

LET'S LOOK

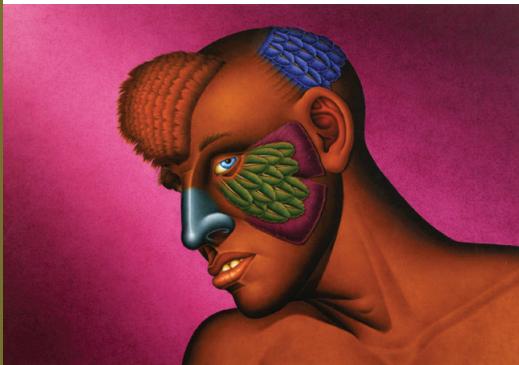
VISIT THE MAIN GALLERIES

Let's look for the work of art by Robert Lostutter pictured below.

What do you see?

This portrait features a hybrid (something made of mixed parts) of a person and a bird. Notice how realistic the creature seems to be, but that it is not a painting of a real being. Look closely at the details.

What do you have in common with other animals, and how are you different from them?



Robert Lostutter, *Wahnes Parotia*, 2009. Watercolor on paper. Collection of the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. Gift of Mark and Judy Bednar.

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WHAT IS A PORTRAIT?

A **portrait** is a likeness or image of a person that is created by an artist. Portraits can be realistic or abstract, or a combination of both. **How is this portrait different from others in the exhibition?** Often times, portraits are created to tell visual stories about the subject.

What story could you tell about *Wahnes Parotia* (wahnes pa-row-shuh)?

Robert Lostutter is a painter who makes brightly colored and highly detailed portraits using **watercolor paints**—pigments (colors) that are soluble in water. This means that the more water is added, the more transparent the paint will be. Lostutter uses many layers of watercolor paint to build up the intense colors in this painting. He achieves precise details by using very fine brushes—even one with a single hair!

WAHNES PAROTIA

The title of this painting is also the name of a species of bird which lives in the forest in Papua New Guinea, a country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. The male birds have bright patches of feathers and perform lively dances to attract the attention of the female birds. This species is likely to become endangered—there are less than 10,000 adult birds in existence.



HYBRID CREATURES

The possibilities are endless in the human imagination! For thousands of years, people have been mixing elements from animals and humans to create mythological beings. These creatures helped to tell stories or to describe gods and goddesses in various cultures. Artists in Ancient Egypt painted pictures of Horus, a god who had the head of a falcon and body of a human.

If you could be another creature, real or imaginary, what would you be? Use the colored pencils in the ArtPack to decorate this mask. Design the patterns, textures, and markings of that creature. When you get home, cut out and wear the mask to become a hybrid being of your choosing!