Art Making with MoMA presents twenty activities inspired by the materials and techniques of modern and contemporary artists. Using easy-to-find materials—many of them recycled and everyday household objects—these activities encourage hours of imagining, designing, experimenting, constructing, creating, and play.

Art Making with MoMA shows children, and their adults, how to start thinking like artists.

Sound costumes! Shadow puppets! Wire portraits!...
Elizabeth Margulies
and Cari Frisch

20 Activities for Kids
Inspired by Artists at
The Museum of Modern Art

Elizabeth Margulies
and Cari Frisch
If you come to New York City, stop by MoMA to see some of this art! We are here!

The activities in this book were inspired by our experiences of looking at and making art with kids and families at The Museum of Modern Art. MoMA collects and displays art made within the last 150 years—including paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, design objects, architectural drawings and models, films, and performances.

At MoMA we encourage kids and adults to discover how modern and contemporary artists experiment with materials and techniques, and to consider how artists respond to the events, people, and places around them.

The instructions, questions, images, and art in this book are just a few different ways to get started. And from there, you can begin to think like an artist, developing your own techniques and discovering new ideas for making art. With this book we hope you will:

- Explore
- Tinker
- Make marks
- Combine materials
- Design something new
- Work together
- Change your perspective
- Create patterns
- Tell your story
- Transform yourself into someone else
- Make some noise
- Listen
- Play games
- Mix things up
- Get messy
- Start over

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What would you like to do?

Make a mess
These might need some cleanup!
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Work together
Activities to try with friends or family
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Scrounge around
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Have some good clean fun
Projects with less mess
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- 32 Street Scenes
- 60 Take a Seat
- 66 Game Play
- 86 Change Your Perspective
- 90 Mix It Up
- 98 Light and Shadow
- 106 All About Me
At the start of each activity you’ll find a list of all the materials you’ll need for that project.

Many of the projects use materials that you might already have at home.

Some activities will ask you to scavenge around your house; you can include materials instead of and in addition to what we suggest.

You might need to buy materials—at an arts and crafts store, office-supply store, or online—for some of the projects.

These lists don’t show every material for every project in the book, but they will give you an idea of what kinds of things you’ll need.

We suggest ways to use various materials, but the more you play around, the more likely you are to discover new and interesting things to do with them.

### Things you’ll use over and over again

- Colored pencils
- Colored paper (construction, fadeless; various sizes)
- Copy or printer paper
- Crayons or Cray-Pas
- Digital camera, camera, or smartphone camera
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Markers
- Pencil
- Tape (masking, transparent, duct, washi)
- White glue

### Stuff to collect

- Cardboard boxes (various sizes)
- Cardboard rolls (from paper towels, toilet paper, wrapping paper)
- Chopsticks
- Fabric/fabric scraps
- Jar lids
- Magazines, catalogs, and newspapers
- Packaging materials (bubble wrap, Styrofoam pieces, packing inserts)
- Paper bags
- Paper and plastic food containers (various shapes and sizes)
- Plastic straws
- String, yarn, or ribbon
- Twist ties

### Supplies you may need to purchase

- Acetate sheets (various colors)
- Adhesive-backed craft foam (any color)
- Air-dry clay
- Aluminum armature wire (10 or 12 gauge)
- Bamboo skewers
- Cardstock (various colors)
- Clear address labels (1 × 2 5∕8 inches or similar)
- Corrugated cardboard roll
- Hole punch
- Metal fasteners (also called “brads”)
- Paint (tempera or acrylic)
- Paintbrushes (various sizes)
- Paper (Bristol, watercolor, patterned, textured, origami; various sizes)
- Paper straws
- Pipe cleaners (also called “chenille stems”)
- Plastic-coated craft wire
- Removable tape or removable adhesive dots
- Washable ink pads (various colors)
- Wire cutters
Activities
Charles and Ray Eames were a husband-and-wife team who designed all kinds of things, from chairs to toys to houses. For their own home they wanted an open space that they could customize (change to fit their needs). They designed a house of glass and steel that lets in light and nature. It has two separate structures: one where they lived and entertained and another where they worked and kept their studio.
Construct a model house.

1. Start by thinking about who will live in your house, what they might do there, and where it's located.

Do you imagine your house in a big city? Or maybe in the desert?

Will people need places to work or to play? Is it for one person? Two? Or maybe a large family? Is it a place to gather with friends or to spend time alone?

1. Now, think about the structure and size of your house.

Will your house be rectangular? Will your house have multiple floors? Will your house be round?

2. Will you build out to cover more ground?

Materials
- Tape (masking or washi)
- White glue
- Scissors
- Markers
- An assortment of construction materials
- Cardboard boxes
- Round cardboard containers (such as oatmeal boxes)
- Corrugated cardboard roll
- Chipboard
- Paper or plastic straws
- Acetate sheets (various colors)
- Construction or fadeless paper (various colors)
- Cardboard rolls (from paper towels, toilet paper, wrapping paper)
- Packaging materials (bubble wrap, Styrofoam pieces, packing inserts)
- Cardstock
- Bamboo skewers
- Fabric
Explore construction techniques to figure out which ones work best for the shape of your home.

1. Make a fold.
2. Make a cut.
3. Insert one piece into the other.
4. Make a fold.
5. Tape them together.

3. Make cuts along the bottom.
4. Spread out and glue.

3. Start building! Combine the pieces you've made into a structure.
4. Decorate the surface with different materials or draw on the surface. Add doors, windows, and other details.
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