OVAL DISH
(Slide #6)

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION
This recreation of a particular segment of our natural world is rich with detailed information. Have students identify all of the flora and fauna they see represented. Compose a list or quick sketches of each one. Are these creatures represented in their natural surroundings? Have students describe the details of each plant or animal that help identify it (line, shape, color, and texture). Do you see the structures/veins of plants? How is water represented? Have students imagine they are sitting on the edge of this piece of nature. What sounds would they hear? What smells would they notice? Was the artist successful in creating an exact likeness of nature? Why or why not?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES
Have students bring to school a natural object they have found such as twigs, rocks, insects, shells, etc. After examining the object carefully under a magnifying glass, have students develop a detailed drawing of this as if they were documenting it for scientific identification. An essay describing its characteristics, accompanied by carefully observed illustration or “scientific illustration,” could be added.

Take students on a nature hike or walk around their school yard/neighborhood. Have them search for flora and fauna and make brief sketches of their findings (a magnifying glass could be used to observe details). From this experience ask students to develop a drawing about a segment of nature, as if they were sitting on the edge of it looking in. Remind students to represent the structure, texture, and color of their plants, animals, and landscape. This could also be done in clay if materials are available. This activity could be repeated seasonally.

Create a large “oval dish” mural. Have students decide on a natural environment they would like to represent: a pond, a jungle, a forest, a river, an ocean, or a prairie. Have them research the flora and fauna that inhabit this piece of the physical world. Using the form of the Oval Dish in the exhibition, have each student draw a plant or animal to be placed on the oval mural. Hint: the background elements like water, rocks, hills, etc. should be drawn/painted on before flora and fauna are added.