

How Artists See Fish

Based on a book by Colleen Carroll

**The Goldfish Bowl
By Henri Matisse
(1869-1954)**



You've probably seen these fish before. Well, not these exact fish, but fish like them. They're goldfish, of course. You may even have your own goldfish bowl at home or at school. These special goldfish swim in a bowl surrounded by vivid colors and bold patterns. Some of the patterns are made of shapes that look like fish. **Point to all the fish shaped objects you can find. Now look at the blurry patches of orange floating at the top of the bowl. What do you think they are?**

Goldfish Bowl, II
By Roy Lichtenstein
(1923 -1997)



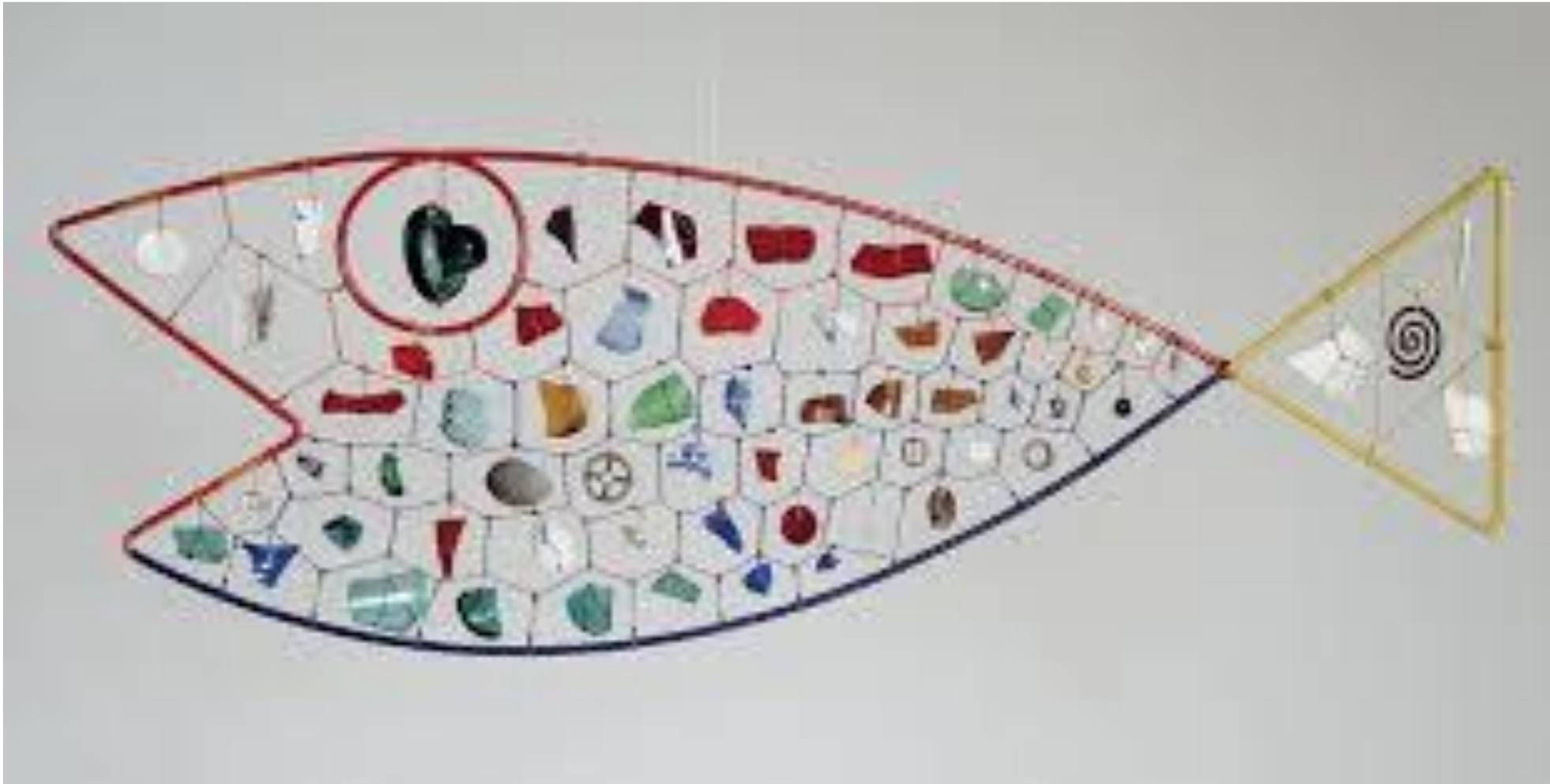
Here's another bowl of goldfish made by a different artist. It has many things in common with the picture you just saw, but the artists have created two very different works of art. First, this art work is a sculpture made from metal. The other is a painting. Second, these fish are darker and have heavy black outlines.

What other similarities and differences can you find? Which fish look more real?

Sometimes artists get ideas by looking at the works of other artists whom they respect and admire. Then they add their own unique style to make the work new and original.

Which style do you prefer?

The Fish by Alexander Calder (1898-1996)



Artists often use materials in very clever ways. This sculpture is made with lots of odds and ends, such as broken glass, buttons, beads, and stones.....the kinds of things that most people would throw away. Some of the pieces were made by hand, like the spiral object in the fish's tail. **What other unusual materials can you find?** These bits and pieces help you to imagine the texture of a fish's tail. **Are they smooth and slippery or rough and sharp?** **How is the round, green glass similar to a fish's eye?** This type of sculpture, called a mobile, hangs from the ceiling in a museum and seems to "swim" through the air. **Imagine the fish moving through the water with its mouth agape. Do you think its hungry? How many tiny fish do you think it could swallow at once?**

Fish Magic by Paul Klee (1879-1940)



There's something fishy going on here. The artist has created a mysterious under water world for a strange school of fish.

How many fish can you spot? Some of the things in the picture you might expect to see in the water, such as divers, flowers, and seaweed, but other things don't seem to belong under water. **Can you find them? Why do you think the artist named this painting "Fish Magic"?** With their bright colors against a black background, these bizarre creatures seem to glow in the dark. **Would you want to swim in this eerie aquarium?**