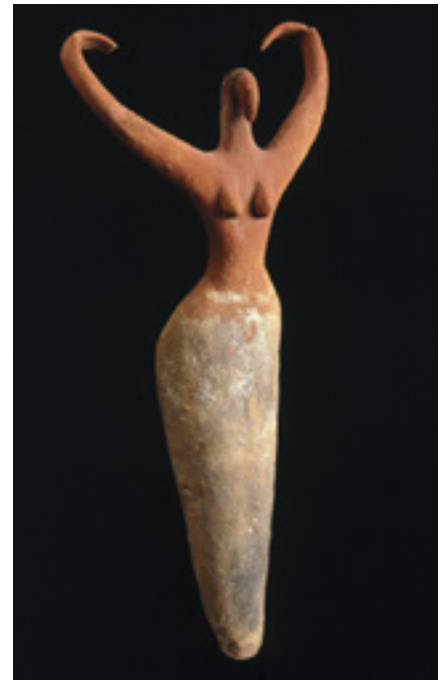


**Mini Art Lesson:**  
*Female Figure*

For this week’s Mini Art Lesson, we’re looking at one of the oldest works in our collection: [this birdlike, female figure](#) made about 5,500 years ago in ancient Egypt. Kids ages 2–6, get ready to strike a pose and learn about how this figure, also called “Bird Lady,” combines human and animal features! For kids 7 and up, we’ll make our own clay and capture movement through sculpture. Follow along below for step-by-step instructions.

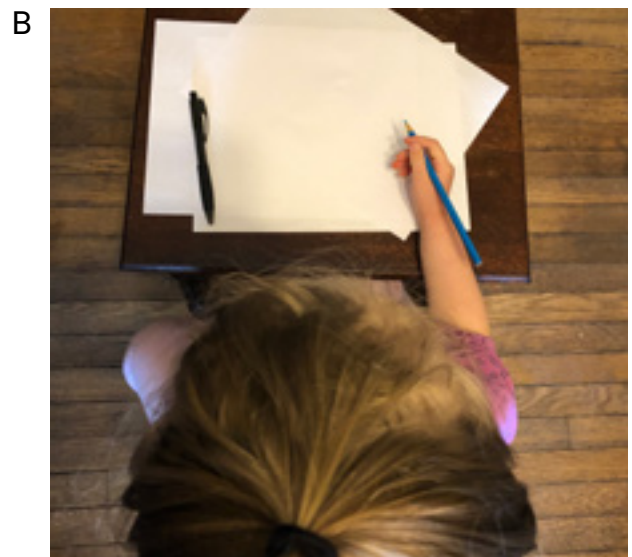
●FOR TEACHERS, CAREGIVERS, AND PARENTS  
Access [a free teaching guide](#) packed with questions for viewing and great activities and resources.



**FOR AGES 2–6:**  
**LET’S PLAY**

**Strike a Pose:** Try to mirror the distinct pose of Bird Lady! (A)

**Get Ready:** Grab a writing utensil (like a crayon, pencil, marker, or pen) and a piece of paper. Now, choose one person to be the sculptor and another person to be the sculpture. (B)



FOR AGES 2-6:  
LET'S PLAY

**Sculpt:** Have the sculptor "sculpt" their subject by moving their limbs and other body parts in a comfortable pose. (A)

**Draw:** The sculptor will then draw a quick sketch of their sculpture. You can set a timer for 30-60 seconds. (B)

**Animal Brainstorm:** Although we don't know much about Bird Lady, we do know she has both birdlike and human traits. For example, the sculpture's beak is a bird trait, while the hair and legs are human features. The arms combine both bird and human characteristics since they resemble wings! What kind of animal do you want to incorporate in your sculpture? Our friends Susannah and Ruthie chose an elephant!

**Switch Roles:** Sculptor and sculpture switch roles! Now, it's the new sculptor's turn to mold the sculpture into a pose inspired by their animal-human hybrid and draw their creation! (C)

Thanks for taking the time to learn about Bird Lady! And, a big thank you to Ruthie, Susannah, and family for their help on this project!

A



B



C



**FOR AGES 7+:  
LET'S CREATE**

Bird Lady has captivated humans for thousands of years because of how she's able to capture motion in her pose. Using homemade clay, let's build some sculptures that consider how solid objects can imply movement.

Gather your materials:

- 1 cup of salt
- ½ cup of cornstarch
- ¾ cup of water
- Food dye or paint (optional)

Mix the materials in a pot. With the help of an adult, heat the mixture and keep mixing it until it solidifies. (A)

Think about these questions: What movement do you think Bird Lady is doing? Can your sculpture create visual rhythm? How will your sculpture guide the eye of the viewer? Now, shape your clay into a figure that captures movement, like running or doing martial arts! You can add details using other pieces of clay as well. (B)

A



B



**FOR AGES 7+:  
LET'S CREATE  
BONUS!**

Can you make an abstract sculpture that captures movement? (A)

Movement is one of the main principles of art and can be seen in figures like Bird Lady. How will your sculpture be remembered in 5,000 years?

A



B

