



Make art

with the
Art Gallery
of New
South Wales
**Mythical
creatures**

Art
Gallery
NSW

Artists love to create.

In many Asian countries, artists use mythical creatures as symbols in their artwork. One of the most popular is the dragon, a symbol of luck and power, but there are many other creatures that also have special powers.

Do you love to draw, paint and make things?



above: Thailand, Buddha sheltered by the seven-headed serpent Muchalinda 1800s, bronze, gold leaf, crystal, Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1948.

left and cover (detail): Kate Beynon Self-portrait with guardian spirits 2009–10, synthetic polymer paint on linen, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Contemporary Collection Benefactors 2012 © Kate Beynon/ Copyright Agency, 2021. Photos: © AGNSW

We acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the Country on which the Art Gallery of New South Wales stands.

opposite: China, Dish
c1865–70, porcelain, Art
Gallery of New South
Wales, bequest of Amy
Alfreda Vickery 1942.
below: Japan,
Vase with a Chinese
lion dog 1800s,
enamelled porcelain,
Art Gallery of New
South Wales, gift of
Charles Binnie 1924.
Photos: © AGNSW



Create a mythical
creature by combining
animals. What special
powers will your
creature possess?

Mythical creatures

You will need:
Modelling clay
Joggle eyes
Chenille stems
Wool
Recycled card, fabric
Your imagination!



above: Meigyokuzan
**Jug with dragon-
shaped spout and
handle** 1800s, enamelled
porcelain, Art Gallery of
New South Wales, gift
of Charles Binnie 1924;
left: Masakazu, **Figure
of samurai fighting a
two-headed dragon
(okimono)** 1800s, carved
ivory, Art Gallery of New
South Wales, bequest
of Henry Albert Nathan
1941. Photos: © AGNSW

Some of these imaginary
creatures are made up
of features of different
animals, sometimes
even humans.



This object is made from historically collected ivory.
The Art Gallery of New South Wales does not support
trade in materials from endangered species.