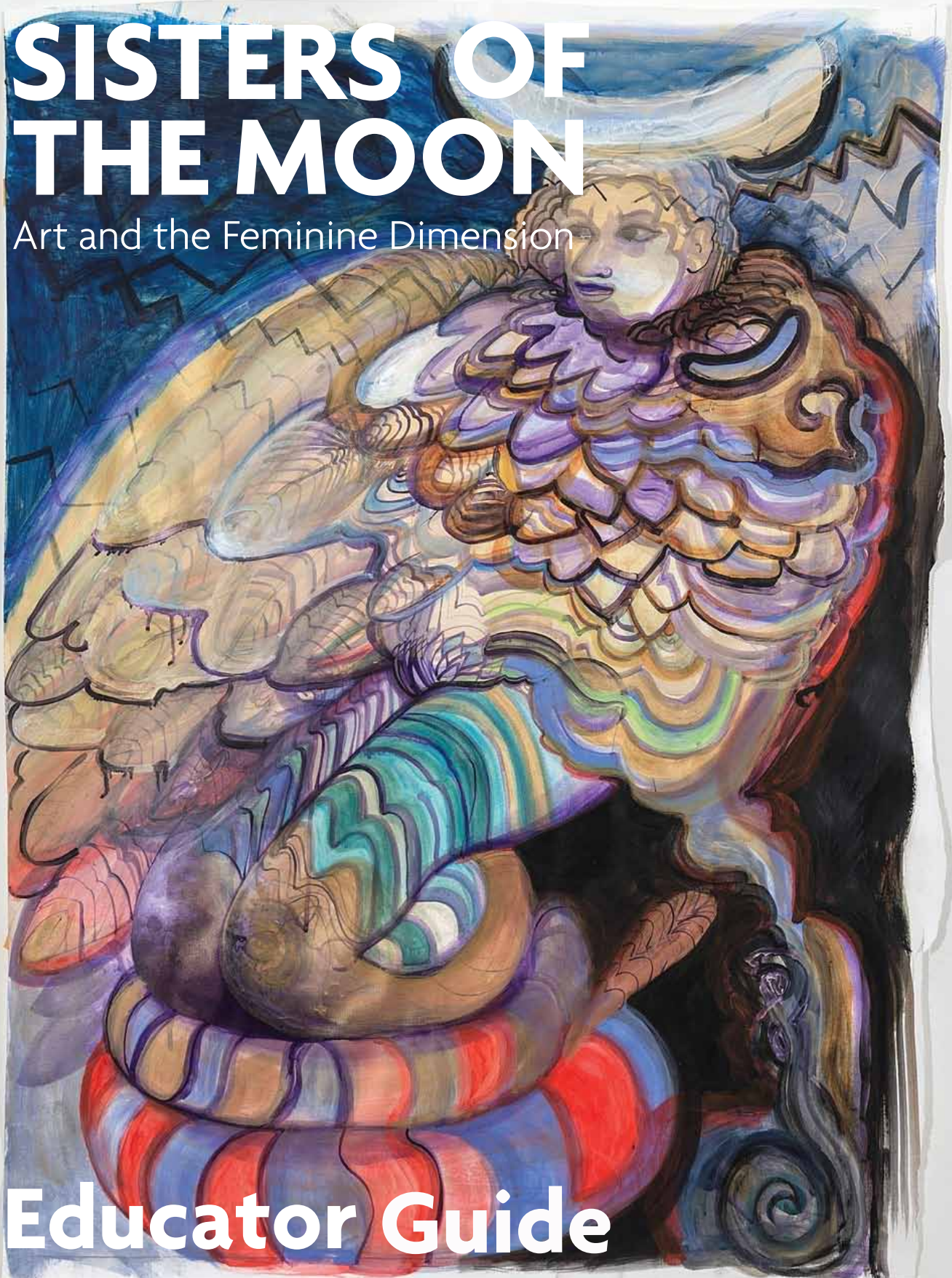


SISTERS OF THE MOON

Art and the Feminine Dimension

Educator Guide

RADIANT MATTER



WELCOME!

