

INTRODUCTION

The Clark's collection features many magical beasts, including dragons, sea monsters, and centaurs, to name a few. How does an artist give form to something that exists only in the imagination? Find out by creating your own unique creature sculpture!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- “Beastly Body Parts” templates (see pages 4-6!)
- 8 1/2 x 11 in. printer paper (ideally cardstock)
- Scissors
- Crayons, colored pencils, markers, and anything else to make your creatures colorful

To skip the printer, study the templates and try drawing your own creature parts instead.

COLLECTION CONNECTIONS

Lions with eagle heads, dragons with fish scales, and horses with horns or feathery wings! Mythology is full of mixed-up creatures, and artists—including some in the Clark's collection—have been bringing these storied species to life for thousands of years.



Cavaliere D'Arpino (Giuseppe Cesari), *Perseus Rescuing Andromeda*, 1594/95. Oil on panel. Acquired by the Clark, 2010, 2010.7.

Giuseppe Cesari, known as the Knight (*Cavaliere*) of Arpino, depicts two mythical creatures in this scene taken from Greek mythology: a startled sea monster and the winged horse, Pegasus.

WHO IS THE HERO AND WHO IS THE VILLAIN OF THIS BATTLE?
HOW DOES THE ARTIST TELL US WHO TO ROOT FOR?

THE CLARK CONNECTS

FORMS OF FANTASY

COLLECTION CONNECTIONS



Albrecht Dürer, detail of *St. George on Foot*, 1504–05. Engraving on paper. Acquired by the Clark, 1968, 1968.64.

In an engraving inspired by the story of St. George and the Dragon, Albrecht Dürer chooses to show the aftermath of a famous fight—with a victory for the knight and a less-than-happy ending for the defeated beast!

WHAT REAL ANIMALS MIGHT HAVE INSPIRED THIS DRAGON?
HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER DRAGONS YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE?

Some artists give imaginary beasts three-dimensional forms. Sculpting, casting, or carving mythical creatures can make them seem even more “lifelike.”

If you crouched down next to this pianoforte, you would be able to sit face-to-face with the carved, winged lions that guard its legs.

HOW WOULD YOUR EXPERIENCE BE DIFFERENT
IF THE LIONS WERE PAINTED INSTEAD OF CARVED?

The front of the piano features a painting of wandering minstrels, a type of medieval musician, on the fallboard just above the keys. What songs might these minstrels sing about the mythical winged lions?



Designed by Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, *Model D Pianoforte and Stools*, 1884-87. Fallboard painted by Sir Edward John Poynter. Oak, cherry, ebony, boxwood, satinwood, cedar, holly, ivy, coral, mother-of-pearl, abalone, copper, brass, silver, parchment, and modern upholstery. Acquired by the Clark, 1997, 1997.8.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR CREATURE SCULPTURE

1

Load your printer with paper. Print out all three pages— “Bodies,” “Legs and Feet,” and “Ears, Wings, Horns, Tails, and More”—of the “Beastly Body Parts” template. (To make a menagerie, feel free to print out a few extra copies of each page!) No cardstock? No problem. Try gluing your finished body parts on thin recycled cardboard.

2

Let your imagination run wild as you decorate the creature pieces using the medium of your choice. Design your own scales, fur, feathers, and patterns for each beast.

3

Cut out each part by following the outlines. If you see a straight black line, cut it to create a slit. If you see a dashed line, fold that part in half along the line.

4

Bring your creatures to life by picking your favorite pieces and putting them together. Once you have a band of beasts assembled, make things interesting by swapping a horn here or some hooves there. These mythical creatures are made for mixing and matching!

OTHER WAYS TO CREATE

Feel free to draw your own unique animal add-ons—a dragon’s tail, some tentacles, butterfly wings, bear claws, or any part of your favorite creature—for more mixing and matching!

Consider giving each beast you create its very own myth. Where does it live? Is it part of a herd, or a solitary animal? What stories would people tell after they saw this creature for the first time?