

Willie Anne Wright

Artist & Alchemist

Uncover connections between artworks featured in the *Willie Anne Wright: Artist & Alchemist* exhibition and artwork on view in VMFA's permanent collection galleries.



Severin Roesen, *The Abundance of Nature*, (2002.558)
American Art Galleries, Level 2

Severin Roesen and Willie Anne Wright were both inspired by the still-life genre. When examined carefully, the bountiful display in Roesen's *The Abundance of Nature* imaginatively combines fruit and flowers that ripen or bloom in different seasons. Wright is interested in the still-life genre not only because of its connection to the past, but also because the pinhole cameras she used required long exposure times, making inanimate objects ideal subject matter.



Eugène Boudin, *The Beach at Trouville* (83.5)
Mellon Galleries, Level 2

Eugène Boudin and Willie Anne Wright both captured beach scenes where the atmospheric conditions and subject matter inspired them. Boudin began painting beach resorts along the Normandy coast of France in the early 1860s and *The Beach at Trouville* reflects his interest in the effects of light and atmosphere of the overcast sky. Similarly, Wright photographed beach scenes, where the intensity of the light as well as the relaxed forms of people lounging by the ocean suited the long exposure times required by the pinhole process.



Helen Frankenthaler, *Mother Goose Melody* (85.387)
Mid to Late 20th Century Galleries, Level 2

Helen Frankenthaler and Willie Anne Wright both featured family in their work. Frankenthaler, an abstract expressionist artist who worked in a stained-canvas style, noted that the three brown shapes in *Mother Goose Melody* could refer to herself and her two sisters. Wright frequently painted and photographed women, and often asked friends and relatives to pose for her work.

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Yoruba artist, *Ibeji* (81.24.1)

African Art Galleries, Level 2

Wright is fascinated by twin imagery and explored creating visual doubles in her paintings and photograms, often inverting or flipping negatives to suggest a twin relationship. The Yoruba people of Nigeria, in West Africa, have one of the world's highest birth rates of twins, who are believed to possess special powers. If a Yoruba twin dies in infancy, the family has a wooden figure carved to represent the deceased sibling.



William Morris, *Wallpaper Roll (Apple)* (87.212.4)

Decorative Art Galleries, Level 3

William Morris and Willie Anne Wright both showcased a fascination with flora in their artwork. William Morris produced over fifty unique wallpaper designs featuring different flowers from his personal garden. Wright was inspired by Morris's patterns, mounting several of her photograms onto wallpaper designed by him. She also wrapped one of her pinhole cameras with Morris wallpaper, which is on view in the exhibition.