Dear Educators,

KMAC is excited to bring the artworks and artists from **Sisters of the Moon** to your students. This field trip guide is intended to help you prepare for your visit to KMAC and begin conversations of key themes and ideas in your classroom. Through discussion, reflection, and art creation, our goal is to have the artistic process come alive for your students. While touring the exhibition, we will look at select artworks to engage students in thinking and analyzing cross-cultural traditions, spirituality, and creativity. You will see contemporary artists using traditional craft processes to materialize big ideas. To further cement the connection between responding, creating, and producing, we have also developed an art-making experience that corresponds with the exhibition.

Enjoy your visit!

KMAC Education Team.



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COVER IMAGE: The Soul of the Serpent Bird; Elizabeth Insogna, 2016; acrylic and ink on paper. Courtesy of the artist.

INTRODUCTION

Sisters of the Moon

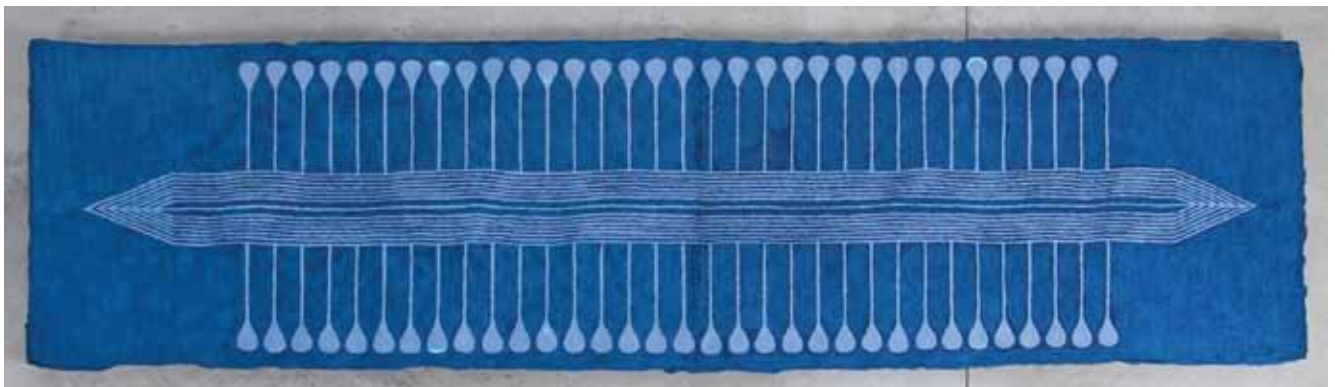
Like our cover artist, Elizabeth Insogna, many of the artists in **Sisters of the Moon**, have researched and traveled to different cultures to find similarities in ritual, myth, and symbol. Insogna's paintings, like "The Soul of the Serpent Bird," combine motifs that she has found in Greek Myths, Islam, Hinduism, and various pagan practices. Insogna creates a magical world found in dreams that connect traits of different belief systems to create a place of her own. Other artists like Saya Woolfalk, Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz, and Evie Falci find power in merging different cultures, symbols, and creatures. Like Insogna's goddess, who is hybrid of a snake, bird, and human, many of the artists see deep connections between humans and nature. The feminine - mother, sister, goddess - is seen as a creator, protector, and sustainer of the natural world.

The artists in this exhibit are using textile and paper manipulation, wood carving, sculpture, metal work, photography, and video to show us new worlds. These are spaces where one can find power in beauty - whether it is in a hybrid form, sci-fi fantasy, geometric design, or traditional folklore. We as viewers are challenged to think about the possibilities around us and in us



above:
Snake Charmer (for Isis), 2016
Elizabeth Insogna
acrylic and ink on paper.
Courtesy of the artist.

below:
Longboat, 2014
Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz
leather dye, pencil, and
acrylic on paper.
Courtesy of the artist and
Tracy Williams Ltd.



COMPARISONS

Pre Visit Activity

Many of the artists represented in **Sisters of the Moon** have taken inspiration from the past. Can you find similarities between the modern artwork and ancient creations? Match an older artwork to one from the exhibition by drawing lines. Compare and contrast what you see.

