

Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. What is your first thought on seeing this work of art?
2. What questions would you have for the artist?
3. What are the different elements?

Step 2 Learn more

This work by Dieter Roth is part of a series of “Literature Sausages.” Roth used traditional sausage recipes with ingredients such as salt, garlic, and fennel, but substituted the meat with minced books, magazines or newspapers before stuffing them into sausage casings. Each *Literature Sausage* (*Literaturwurst* in German) is unique—different in shape and size and containing a different book, magazine, or newspaper. This example was made from a German edition of US senator Robert F. Kennedy’s 1967 volume of essays *To Seek a Newer World* (which is the text on the label).

He used food in much of his art, which he wanted to decompose and change over time. He believed that “Works of art should change like man himself—grow old and die.”

Hear more about this artwork and other Dieter Roth’s artworks made from food:
youtu.be/FpUtsUnuDIQ

Step 3 Activity: Design a New Kind of Book

Materials: Paper and pencil or pen

In *Literature Sausage*, Roth wanted to play with the idea of what a book could be and how people ingested and digested information.

1. Think about what a book is. How is it made? What is its purpose?
2. Redesign the idea of a “book” that reinvents how people could read it or get information from it. Some questions you might want to think about:
 - a. What information will they get from the book?
 - b. What senses will they need to use to take in information?
 - c. How might the book change over time?
3. Draw a picture of what the “book” would look like. Label the different parts, making sure to note what materials the “book” would be made from.
4. Think of a title for your “book.” What does the title say about the contents or design of your “book”?

Step 4 Share!

Share your innovated “book” with us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Dieter Roth. *Literature Sausage* (*Literaturwurst*) 1969, published 1961–70. Artist's book of ground copy of *Suche nach einer Neuen Welt* by Robert F. Kennedy, gelatin, lard, and spices in natural casing. The Print Associates Fund in honor of Deborah Wye. © 2021 Estate of Dieter Roth