Ed Hardy grew up in Southern California. He loved colorfully painted cars that were popular at the time. His father, a world traveler, sent items from Japan such as tea sets and a silk jacket with embroidered animals that stirred artistic ideas for the young Hardy. He was fascinated by a clipper-ship tattoo a friend’s father had. As children, Hardy and his friend set up a temporary shop, “tattooing” their friends using watercolor pencils and eyeliner.

Look

This exhibition allows viewers to see Hardy’s unique imagery inspired by American and Japanese cultures, as well as his original tattoo designs. Notice the variety of materials he uses in his artwork.

Ask

What animal images do you see in Hardy’s work? How are they different from other artists’ work you have seen?
If you were an animal, what animal do you think you would be? Trace your hand in the space below. Then draw in the features or patterns inspired by the animal.