PAST



"Tile Panel," Turkey, 16th Century
metmuseum.org



"Headdress," Russian, 19th Century
metmuseum.org



"Robe," Japan, 19th Century
metmuseum.org

SISTERS OF THE MOON



"Traveler 1," Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz, 2014.
Courtesy of the artist and Tracy Williams Ltd.



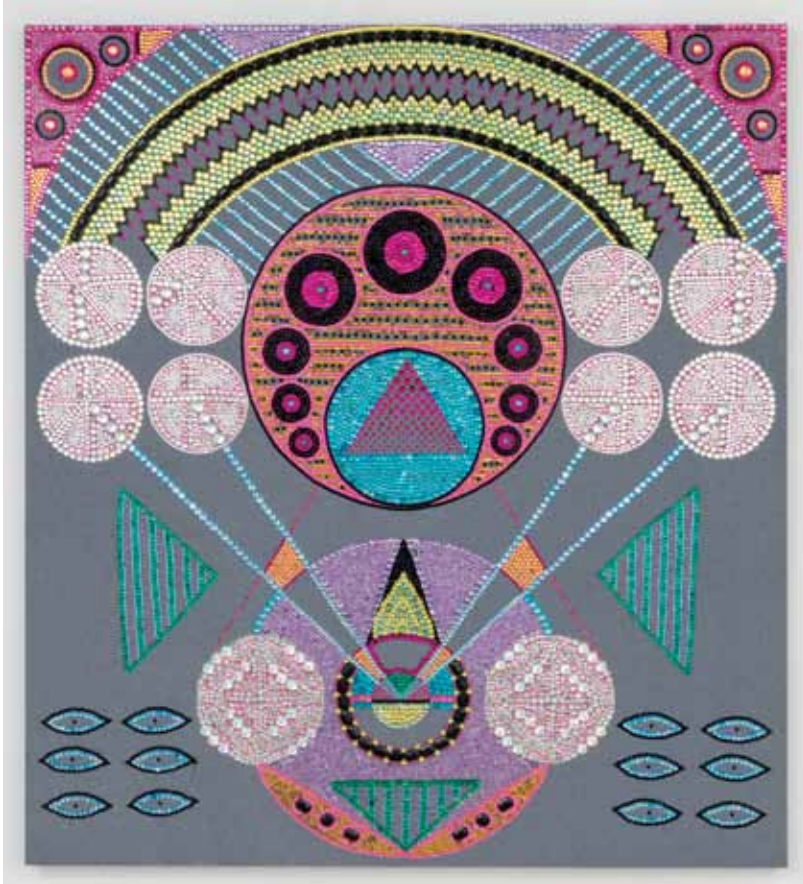
"Aynia," Evie Falci, 2016.
Courtesy of the artist.



"Untitled #2," Saya Woolfalk, 2014
On loan from a private collection.

EVIE FALCI

Thalia



ABOUT THE ARTIST:

- Was born and lives in Brooklyn, New York
- Does not sketch or plan her designs, only the color
- Likes her artwork to be a surprise
- Calls her work "aggressively beautiful"
- Works against the modern minimalist movement
- Puts value in craft, labor, and materials

left:

Thalia, 2016 Evie Falci
Rhinestones on denim. Courtesy of the artist.

Evie Falci's large scale works take a set of materials that could be seen as kitschy and turns them into high art. "Thalia" is an example of one of Falci's feminine pieces - a denim covered canvas that is "bedazzled" with rhinestones. She makes masculine counter-parts where leather canvases are studded with metal. The embellished pieces remind us of a young girl's blue jeans or a cowgirl's denim jacket. But they also remind us of Islamic mosaics and Indian robes. Falci's inspirations vary from fashion and traditional craft to Egyptian, Sumerian, and Greek art. When these influences combine with detail and labor-intensive craft on such a large scale, something powerful and other-worldly is created. Falci's geometric symbols and symmetric harmony seem to produce a unique and personal ceremonial garment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Can you find all the different shapes and types of lines that Falci uses?
- What place, time, or event would you wear an outfit made like this?

