman, *Low Profile Luminaire-2WV*, 1966, chromium plate, brass, stainless steel, Gift of Karen & Robert Duncan

## Teachers & Students

Some artists in the collection studied at colleges to develop their unique styles, while others became teachers, inspiring the next generation.



Aaron Douglas, *Untitled (seated man with head resting)*, circa 1935, oil on canvas. Museum Purchase made possible by Cliff & Mary Hillegass Trusts, Cliff Art Endowment, and Marilyn F. Belschner Arts Endowment Fund

## Visiting Artists

Visiting Artists who came to Nebraska to create work inspired by significant events, such as the Oregon Trail, the Omaha World's Fair, or the Platte River and other geographical features of the state, as well as those who have participated in artist residencies. This section celebrates the impact of these artists' experiences in Nebraska on their creative processes and the resulting artworks.



Thomas Hart Benton, *The Covered Wagon*, 1945, gouache, ink, Museum Purchase made possible by Cliff Hillegass, CliffsNotes, Thomas Creigh, Lorraine Rohman, Ellen Qualsett, Joe & Pauline Dye, Betty Becker-Theye & Larry Theye, Larry Peterson, Tom Pollard, Gary Zaruba, Brendan McDonald, John Clabaugh

## Impact Outside Nebraska

In this section, we explore artists who once lived in Nebraska but became celebrated for their art in places outside of Nebraska.



Barbara Takenaga, *Round Trip Time*, 2024, acrylic on wood panel, Museum Purchase made possible by the Cliff and Mary Hillegass Bequest. Image courtesy of Barbara Takenaga and DC Moore Gallery, New York.

## Native Art, History & Collecting

Native Art, History and Collecting honors the Native American tribes' deep connection to the land and their pivotal role in the state's history and culture.



Dwayne Wilcox, *Song Remains the Same*, 2012, music note paper dated 1940, paper mâché, Museum Purchase made possible by John Stumbo Memorial Fund and donated funds from Cliff & Mary Hillegass