

Mondays with MoMA



Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. What do you see?
2. How does the artist allow us to see this familiar food in a new way?
3. What title would you give this artwork?

Step 2 Learn more

This print by Claes Oldenburg is called *Flying Pizza*.

Oldenburg was often inspired by food that he would see around him in the Lower East Side neighborhood of New York City where he lived and worked. He says, "I'm interested in objects that revolve around food and clothing. And I think that has to do with my interest in myself and in other human beings. I think food is a very important thing in life ... And that's what people are kind of obsessed with. And you see it everywhere. And the whole basis of my work is about my relation to my surroundings."

Oldenburg created many sculptures of food, some of which he made very large. He even created an exhibition called *The Store*, which was a rented storefront filled with handmade, brightly painted sculptures of food inspired by items that were available in stores throughout the neighborhood.

Step 3 Activity: Draw your favorite food

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

1. Think about your favorite food. How do you feel when you eat your favorite food? Is there a person or place that you associate with this food?
2. Draw a picture of this food with pencil.
3. Play with your food drawing! Add to your first drawing or make a new drawing with additional details. You can:
 - a. Give it a personality—what would your food look like if it was a person?
 - b. Make your food very big or very small.
 - c. Draw an unusual setting for your food.
 - d. Make your food do something extraordinary—for example: fly, speak, play an instrument, etc.
 - e. Turn your food into a useful object, like a chair or lamp.
4. Add color to your drawing using colored pencils, crayons, markers, or whatever materials you have.

Step 4 Share!

Share your food artwork with someone while you are sharing a meal and imagine what you are eating in new and exciting ways. Or you can email it to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Claes Oldenburg. *Flying Pizza* from *New York Ten* 1964, published 1965. Lithograph. Tanglewood Press, Inc., New York. Hollander's Workshop, Inc., New York. Proof before the edition of 200. © 2021 Claes Oldenburg