

Penguin Adventures

In this activity, you can help 21c Museum Hotel's Penguins to have fun adventures, inspired by the art of William Wegman.



Cracking Art.
Red Penguin, 2005.
Recycled plastic.

About the Penguins by Cracking Art

Walk into any of the nine 21c Museum Hotels and you will be greeted by four-foot-tall penguin sculptures by the artist group, Cracking Art. Each 21c has its own flock of Penguins—in a color that embodies the singular identity of their city. The Penguins greet visitors throughout the hotel—in the lobby, elevators, restaurant, guest rooms, and often, where you least expect them. Cracking Art's mission is to raise awareness of environmental issues and the use and misuse of natural resources by creating artworks using materials derived from petroleum products. The name Cracking Art refers to the chemical reaction that occurs when converting raw crude oil into plastic or the moment when natural becomes artificial. The group was founded in 1993 by seven artists: Alex Angi, Kicco, Renzo Nucara, Carlo Rizzeti, Omar Ronda, Marco Veronese, and William Sweetlove. Cracking Art has created more than 600 exhibitions worldwide.

<http://www.crackingart.com/en/>

For those looking to visit them all:

21c Louisville, *Red Penguin*;

21c Cincinnati, *Yellow Penguin*;

21c Bentonville, *Green Penguin*;

21c Lexington, *Blue Penguin*;

21c Durham, *Fuschia Penguin*;

21c Oklahoma City, *Purple Penguin*;

21c Nashville, *Teal Penguin*;

21c Kansas City, *Sky Blue Penguin*;



21c Chicago, *Evergreen Penguin*.



William Wegman. *William of Orange*, 2009. Photogravure.

About William Wegman

<https://williamwegman.com>

As a child William Wegman was known as “Billy the Artist.” He lived up to that nickname and today is famous for the photographs he takes of his Weimaraner dogs, like the work pictured above, *William of Orange*, that is part of the 21c Museum Hotels collection. Since the 1970s, he has lived and worked with ten different Weimaraner dogs, all with unique names like Man Ray, Flo, Topper, Fay Ray, and Batty. In his photographs, Wegman places the dogs in funny or exotic scenes, often dressing them in human clothing or giving them props. The process Wegman uses to create his photographs starts with him drawing or painting out ideas for scenes to re-create with the dogs in photographs.



William Wegman, *Uphill*, 1990.



William Wegman, *Hansel and Gretel*, 2007.

From: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/24/t-magazine/art/william-wegman-photos-being-human.html>

Try it at home



We invite you to take inspiration from William Wegman's works and use your imagination to invent funny, amazing, or mysterious scenes for the 21c Penguins to explore. If you were a 21c Penguin, where would you want to go? Draw or make a collage to create a place for a penguin to have an adventure.

What you might need:

- Plain paper or cardstock
- A printout of the penguins on the next page. (Hint: the penguins are different sizes on that page, but you can also change the scale when you print the page to make them other sizes.)
- Colored pencils, pens, markers, or paints to draw a scene for the penguin.
- Photos or images cut from magazines if you want to add collage elements to your scene (ask an adult what materials would be OK to cut up.)
- Scissors
- Tape and/or glue

Steps:

1. Look up William Wegman's works online to get inspiration. You can search "William Wegman" or visit his website at <https://williamwegman.com>
2. Lay out your paper and materials on a work table. (Be sure to ask an adult how to protect the table if you're using any messy materials.)
3. Print out the next page with images of the 21c Penguins. Pick one or more to place in your scene and cut them out.
4. Decide what kind of scene you want to create for the penguin and use your pencils, pens, markers, or paints to draw a scene.
5. Tape or glue down any collage elements you want to add to your scene.
6. Lastly, tape or glue your penguins into the scene you created for them! (If you'd like, you could also write a story about the penguin's adventures in that place.)

