

# MARY NOHL AND THE WALRUS CLUB

## WORDS TO KNOW

**Artist-built environment:** A unique place—frequently a home—that is transformed. Often inspired by the life experiences of the artist, they typically are made of materials that are easily accessible and found nearby.

**Flotsam:** Materials, man-made and natural, found floating on a body of water. Flotsam such as driftwood is often found washed ashore.

**Fellowship:** A fellowship is a group of people who join together for a shared interest or purpose. Fellowship is also a word used for a program similar to a scholarship. The recipient, called a fellow, receives funding to pursue an existing or new project. Mary Nohl fellowships have been granted since 2003 and support both established and emerging artists.

## EXPLORE *MARY NOHL AND THE WALRUS CLUB!*

Mary Nohl (1914–2001) refused to be confined by artistic categories. She was a painter, sculptor, ceramist, printmaker, potter, wood-carver, writer, illustrator, and jeweler who described herself as simply “a woman who likes tools.” Nohl was an artist who turned her lakefront home into an **artist-built environment** by filling every room and a large part of the yard with her works of art. Nohl often made her own rules. Whether it was melting down her mother’s sterling silver to make jewelry or walking along the shore of Lake Michigan looking for **flotsam** to build driftwood figures, she was interested in everything and how it could be used in her creations as materials or inspiration.

Mary Nohl inspired many artists and helped artists succeed in Milwaukee. After she died, she left money to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to create a fellowship program. Eight artists who received a **fellowship** from the Mary L. Nohl Fund were invited to make new artworks that respond to Mary’s life and work for this exhibition.

Anne Kingsbury is one of the artists responding to Mary Nohl's life and work in *Mary Nohl and the Walrus Club*. Just as Nohl did, Kingsbury uses a journal to write and draw about her routines.

**Use the space below to write and draw about what you have done today or a routine that is part of your life.**