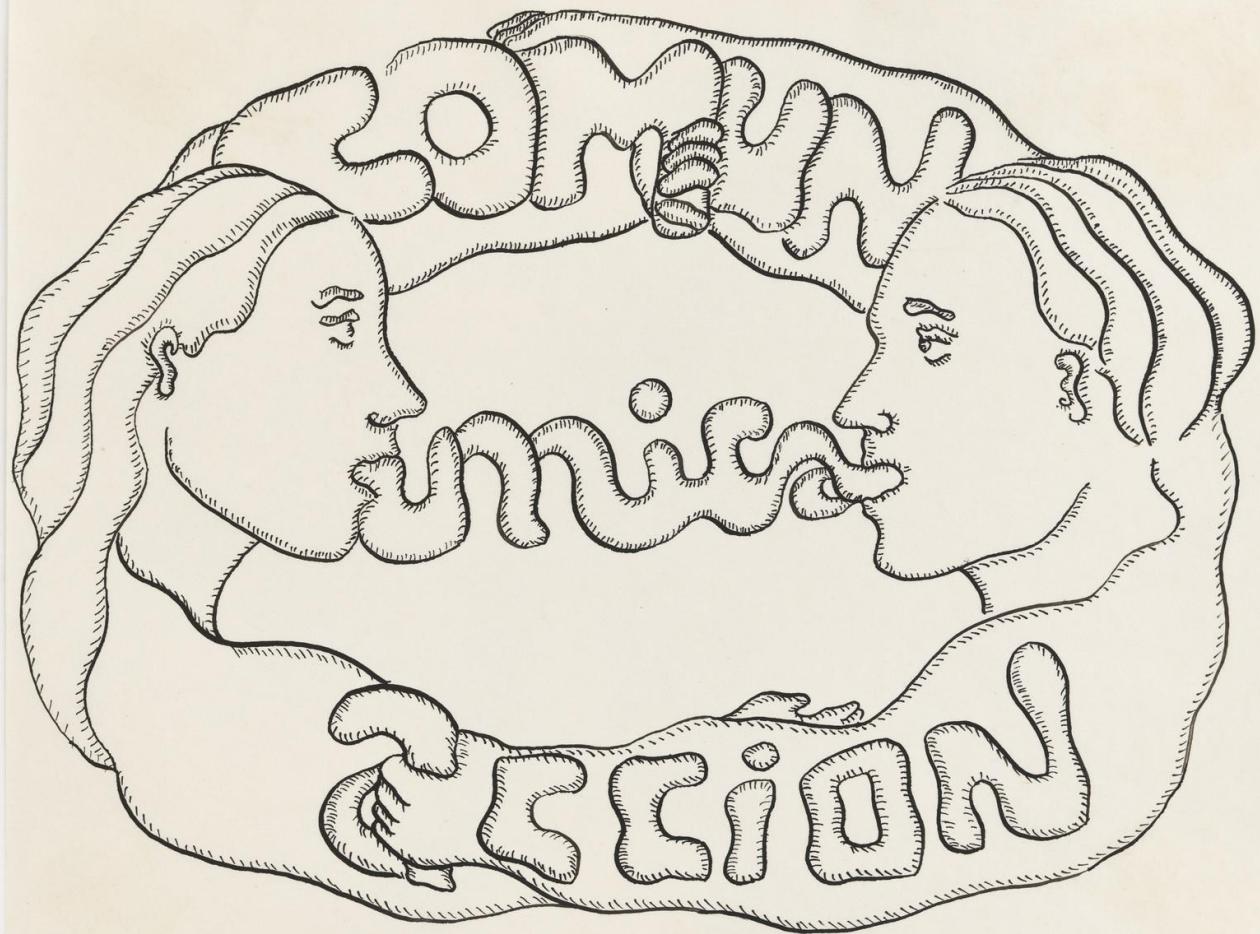


Learn with MoMA



Step 1 Look closely

1. What words and images can you find in this drawing?
2. The artist played with the word *comunicación*, which means “communication” in Spanish, and divided it into three parts—*común única acción*—which means “common action.” Do you see any connection between these words?
3. How are the words *communication* and *common action* illustrated in this work?

Step 2 — Learn more

Artist and poet Cecilia Vicuña is from Chile. This drawing *Comunicación: común única acción* (*Communication: Common Action*) is from a [series of twenty-eight drawings titled AMAzone Palabrarmas](#). During a trip across the Amazon rainforest in 1977, she was inspired to create a *palabrarma*: a “word-weapon” that would use language and drawing to encourage people to protect the rainforest.

She says, “People often ask, why are words powerful? If you’re a kid and you have been bullied, you know that there’s nothing more painful than being called names. I believe that the power of words could be to enhance life, support life and love, or to kill it.”

Hear the artist talk about the series:
www.moma.org/magazine/articles/731.

Step 3 Activity: Create a word drawing

Materials: paper, pencil (optional: colored pencil or marker)

1. Think of a word that has a powerful meaning for you.
2. Think of an image that illustrates what this word means to you.
3. Create a drawing that combines your words and images in a way that strengthens and amplifies the meaning.
4. Think about the following:
 - a. Writing the word in the shape of the image
 - b. Using different kinds of lettering
 - c. Can your word be split to create shorter words?
 - d. Splitting the word into individual letters or syllables so that it fits in your image
 - e. Incorporating symbols
 - f. Or any other technique that best conveys your meaning
5. Optional: Use color to add more detail and emphasis.

Step 4 Share!

Share your word drawing with a friend and tell them why you chose that word and ask what that word means to them. Or you can email a photo of it to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Cecilia Vicuña. *Comunicación: común única acción* (*Communication: Common Action*) from the series *AMAzone Palabrarmas*. 1978. Ink and pencil on paper. Latin American and Caribbean Fund, Modern Women's Fund, gift of Agnes Gund, Amalia Amoedo, María Luisa Ferré Rangel (in honor of Cyril Meduña) and Juan Yarur Torres (in honor of Amalia Amoedo)