

FAMILY TRAIL

# FANTASTIC CREATURES



## STEP INTO THE AMAZING WORLD OF ANIMALS AND FANTASTIC CREATURES

Welcome to the Aga Khan Museum! There is so much to discover! This trail takes you into an awesome world of animals and fantastic creatures. **Look around the Bellerive Room and the Collections Gallery to find them – Good Luck!**

## FIND THIS OBJECT! BELLERIVE ROOM

**HINT:** Can you spot a creature that would have had feathers in real life?



### Look closely!

Did you find this vessel shaped like a bird?

Where do you think the water came out?



### Did you know?

Pitchers shaped like animals have enjoyed such popularity that they have a special name: aquamanile.

Ewer, Iran, late 12th–early 13th centuries, fritware, moulded and glazed, AKM766

## FIND THIS OBJECT! MUSEUM COLLECTIONS GALLERY

**HINT:** Explore the cases near the fountain!



**Look at the body and the tail of this bird.**

How do you think this object was used?

How many birds can you spot in this object?



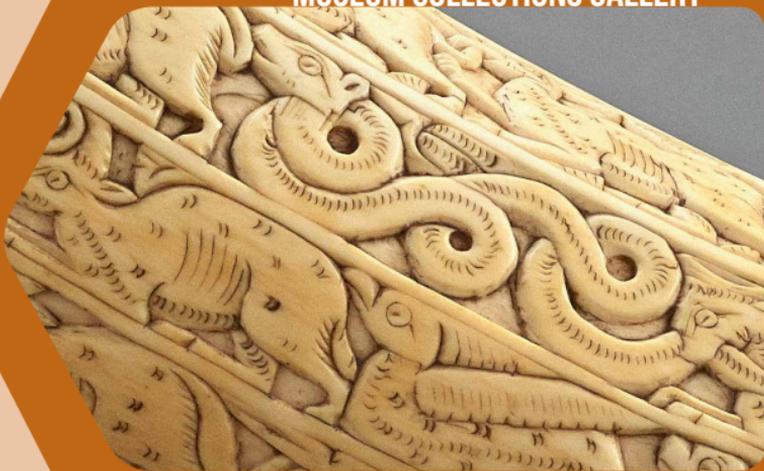
**Did you know?**

This object was used to perfume a room. The body of the bird, near its stomach, was filled with glowing coal and a special substance called incense. Once burnt, its pleasant smell would escape from the pierced body of the bird.

Incense Burner, northeast Iran, 11th-13th centuries, bronze, inlaid with copper, AKM602

## FIND THIS OBJECT! MUSEUM COLLECTIONS GALLERY

**HINT:** Explore the cases near the giant blue wall!



Look at the shape of this object.

What do you think was used to make this object?

What kind of animals do you see on this object?



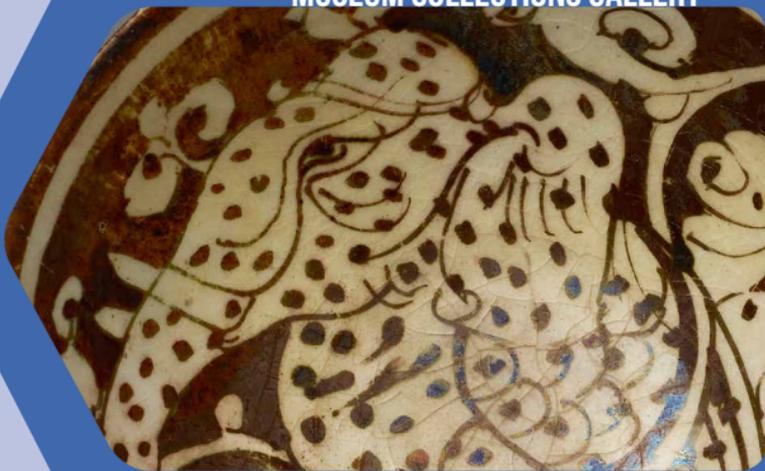
Did you know?

Objects were sometimes added to over time. The silver decoration on this object was added 500 years later.

Ivory Horn – Oliphant, southern Italy, 12th century, carved ivory with silver mount. Mounts: England, 17th century, AKM809

## FIND THIS OBJECT! MUSEUM COLLECTIONS GALLERY

**HINT:** Take a peek in the cases near the big bluish-green ceramic jar.



### Look closely!

How many kinds of animals do you see in this fantastic creature?

Can you identify the different types of animals?



### TIP

Don't forget the spots on this animal. Can you think of animals with spots?

Bowl with Spotted Elephant – Bird, Iran, early 13th century, fritware, lustre-painted, AKM556

**HINT:** look into the cases along the right wall, opposite the windows.

## FIND THIS OBJECT! MUSEUM COLLECTIONS GALLERY



### Look closely

What do you think is pictured on the body of this bottle?



### Did you know?

This flask was made by pressing clay into a mold that had two parts. The pieces were then put together before the flask was baked and glazed.

Bottle with molded scene of lion and tamer, Iran, early 17th century, fritware, moulded and glazed, AKM732

**HINT:** It's tall and stands near the windows, towards the end of the gallery.

## FIND THIS OBJECT! MUSEUM COLLECTIONS GALLERY



**Look closely!**

Can you spot the fierce creatures on this standard?



**Did you know?**

Dragons are important in many stories from around the world.

The dragons in Chinese stories live among the clouds in the sky and are responsible for rain. The dragons found in European stories breathe fire and guard treasures. On this object, the dragons symbolize strength and protection.

Processional Standard, Iran or India, 17th-18th centuries,  
iron, cast with cut-out decoration, AKM620



## MORE FUN...

There are lots of animals on the objects in the museum. Sometimes the whole object takes the shape of an animal, and sometimes it's shown like a picture.

**Look for more amazing creatures all through the Collections Gallery and Bellerive Room.**

## AT-HOME ACTIVITY



**Create your own home-grown fantastic creature.**

What different animals will be part of your creature? What special abilities and powers will your creature have? Will your creature roam in the forest or live in a cave? Would your creature spend its time flying among the clouds or swimming in deep oceans?

Draw or build your mythical creature at home, take a photo and share it with us

**@agakhanmuseum #MuseumWithoutWalls  
learn@agakhanmuseum.org**

## HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY!

Please visit us again to find out more about the arts of the Muslim world and the creativity of its artists.