

Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1 Look closely

To get a closer look, visit this website, then click on the image for a larger view:

mom.org/collection/works/80681

Questions

1. Take a few seconds to look closely at the painting.
2. What words come to mind when looking at this painting? Why did you choose these words?
3. How are the objects, images, or forms composed?

Step 2 Learn more

José Clemente Orozco was commissioned by MoMA in 1940 for the exhibition *Twenty Centuries of Mexican Art*. He decided to make a mural made of six moveable panels that are intended to be arranged in any order. It was painted by Orozco over a period of ten days, often in front of visitors to the Museum. The painting was made in the midst of World War 2, when mechanized and mobile warfare were widely practiced. Orozco included abstracted elements of mechanical warfare (tail and wings of a bomber, tank treads, and chains). He insisted it had "no political significance" and stated, "I simply paint the life that is going on at the present—what we are and what the world is at this moment. That is what modern art is."

To watch a video lesson about this artwork, visit: youtu.be/G9G6K64vD5k

Step 3 Create an assemblage that represents your world at this moment

Materials: everyday objects around you and a camera

An assemblage is a three-dimensional work of art made from combinations of materials including found objects or non-traditional art materials.

1. Select at least four objects from your surrounding environment that could represent your life or the world at this moment in time.
2. Arrange or combine your objects until you find a form or composition you like by stacking, layering, positioning side-by-side, or intertwining.
3. Keep arranging until you find at least 2 different compositions that you like, then document them by taking photographs.

Step 4 Share!

Share your artwork with a friend, classmate, or family member and tell them how the objects represent your world at this moment. Or, you can email it to us at MoMA: 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: José Clemente Orozco, *Dive Bomber and Tank*, 1940. Fresco, six panels. Commissioned through the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Fund. © 2021 José Clemente Orozco / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / SOMAAP, Mexico