

ELMHURST ART MUSEUM

ART, EDUCATION & ARCHITECTURE

Embracing the “&”



The Mocker Swallowtail butterfly
Female (left), Non-binary (center) and Male (right)

Most people are familiar with butterflies that display symmetry – with one wing being a mirror image of the other wing. However, there are some butterflies that have one wing displaying typical female patterning and the other wing displaying typical male patterning. These types of butterflies are called chimera (pronunciation: ky-mee-ra) or non-binary butterflies.

Non-binary, refers to something that does not have only two possibilities. For chimera butterflies, it is possible to consider them both and/or neither male or female. Understanding that identity can be more than just two options helps us learn about all of the subtle differences that make up diversity. Diversity is best understood and studied through subtle nuances by exploring intersectionality.

Intersectionality allows us to consider how aspects of an individual's identity overlap, and helps us observe injustices that are felt by people due to a combination of factors. Nature helps teach us about these combinations and what makes our world so diverse and complex.

All of us are different, just like butterflies. A combination of identities make up who we are can inform our way of thinking, living, sharing, and experiencing the world around us. All of these ways of being are what make each of us a unique person.

This activity is an opportunity to express your uniqueness by creating a butterfly that is asymmetrical. Share your creations and tag us on social media! #MuseumFromHome

Sincerely,

Joseph Hladik, Director of Education & Grants Administrator



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In the activity you will:

- Be introduced to the terms binary, non-binary, symmetrical and asymmetrical.
- Learn about an animal that is non-binary
- Explore your own uniqueness and identity



You will need:

- Blank paper or butterfly outlines (see templates attached)
- Pencil and black marker
- Coloring supplies
 - Colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint.
- Optional:
 - Glitter, glue, collage materials, yarn.



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INSTRUCTIONS

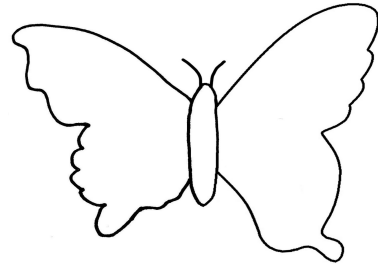
Look at these 2 pictures of symmetrical and asymmetrical butterflies.

- Butterflies exist in many shapes and colors, just like we do!
- **Symmetrical** butterflies have wings that are mirror images of each other. They are the same on both sides.
- **Asymmetrical** or Chimera butterflies have wings that are asymmetrical – each wing is different. The reason they are different is that chimera butterflies are not just one, but both girls and boys. This is called **non-binary** when an animal is both or neither.



Draw your own non-binary butterfly!

- On a piece of paper sketch your butterfly idea with a pencil. Remember the wings are “asymmetrical”. They are different from each other.
 - Think of the different parts of you that make you who you are
- Then use a black marker over your butterfly outline.
- If you prefer you can use the template attached.



Create a butterfly with colors and shapes that you like!

- Each wing on your butterfly will be different from the other. Think of things you like: colors, hobbies, shapes, food; things that are close to you.
- Using markers, paint, yarn, glitter or any other material that you have available, decorate your butterfly.
- Design one wing with colors and shapes that make you happy.
- Design the second wing with different colors and shapes that show a different side of you, the side that makes you unique!



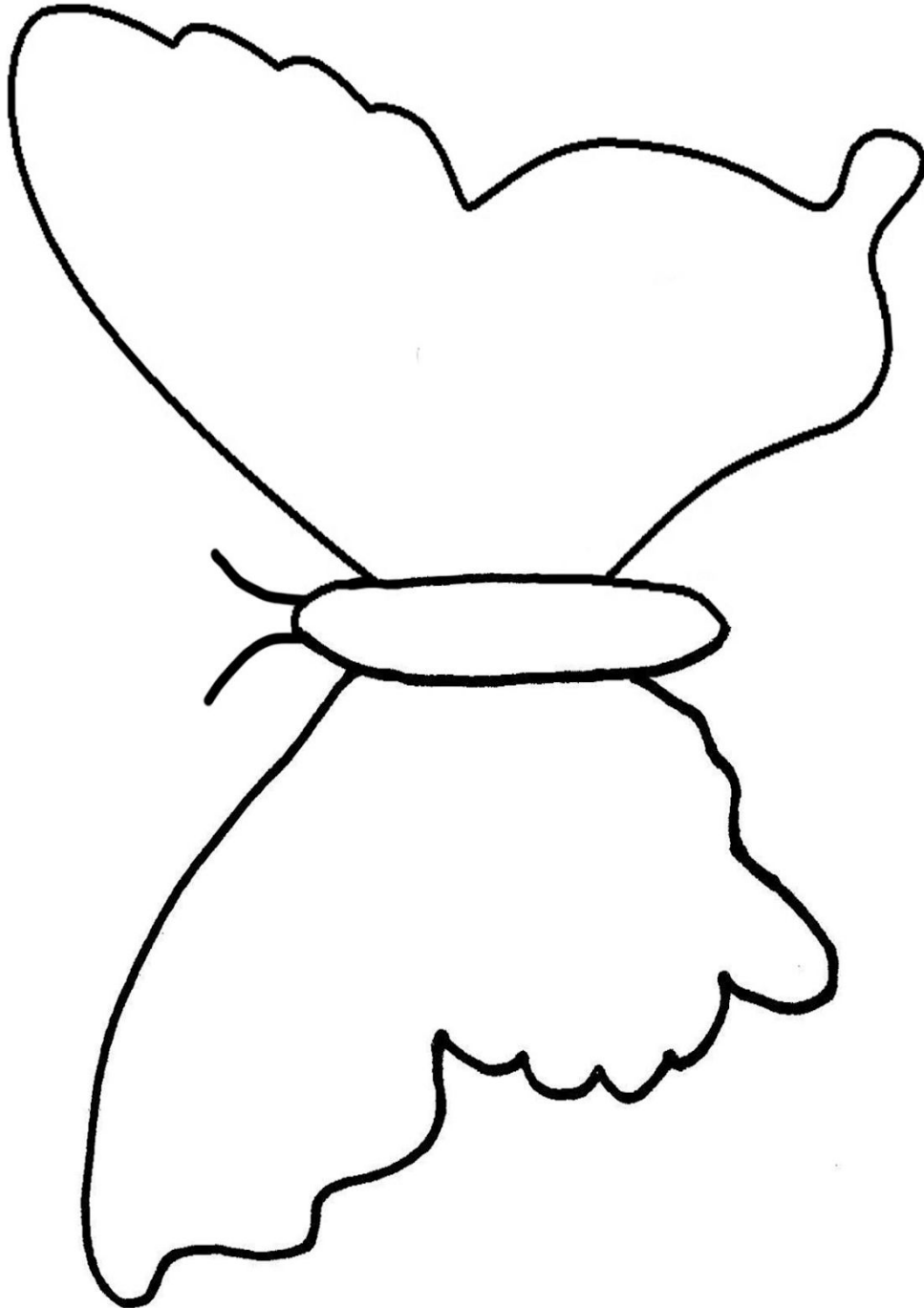
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