

Kids guide
Ages 5+

Heyman Family
Programs

Ruth Asawa

**Use this guide to explore the
exhibition on Floor 6.**

MoMA

Ruth Asawa was an artist who experimented with everyday materials.

From a young age, she saw the world creatively, finding inspiration in nature around her family's farmland.

As an adult, Asawa taught art in schools. She was also a mother and made art in her home studio alongside her six children.



**Ruth Asawa and her children in the sunroom of her San Francisco home, California, 1964.
Photo by Ernst Beadle. Artwork © Ruth Asawa Lanier, Inc., Courtesy David Zwirner**

Pattern Play

Asawa liked making patterns. **Search** for repeating shapes in the first two galleries. **Draw** one of the shapes you see.



She sometimes broke the rules in her patterns by taking the same shape and changing its position, color, spacing, or size. Can you find an example?

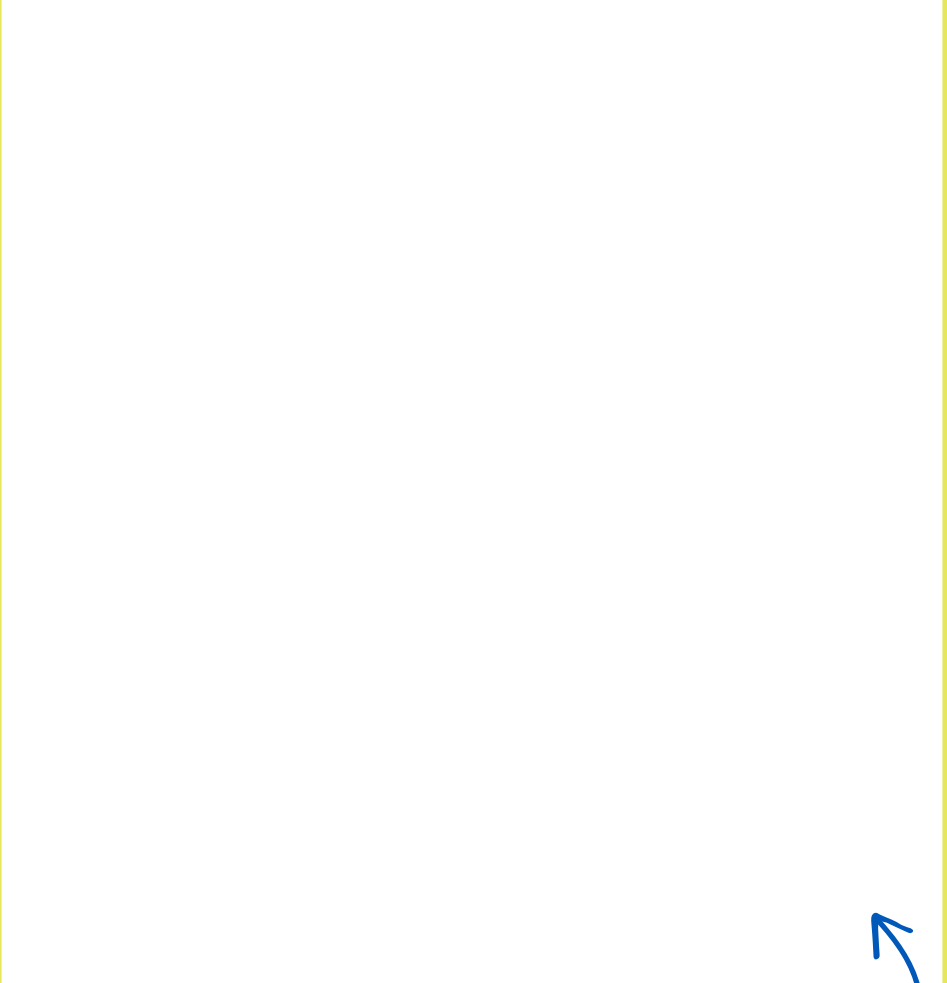
Use your shape to create a repeating pattern or one that breaks the rules!



Exploring Materials

Asawa looped wire together to create three dimensional sculptures that seem to be “drawn in space.”

Find the gallery filled with hanging sculptures and look at their different shapes. **Sketch** the outline of one.



Focus on how the pieces of wire connect and overlap. **Draw** their pattern inside your outline.



Look for the shadow the sculpture creates. What do you notice? **Add** the shadow to your drawing.

Sources of Inspiration

Asawa was inspired by many things: her family, her students, plants and animals, and her community in San Francisco, California.

Go on a scavenger hunt! Start in the dark grey gallery and **check off the items** below as you find them in the rest of the exhibition.

Children

Chairs

Watermelons

Frogs

Sumo wrestlers

Branches

Roots

Flowers

What is something in your daily life that might inspire you to make art?

Try this

Ruth Asawa made baker's clay with her students. Use this recipe to create your own art at home!

4 cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ cups water
1 cup salt

Mix the ingredients and knead the dough until smooth. Shape it into a person or animal.

Ask an adult to place your creation on a tray and bake it in the oven (set to 250–325 degrees) for about one hour, or until hard.

When cool, paint details using watercolor or acrylic paint!



Sponsorship for the exhibition is provided by UNIQLO, MoMA's partner of #ArtForAll.



Significant support is provided through a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation.

Get creative

Visit the Samuel and Ronnie Heyman Family Art Lab, our hands-on space for families. Open daily, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Attend a program

For information on family gallery talks, art making, and special events, visit moma.org/family.

Keep in touch

Subscribe to our Family Programs newsletter at moma.org/enews.

Leadership funding is provided by the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, the Xin Zhang and Shiyi Pan Endowment Fund, the Eyal and Marilyn Ofer Family Foundation, Paula Crown and The Crown Family, Monique M. Schoen Warshaw, and the Julie A. Zoppo Fund for the Exhibition of Women Artists.

Generous support is provided by the Alice L. Walton Foundation.

Additional funding is provided by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

Family Programs are made possible by the Samuel and Ronnie Heyman Family Endowment Fund.

Major support is provided by the William Randolph Hearst Endowment Fund, the Emily Fisher Landau Educator Fund, The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art's Lewis B. Cullman Education Fund, the Charles A. Cuomo Education Endowment Fund, and by the Annual Education Fund.