

# Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

## Step 1 Look closely

### Questions

1. What materials do you think this artwork is made of?
2. How are these materials arranged?
3. What words or colors stand out? Why?

## Step 2 Learn more

Hannah Höch was one of few female artists in the Berlin [Dada](#) group, artists who satirized and critiqued German culture and society after World War I. Höch was an innovator who created [collages](#) and [photomontages](#) in which she appropriated, recombined, and layered images and text from mass media to critique popular culture, the failings of the government, and the socially constructed roles of women. She noted that “there are no limits to the materials available for pictorial collages—above all they can be found in photography, but also in writing and printed matter, even in waste products.”

Even though she was successful in the 1920s, many male peers did not accept her. She reflected, “Most of our male colleagues continued for a long while to look upon us as charming and gifted amateurs, denying us implicitly any real professional status.” Höch was labeled a degenerate artist and banned from exhibiting her work during the Nazi Regime. She exhibited again after WWII but did not gain wide recognition for her work until the 1970s.

## Step 3 Activity: Create a text collage

Materials: recycled papers (newspapers, magazines, junk mail, envelopes, etc), colored paper, scissors, glue

1. Cut the recycled papers into shapes of varying sizes. Focus on cutting from areas of text that are interesting to you or have words that stand out. You can also cut shapes from areas of solid color.
2. On a fresh sheet of paper, begin arranging your shapes. You can rotate, layer, and weave them so that the words and colors you want to emphasize are visible. Try to cover and fill the whole sheet with your shapes.
3. Keep arranging until you are happy with your composition. Glue it down if you like, or start fresh on a new collage.

## Step 4 Share!

Share your collage with a classmate or family member. Or, you can email it to us at MoMA: [schoolprograms@moma.org](mailto:schoolprograms@moma.org)



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Generous support for School and Teacher Programs is provided by the Carroll and Milton Petrie Education Program Endowment, the William Randolph Hearst Endowment Fund, and the Mimi and Peter Haas Endowment Fund for Elementary School Programs.

Additional funding is provided by the Ducommun and Gross Family Foundation and by the Annual Education Fund.

Image: Hannah Höch. *Untitled (Dada)*. c. 1922. Cut-and-pasted printed and colored paper on board. The Merrill C. Berman Collection. Acquired through the generosity of Alice and Tom Tisch, Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, David Booth, Marlene Hess and James D. Zirin, Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis, Jack Shear, the Patricia Bonfield Endowed Acquisition Fund for the Design Collection, Daniel and Jane Och, The Orentreich Family Foundation, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, The Modern Women's Fund; and by exchange: Gift of Jean Dubuffet in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Colin, The Judith Rothschild Foundation Contemporary Drawings Collection,

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