

Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1 Look closely

1. What do you see in this image?
2. What do you notice about the setting?
3. What do you notice about the pose and gesture of the figures in relation to each other?

View all of the images from The Kitchen Table Series: bit.ly/3m9rm6k

Step 2 Learn More

This photograph is part of The Kitchen Table Series. Carrie Mae Weems began the series in 1989, setting up her camera every day in her kitchen, in front of a simple wooden table illuminated by a single overhead light. She used her family and friends as subjects as she staged everyday activities, and intimate moments that she would then photograph. In this image the artist photographed herself and her daughter. Throughout the series Weems shares personal moments that reflect her relationships and connection to her identity as a woman, mother and artist: “This woman can stand in for me and for you; she can stand in for the audience, she leads you into history. She’s a witness and a guide.”

Listen to Carrie Mae Weems talk about the process of making The Kitchen Table Series: youtu.be/pPDInpNo050

Step 3 Reflecting on everyday moments

Materials: A notebook or any paper and anything to write with.

1. Choose a space that is used by multiple people in your home to observe and document.
2. Spend time each day writing down in a journal the activities and interactions that happen in your chosen space. You can include the people in the space, objects you notice, or moments of conversation you hear.
3. After a few days, revisit your notes and focus on one moment or interaction. Why did this moment stand out? What thoughts or sensations arise?
4. Create a new journal entry about your reflection.

Step 4 Share

Describe the moment that you captured to a classmate or share what it was like to journal about everyday moments with us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Carrie Mae Weems. Untitled (Woman and Daughter with Makeup). 1990. Gelatin silver print. Gift of Helen Kornblum in honor of Roxana Marcoci. © 2021 Carrie Mae Weems