

Viewing the finished project

Most of our activity in this course is going to be building towards a final piece. Let's take a look at that piece now. First, I'm going to open a web browser and go to art.samoca.org. This is a website for the fictional San Angelico Museum of Contemporary Art. Looking at the home page, we see a featured exhibit called Bird Watching by fictional artist Paul Shellington. What we're going to build in this course is a Flash piece that would be linked from this page and perhaps elsewhere on the Samoca site with a biography of the artist and more detail about the collection itself. To look at that, I've already got Flash open. Now, I'm going to go to the File menu, and then Open. In the Exercise Files for this chapter, I'll choose BirdWatching.fla. The file opens up and to see how it works, I'm going to hit Ctrl+Enter on my keyboard.

That's Cmd+Enter if you're on a Mac. (MUSIC). In the resulting window, you heard the little music intro, and the opening screen presents a picture of the artist and a brief biography. The lower buttons that show a little thumbnail of five images from the collection. When I mouse over any of them, the name of the painting fades in. Clicking on any of the buttons results in a little sound effect and we're taken to a screen with more detail about that particular painting. When I'm done reading about the painting, I can click Exhibit Home to be taken back to the main screen.

As I click some of the other buttons, notice how the other pages fade in smoothly. However, when you click Exhibit Home, the detail screen simply disappears. Also, no matter what you are looking at, the SAMOCA logo on the upper left, the Exhibit Home button and the dates and title of the exhibit always remain on screen. Also, notice how the short intro music only played when we first open the project. It doesn't play again every time we go to the home screen. You probably also notice that when I click on the buttons, there's actually two different bird chirp sounds that exist.

Which one you hear depends on which button you choose. The peacock detail screen is a little different than the others and that it also includes a video of the actual peacock that inspired the painting. I'll click to pause the video, but notice how the video started playing automatically. Reading the text on this screen explains that the artist sometimes displays the video he shot of his subject next to the actual resulting painting. That's why this screen contains video, but the others don't. Finally, regardless if you're viewing the home screen or the detail screen of any of the paintings, when you click the SAMOCA logo on the upper left, the SAMOCA website opens up in a browser window.

So, there it is, and I'll go ahead and close the browser window. To build this project, we'll introduce a wide range of fundamental Flash skills that you'll use over and over in your Flash career. We'll also work with a few other smaller files that aren't related to this project just to help demonstrate a few different other topics.