

Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. What do you notice about the setting depicted in this artwork?
2. What do you notice about the figures?
3. How does the artist use color to convey how the figures might be feeling?
4. How would you describe this artwork to someone who has never seen it?

Step 2 Learn more

At the time he made this painting, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner was living in Dresden, a large city in southeast Germany. Crowded city streets—in this painting, Dresden's fashionable and upper-class Königstrasse (King Street)—were a frequent subject for German Expressionist artists. These artists wanted to recapture authentic personal expression, which they felt had been lost in modern life. Here Kirchner depicted Königstrasse as a place that is crowded and yet in which everyone seems alone. Kirchner heightened the colors of this city scene, depicting the figures with masklike faces and vacant eyes in order to capture the excitement and psychological alienation he was feeling. "The more I mixed with people the more I felt my loneliness," Kirchner wrote.

Visit the MoMA Learning website and click "Explore" to see close-up details of *Street Dresden*: <https://mo.ma/2YE3joB>.

Step 3 Activity: Create a comic

Materials: pencil, pen, colored pencils or crayons, and a printout of the template on page 3

1. Create a story in comic format inspired by what you see. Print out the template on page 3, or you can create your own panels.
2. Start by paying attention to details.
 - a. Who are the characters?
 - b. What do you think they are thinking and feeling?
 - c. Where is this taking place?
 - d. What is the mood or feeling of the painting?
3. Add speech or thought bubbles to your comic to show the thoughts or feelings of the characters.
4. Think about what happened before and what happens next and draw these scenes in the blank panels.
5. Optional: You can continue adding frames and building your story until you feel it is complete.

Step 4 Share!

Share your comic with a friend or family member. Or you can email us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. *Street, Dresden*. 1908 (reworked 1919; dated on painting 1907). Oil on canvas. Purchase Department Painting and Sculpture

