

Big Ideas, Small Artworks

How do artists use size to send a message?

Artists use size, or scale, in their art to help us understand their message. We notice how big or small things are compared to us. Bruce paints big pictures of horses, much larger than people, but not as big as a real horse. Jeff made a tiny sculpture called *Sculpture for Squirrels*. He built a small wooden tree, just the size of a squirrel. The sculpture is not a real tree, but it is close in size to a squirrel's body. Bruce's big paintings might make people feel small, while Jeff's tiny sculpture could make a squirrel feel big and special, as if the art was made for them.

Bruce also uses size, or scale, to show what his pictures are about. In his paintings, the horses stand on pieces of old maps, not ground. This makes the horses look very big compared to the land on the map. It also reminds us that people used horses to travel long distances and change the land, giving places names and making them places people could own.

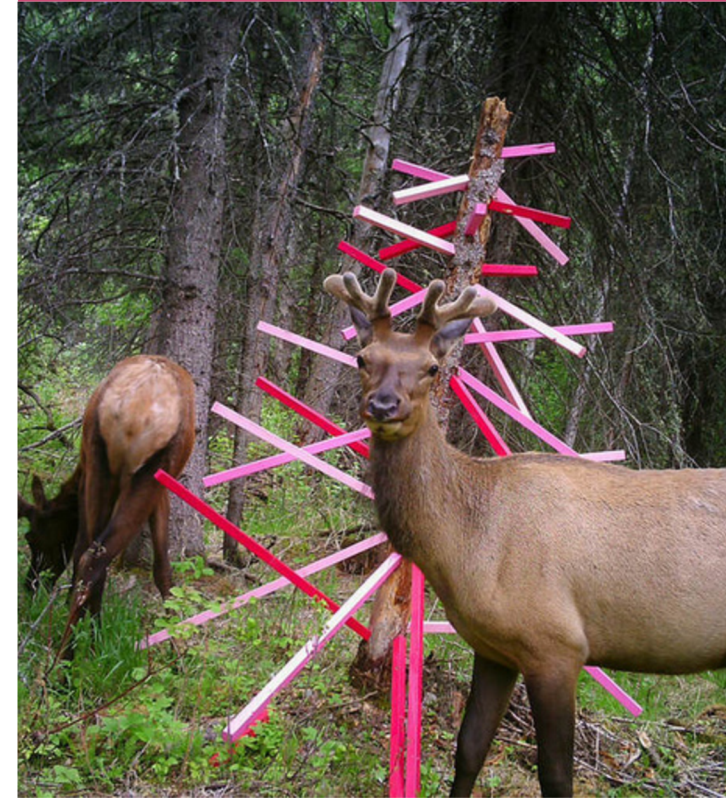
More Than Meets the Eye (or Nose)

How do Jeff's artworks made for animals help us understand animals better?

Jeff is an artist and park ecologist who makes art for animals, not just for people. He made art that bears could move around. Because the bears helped with his art, he wanted to pay them. He made a giant fake cheque and covered it with lard, a kind of fat which will help bears gain weight to survive the winter. People might value a cheque because it represents money, but the bears value Jeff's cheque because it uses a useful source of food for bears. Cameras took photos of bears using the cheque artwork, which is different from how people experience art - the bears smelled and tasted Jeff's art. Jeff's project helps us imagine what art might look like if it was made for animals, and it makes us think about what is truly valuable to different living things.

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PLAIN ENGLISH Self-guided tour *Beast Friends Forever*



Pink Tree #2, Jeff Meldrum, 2020, Cabela's trail camera photograph.

Bruce Anderson, Joanne Bristol,
Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, Jeff
Meldrum, & Adrian Stimson
curated by Sandee Moore
July 17 - September 17, 2027

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Fading Away

Why does Adrian paint bison, and how do the things he paints and the colours he uses help tell their story?

Adrian is an artist from the Siksika Nation who paints bison because they are important to his people. He paints bison to remember the large herds that once lived on the prairies and how they helped the Siksika people by providing food, shelter, and spiritual meaning. When Adrian paints a bison, he is also connecting to the spirits of the bison, which is important in his culture. His paintings are mostly white and grey, which makes them feel sombre for the loss of these animals and a little bit like a dream. Dreams give us ideas, help us heal and vanish like the bison that used to exist in on the Plains.

View the **QR code** through your smartphone camera to listen to the Audio Tour for this exhibition.

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Bare Lines, Bare Branches

How does using just pencil lines on white paper change how her art feels? How do her drawings help us notice new things?

An artist named Joanne makes videos using simple pencil drawings of her house and the streets nearby. Her art is black and white, so it feels quiet and calm, like the city in early spring before the trees have leaves. Joanne draws things most people ignore, like trucks, recycling bins, or stuff in her basement. She also shows animals that use the city in their own way. Joanne's art helps us notice animals and things around us that we usually forget about. Her video is shown on a wall that faces the street she drew, so we can see the street in a new way and spot creatures we might not see otherwise.



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Woven Stories and Journeys

Why is using wool from two places important?

An artist named Mackenzie used wool from both Iceland and where he lives (Calgary/Mohkinstsis) to make the cloak. He also made the cloak using old Viking ways. This connects his artwork to two places and two histories. It helps tell a story about people moving from one place to another, just like the Vikings did 1000 years and his own family did more recently. The cloak is special because it is made with materials from both places, showing a link between them.

What do the photos of the shaggy cloak being worn or in nature show us?

The photos show the cloak blending into the rocks and grass, almost as if it were part of nature. You can see a person in the cloak who looks a little like an animal. Humans are also animals, and we can use things we learn from or harvest from other animals, like sheep, to provide shelter from cold, rainy weather, or to camouflage ourselves in nature, which is also important for human survival.