SAYA WOOLFALK

ChimaTEK Series

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

- Multi-racial artist who identifies as American
- Spent time living in Japan and America
- Travels and researches with her anthropologist husband
- Teaches at Parsons: The New School For Design in New York
- Her videos replaced all the billboard ads in Time Square for 3 minutes every night in June 2016

Saya Woolfalk has created a futuristic world where a fictional race of women can change their identities in an attempt to find perfection. Their appearance and genetics change by blending with plants. She uses video projection, sculptures, installations, and textiles to create a hybrid world. The bright colors, musical sounds, and familiar objects bring viewers into her unusual world. When one looks closely they can see hints of

African masks, Islamic textiles, science fiction stories, and South American rituals. Her ChimaTek Series shows some possible Avatars that can be created with the science and spirituality of the future. "Untitled # 4" is just one of these possibilities.



above:
Untitled #4
from ChimaTECK Series
Saya Woolfalk
mixed media collage
on paper. On loan from
private collection.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How is this person different from people you see every day?
If you could give yourself qualities from a different animal or species, what would they be?

VOCABULARY

Textile: fabric that is woven or knit

Symbol: an action, object, picture, or event that represents a particular idea or thing

Symmetry: when one side balances or mirrors the other

Harmony: a pleasing combination of things

Geometric vs Organic Shape: Geometric shapes have clear edges and follow rules (squares, circles, triangles). Organic shapes have a natural and flowing look and do not follow rules.

Myth: a traditional story or idea that is used to explain beliefs and practices

Multicultural: including or mixing many different cultures or groups

LEARNING TARGETS

- I can describe elements of art and principles of design.
- I can identify meaning in visual artworks.
- I can share personal knowledge and meaningful experiences while looking and making art.
- I can demonstrate skill in using ceramic tools.
- I can create a ceramic amulet with symbols.

LITERATURE CONNECTION

FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS

Fearless Girls, Wise Women & Beloved Sisters: Heroines in Folktales from Around the World by Kathleen Ragan and Jane Yolen

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths by Ingri d'Aulaire and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

Instructions by Neil Gaiman

Art by Patrick McDonnell

The Art Book For Children by Phaidon

I See a Pattern Here by Bruce Goldstone

FOR OLDER STUDENTS

Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes by Edith Hamilton

Best-Loved Folktales of the World (The Anchor Folktale Library) by Joanna Cole

Kiki Smith by Helaine Posner

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

The Sleeper and the Spindle by Neil Gaiman

Color and Pattern: 50 Playful Exercises for Exploring Pattern Design by Khristian Howell

INTERNET RESOURCES

kmacmuseum.org

metmuseum.org

aras.org (The Archival for Research in Archetypal Symbolism)

evie.falci.com

sayawoolfalk.com

ART STANDARDS

Content Standards addressed in this tour and art-making activity:

KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR MEDIA ARTS

Anchor 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work

Anchor 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work

Anchor 3: Refine and complete artistic work

Anchor 5: Develop and refine artistic technique and work for presentation

Anchor 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work

Anchor 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work

Anchor 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work

Anchor 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art

Anchor 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context

KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

SL.K-12.1 Participate in conversations with others and express ideas

SL.K-12.2 Integrate and evaluate information from diverse media

W.K-12.1 Write arguments based on visual evidence

KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

K-4.GR.11 Global Interconnections

K-4.HT.13 Historical Understanding: Contextualization and Perspectives

HANDS-ON ART

Hybrid Cartouche

Students will learn and practice ceramic skills and techniques to make their own good luck. Students will look at some of the ancient and traditional art forms that inspired the artists featured in **Sisters of the Moon**. They will create a cartouche or amulet based on the Egyptian art form. Students, like the artists in the exhibition, will combine styles and symbols from other cultures to create a personalized etching on their cartouche.

WHAT DID YOU SEE?

Post Visit Activity

Write the title of three works you remember and then answer the following questions thoughtfully.

	Title #1:	Title #2:	Title #3:
Describe the artwork. Try to use words related to the elements of art (line, shape, form, space, color, value, texture).			
What materials and processes did the artist use? How did the materials effect the way you understood the artwork?			
What is the BIG IDEA? Describe a theme or a story you found in the artwork?			
Describe your reaction to the work? What did the art remind you of?			