



The sight of the Blue Ridge Mountains as they slowly disappear over the horizon follows a rhythm that soothes your daily concerns and worries. Far away peaks whisper in the wind and frame ancient valleys that are so quiet even echoes fall into silence.

Explore this world of nature and begin to feel the textures, color and hidden detail woven into its blanket of green. The diversity of living things gives strength and variety to this environment. You think you can hear a song of the earth.

When you're careful enough to notice the small things around you, you realize that living things survive everywhere, sometimes alone but often together, exploring their worlds day after day after day. It reminds us that we're all here by a force that's creative, enduring, and adaptable to unfamiliar places.



This **eagle** soars on unseen currents of clear mountain air. Against bright blue sky and tufted clouds, it focuses its exceptional vision on finding food sources invisible to the human eye.

Patience and continuous effort are the keys to its success.



Tony Hutchins' **snowy owl** sits on a branch high in a tree. Its alert eyes track the world even in darkness.

In the long history of animals in paintings, the owl endures as a symbol of wisdom, knowledge and truth. We painted this owl with a wish that its knowledge would go to everyone who feels its gaze.



The **cardinal** on the right represents an actual bird which flew into the OAC's wall of windows for months while the mural was being painted. We wonder what he was seeing and flying toward, another courtyard? Or was it his own reflection that he wanted to chase away?

We prefer to think he was longing to go somewhere new to find a companion, as he does in our painting.