



**COOL**  
CULTURE

**el**  
**museo** DEL BARRIO  
NEW YORK

*Jirafa rayada* (Striped Giraffe)

by Gregorio Marzán

1980s

Mixed media.

El Museo del Barrio, NY. S93.171. Photo by Bruce Schwarz

# COOL CULTURE

## *Animals in Art* *Sculptures from El Museo del Barrio*

### ***Look Closely and Discuss:***

- What type of animal is this? How can you tell?
- Describe how the artist decorated it. What materials did he use? Can you find where he used hair from a wig shop in Harlem? Look closely!
- Does the giraffe look like a wild animal or a friendly one? How can you tell?

#### ***Did you know?***

- ✓ Puerto Rican artist Gregorio Marzán lived in NYC and created this sculpture after visiting the giraffes at the Central Park Zoo. What animals have you seen in NYC?
- ✓ He makes these joyful sculptures with cardboard, paper and wire. He decorates them using Elmer's glue, glitter, paper, buttons, and masking tape that he bought at discount stores in the neighborhood.
- ✓ The artist liked to recycle and turn discarded trash into art: coat hangers are from the laundry and fake hair for the giraffe's tail is from a wig shop in Harlem.



### ***Explore further:***

#### **Stories about Giraffes**

- As a family, make up a story about this friendly giraffe. What adventures would you have if you had a giraffe or another animal as a pet? Draw it on the next page.
- Visit your local library for these picture books:
  - [A Giraffe and a Half](#) by Shel Silverstein has funny rhymes and delightful drawings.
  - [Giraffes Can't Dance](#) by Giles Andreae teaches children that everyone is special, even an awkward giraffe learning to dance.

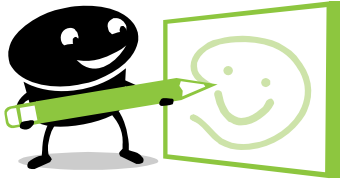
#### **Creating animals out of everyday materials**

- Collect a few toilet paper rolls, coat hangers, popsicle sticks and rolled-up newspaper. Use tape or wire to make them into an animal. Is your animal real or imaginary?
- Decorate it with scrap papers, markers, or colored buttons.

#### **Visit *El Museo del Barrio* with your Cool Culture Family Pass**

1230 Fifth Avenue at 104th Street  
(212) 831-7272 [www.elmuseo.org](http://www.elmuseo.org)

Discover the artistic and cultural landscape of the Caribbean and Latin America.



*Imagine: What if you had a giraffe or another animal as a pet? Draw your adventures here:*

*Share: Tell a story about what you drew!*

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