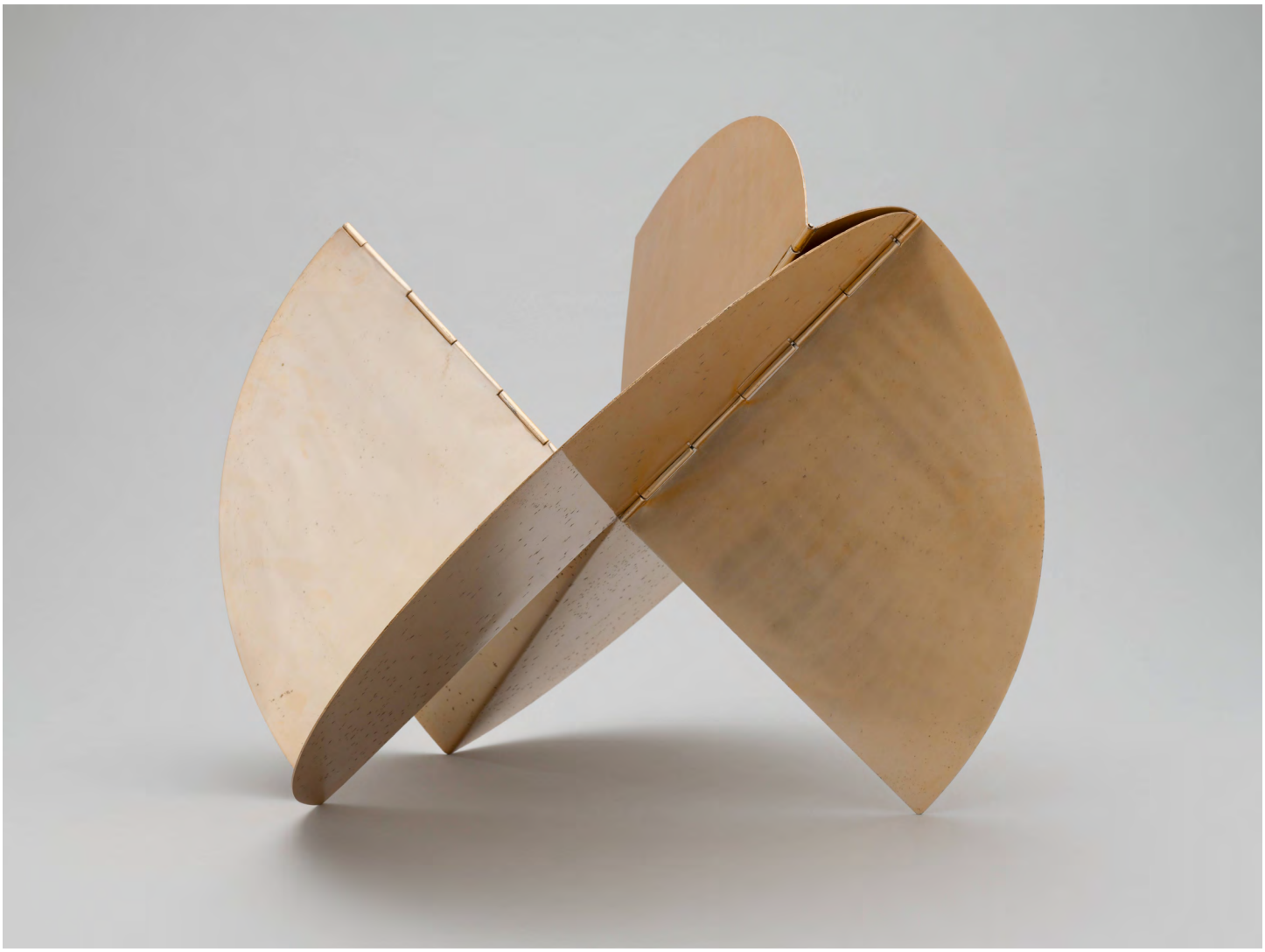
Make Art with MoMA
Lygia Clark.
Sundial.
1960.



MoMA

Step 1
Look closely

Discussion Ideas

Observe Look closely.

Describe Share what you see in this artwork. Describe the shape or what you notice. Does the shape remind you of anything?

Interpret This is art that is meant to be interacted with! Lygia Clark's bichos artworks, like Sundial, are flat pieces of metal connected with hinges. The pieces can be folded and moved so that there are many, many ways for the artwork to appear. You're not just meant to look, you're meant to touch it and to be part of creating it! There's no right or wrong way for this artwork to look, it all depends on how you want to arrange it. How would you change the shape of the artwork? What choices would you make about the shape?

Connect Being an artist is all about making choices. Like what colors to use, what style to work in, and how to arrange an artwork (its composition). Give each student the same set of simple instructions like make a fold, a tear, a twist, or a roll in the paper. Provide 1–3 instructions and then ask each student to hold up their work, or invite students to move around the classroom to see each work. Each piece of paper will look different and reflect each student's unique choices.

Step 2
Learn more

Lygia Clark was born in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in 1920. She married at the age of 18 and had three children. At the age of 27 she began to pursue a career as a professional artist. She left her husband and moved with her children to Paris to study art.

Clark was a founding member of the 1950s Brazilian Neo-Concrete movement, which believed in the importance of the viewer in activating an artwork. This movement advocated for the notion that works of art were more like bodies, not discrete objects, and therefore were interpreted by the viewer's subjective experience. Clark encouraged her audience to interact with her pieces. She created sculptures that she called *bichos* (the Portuguese word for "critters") that are movable metal sculptures with no right or wrong way to look or be arranged. People are meant to experience them by touching them and rearranging them.

Step 2
Learn more

She wrote, “I always thought it was fabulous to have given something of my art for someone to express themselves.”

See more of Lygia Clark’s work here: **Lygia Clark | MoMA**.
Watch a video about Lygia Clark’s bichos here: **Bicho by Lygia Clark**.

Step 3
Activity Idea: Rearrangeable Sculpture

Materials: Cardboard, Kwik Stix, and scissors.

1. Teachers should provide students with a piece of cardboard. It can be anywhere from a few inches to around a foot large.

2. Use Kwik Stix to explore color and line in painting your piece of cardboard. Kwik Stix dry right away and students should decorate both sides!

3. Cut the edges of the cardboard to create a new shape or edge, so that pieces are not perfectly rectangular.

4. Cut a slit from one edge to almost the center of the piece of cardboard.

5. Assemble the 3D sculpture by connecting pieces of cardboard. Each piece of cardboard will need to be rotated 180 degrees to connect with another piece.

Tips from Teachers:

Try turning this into a multi-class collaborative project! The sculpture can continue to grow as different classes add their pieces to the arrangement.