

## **Make your own Cabinet of Curiosities based on Fallen Fruit's *Empire***

Ages: 6 - 10

Time: 30 minutes – 1 hour

### **You will need:**

magazines

scissors

glue stick or glue

poster paper or cardboard

colored pencils or markers or crayons

### **Vocabulary:**

Eccentric: strange, extraordinary, weird

Eclectic: wide variety and expansive

Unique: being the only one of its kind, unlike anything else

Before there were public museums like the Newcomb Art Museum, some people had private collections of rare and *unique* objects in their homes. These collections were called Cabinets of Curiosities, because they were tightly contained in a cabinet or even a room (and sometimes rooms!). The objects in these collections sparked wonder and imagination, hence the "Curiosities". They were very *eclectic* and often *eccentric*, ranging from small portrait paintings, to fossils, to bugs and strange animals, to rocks, gems and minerals, sea shells, bird nests, teeth, and much more! because these objects were collected for their *unique* and strange nature, they often weren't totally sure what they even were, but as the collectors of the objects, they were granted the authority to name them and decide WHAT they were as they pleased. (That's why many of these Cabinets of Curiosities claimed to have unicorn horns and mermaids, even though they were actually parts of animals that had not been studied yet). No matter how big the collection, they represented what people found rare, strange, beautiful or unknown.

Using cut paper, and magazine clippings, create 4 or more original "things" for your Cabinet of Curiosity and create a short description about what they are. Try to make what is known unfamiliar, by combining whole or parts of objects and images, or making new things out of the ordinary. Glue onto poster paper or cardboard and then share your collection with others!