Feathered and Furry Friends
John James Audubon is one of the most celebrated artist-naturalists in history, best known for his beautiful and accurate drawings of North American birds. This print is from a project Audubon developed with his sons, John Woodhouse and Victor Gifford. Featuring lithographs of 150 North American mammals, the series was often printed in black-and-white, allowing for deluxe hand-coloring. For more Blanton #MuseumFromHome resources, visit blantonmuseum.org/museumfromhome

Image: After John Woodhouse Audubon, Hoary Marmot – The Whistler, plate 103 from The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America, 1846, lithograph with pencil, Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Archer M. Huntington Museum Fund, 1982
Among the earliest printed objects in the Blanton’s collection, this woodcut depicts a noble couple, accompanied by their dogs, on the way to a hunt. At the lower right, "LC" refers to Lucas Cranach, court artist to Duke Fredrick the Wise of Saxony, whose coat of arms floats in the sky. For more Blanton #MuseumFromHome resources, visit blantonmuseum.org/museumfromhome

Image: Lucas Cranach, Noble Couple on Horseback, 1506, woodcut, 7 x 5 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, University Purchase, 1961
The Dutch etcher Marcus de Bye specialized in prints of sheep, cows, and goats, as well as animals that would have been much more exotic to his audiences, such as bears and leopards. His skill lies in giving each animal a distinct personality, as in this regal, resting leopard who is nonetheless alert. For more Blanton #MuseumFromHome resources, visit blantonmuseum.org/museumfromhome

Image: Marcus de Bye, *Leopards, plate 2, after Paulus Potter*, 1658, etching, 6 x 7 1/16 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, The Leo Steinberg Collection, gift of Leo Steinberg, 1997
The illustrations in *The History of British Birds* by Thomas Bewick were admired by many, including John James Audubon. Even Charlotte Brontë’s fictional heroine Jane Eyre reveled in Bewick’s book, using it as an escape to "strangely impressive" worlds. For more Blanton #MuseumFromHome resources, visit blantonmuseum.org/museumfromhome