Art history is not linear; although it is often taught as such.

Culture is a multi-dimensional network that feeds and builds upon itself in a mashup that transcends time.

My idea for this work was to use the museum’s permanent collection as source material for new works that would then become part of that same permanent collection, thus forcing it to fold in on itself.
200 drawings were developed based solely on works in the Virginia Museum of Fine Art’s permanent collection.

These images were then collaged together through the silkscreen painting process to create a set of 16 paintings.

The 16 paintings were then acquired by the museum and became part of their permanent collection.
Andrew Wyeth, *The Country*, 1965
Ryan McGinness

*Art History Is Not Linear*

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

16 Paintings
Each: 2009, acrylic on wood panel
48 x 48 inches

**Sketch Process**

Example
Ryan McGinness
*Art History Is Not Linear*
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

16 Paintings
Each: 2009, acrylic on wood panel
48 x 48 inches

**Sketch Process & Final Drawing**
Ryan McGinness
Art History Is Not Linear
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

16 Paintings
Each: 2009, acrylic on wood panel
48 x 48 inches

Sketch Process
Example

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Portrait of Erna Kirchner, 1917
Ryan McGinness  
*Art History Is Not Linear*  
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

16 Paintings  
Each: 2009, acrylic on wood panel  
48 x 48 inches

**Sketch Process & Final Drawing**
Ryan McGinness
*Art History Is Not Linear*
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

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48 x 48 inches

**Source & Final Drawing**
**Examples**

Bamum culture (Cameroon), *Buffalo Mask*, 1800s – 1900s

Claes Oldenburg, *Typewriter Eraser*, 1976

Barry Flanagan, *Large Leaping Hare*, 1982

Alphonse Mucha, *Nature*, ca. 1900

Indian, Deccan, *Page from an Illustrated Manuscript of the Jnaneshvar*, 1763

Egyptian, Late Period, *Vessel in the Form of the God Bes*, ca. 600 BC
The paintings were built with layers upon layers of silkscreened images.

Beginning stages of one of the paintings are shown below.
Ryan McGinness
*Art History Is Not Linear*
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

16 Paintings
Each: 2009, acrylic on wood panel
48 x 48 inches

Final Painting
1 of 16 Different Paintings
Ryan McGinness
*Art History Is Not Linear*
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

16 Paintings
Each: 2009, acrylic on wood panel
48 x 48 inches

**Final Painting**
Detail