

## Playful Symmetry

Many of the Pennsylvania German artworks in the Barnes collection have bright colors and symmetrical compositions—meaning the objects painted on the left side are repeated on the right, like mirror images. Symmetry appears throughout art and nature, and creates balance and harmony. Try this fun activity to learn more about symmetry.

### Materials:

White paper (8.5x11); pencil; colored pencils, crayons, or markers

### Instructions:

**Step 1:** Fold the paper in half lengthwise, making a crease down the middle. This will be your symmetry line.

**Step 2:** Unfold the paper. Use the pencil to draw your favorite animal in its natural habitat on one side of the symmetry line. Make sure your drawing touches the symmetry line at some point. Retrace your drawing, pressing down with your pencil to darken the lines.

**Step 3:** Refold the paper at the crease, with your drawing inside. Rub the surface to transfer your image to the other half of the paper. Open the paper to see two animals facing each other—a mirror image!

**Step 4:** Outline and color in your symmetrical artwork.



Unidentified Pennsylvania German artist. *Two Red and Yellow Parrots Facing Each Other (Green Leaves)*, 19th century

