

# CREATE A CREATURE COLLAGE



Artist Wangechi Mutu's *Water Woman* is a sculpture of a being with the head and torso of a woman and the lower body of a *Dugong*, a manatee-like sea creature. This piece is inspired by East African folklore about a mermaid-like creature called the *Nguva* who is said to lure people, especially men, to their doom.

When you think of a mermaid, what do you see in your mind? Now take a look at *Water Woman*. Are there things about this sculpture that are different than what you imagined? If so, what are they? Do you think she is as dangerous as the stories say, or is she just misunderstood?

For this project, you will create a collage of an imaginary creature with features that show its special abilities.

Wangechi Mutu. *Water Woman*. 2017; this cast 2018. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Purchase with exchange funds from the Pearlstone Family Fund and partial gift of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.; and additional funds from Fanny B. Thalheimer Memorial Fund, Katherine M. Hardiman, Frederick R. Weisman Contemporary Acquisitions Endowment, The Rothschild Foundation, and Dr. Max Stern Trust Fund, BMA 2017.148. © Wangechi Mutu, Courtesy the artist and Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels

## MATERIALS

Magazines, scissors, glue, sheets of paper, and a pencil

## INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Write a list of your creature's special abilities. Can it fly? Is it invisible or does it live underwater? Think about how its features are related to what it can do: does your creature have claws, sharp teeth, spines, or gills?



Ask an adult for old magazines that you can use. Look through them to find a person you would like to use as the base figure for your creature and cut it out.

- 3 Look through the magazines and cut out a page that will be the background for your creature. Think about where it might live: this will be your creature's environment. If you don't find one you like, just use a sheet of blank paper and draw it in!

- 4 Paste the cut-out figure into the background.



Look through the magazines and cut out images that represent features of your creature, such as its head, feet, hands, wings, or teeth.

- 6 Glue the cut-out pieces onto your base figure.

Once your collage is complete, give your creature a name, and tell a family member all about it.



We'd love to see your work! Snap a picture of your final creation and share with us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter using the hashtag #ArtBMAFromHome for a chance to be featured.

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