

John James Audubon (1785-1851) was a French- American naturalist and artist, for whom the National Audubon Society was named in 1905.

Throughout his life, he studied, documented, and recorded wildlife (mostly birds) in his artwork. This painting, Snowy Egret, is typical of his artwork- extremely realistic and documentary in nature. For reference, the camera was not invented until the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, so Audubon's life and work pre-dated the camera. He considered his artwork to be an important record of the many different species of birds found in America, and their habitats. His artwork can be found in museums all over the world and is still used today in ornithological and encyclopedic texts.



Charley Harper (1922-2007) was a Cincinnati artist, graphic designer, and illustrator. He did all of the posters and promotions for the Hamilton County Parks system and his artwork can be found in calendars and on cards all over the city.

Charley Harper was inspired by the artwork of John James Audubon, but had a completely different aesthetic. [Second grade students compared these two artists egrets before creating their own Harper-inspired Ohio Animal artwork.] Harper's Egret is on the left. His experience and artwork all happened in the age of photography and therefore the need for super-realistic drawings and paintings was no longer there. Documentation could happen with a camera. Artwork took on the role of interpretation. Harper was rumored to have joked that 'Audubon counted feathers, I (Harper) count wings'.

If you like Charley Harper's artwork, check out Fabulous Frames and Art at Montgomery Rd. and 275- they have a fantastic collection of prints and merchandise.