

# Learn with MoMA



**MoMA**





## Step 1 Look closely

1. Write five words describing the figure on page 1. Focus on the pose, gesture, expression. What words did you choose and why?
2. Repeat Step 1 with the figure on page 2.
3. What similarities and differences can you find between the two images?

## Step 2 Learn more

Charles White was committed to creating powerful images of African Americans—what he described as “images of dignity.” White created the linoleum cut *Solid as a Rock (My God Is a Rock)* in 1958 (page 1), shortly after moving to Los Angeles, where he became an influential teacher and mentor for an emerging generation of African American artists.

Kerry James Marshall, who created *Untitled (policeman)* (page 2), was a student of Charles White. Marshall studied with White at Otis College of Art and Design, where he was inspired by White to create [figurative](#) paintings. Marshall credits White with helping him identify a greater sense of meaning and purpose in his work. White’s dedication to humanity was a goal he set for his students and one Marshall took to heart.

[Learn more](#) about Charles White’s legacy as a teacher, and listen to his students’ memories.

## Step 3 Activity: Thank an art hero

Materials: pencil, paper; (optional) colored pencils, markers or crayon

1. Think of your favorite artist or someone whose art has inspired you. This person could be famous or someone in your life, like an art teacher, family member, or friend.
2. Write a letter to this person telling them how they have influenced you and what you appreciate about them and their work.
3. Optional: Create an image to go along with your letter showing how they inspired you.

## Step 4 Share!

If possible, send your letter to your art hero. Or you can email it to us at MoMA: [schoolprograms@moma.org](mailto:schoolprograms@moma.org).



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Images: Charles White. *Solid as a Rock (My God is Rock)* 1958. Linoleum cut. Publisher: unpublished. Printer: Charles White. John B. Turner Fund with additional support from Linda Barth Goldstein and Stephen F. Dull. © 1958 The Charles White Archives; Kerry James Marshall. *Untitled (policeman)*. 2015. Acrylic on PVC panel with plexiglass frame. Gift of Mimi Haas in honor of Marie-Josée Kravis