

Bald Eagle Egg Ball: *The First Ball Inspired by Our National Bird*

In "Nature's Inspiration," a group of five American friends comes together to explore the profound connection between the Bald Eagle egg and American football. This relationship transcends species, speaking to our shared experiences of loyalty, companionship, and love. Through a diverse range of mediums, each artist brings their unique vision to life, offering a multifaceted look at our national bird and symbol of freedom.

The concept behind this work is steeped in love, loyalty, and dedication to the Bald Eagle. By designing this unique American football, the project presents a contemporary perspective on how nature influences us, even in ways we may not immediately recognize. While this design holds great significance, it is just the beginning of exploring this concept. The visual interpretation of nature through art is an act of cultural preservation, documenting the journey of our national bird alongside our beloved national sport and the lessons learned along the way.

Through vibrant paintings, bold colors, and dynamic compositions, these works invite viewers to reflect on the simple pleasures the Bald Eagle brings to our lives. The collection also delves into the emotional bonds we share with our companions, depicted through intimate photography. The design is more than just a piece of art; it tells a significant story and encourages deeper reflection on the roles these symbols play in our lives.

Yaroub Al Obaidi, *an Iraqi American artist born in Diyala, Iraq, has lived in Philadelphia since June 2016 and in Pittsburgh since 2023. A designer, researcher, and author, Al Obaidi served as a lecturer at the College of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad, from 2004 to 2007. He holds a master's degree in design from the University of Baghdad and another master's in socially engaged art from Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia. Currently, Al Obaidi is pursuing a Doctorate in Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Duquesne University.*