

Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1

Learn

Jose Yalenti was one of the founding members of Foto Cine Clube Bandierante (FCCB), a group of amateur photographers in Brazil from 1939 through the 1950s. Photography was a hobby for most FCCB members: on weekdays, group members has jobs such as businessmen, accountants, journalists, engineers, biologists, and bankers; on weekends, they often traveled to photograph together.

The photographers in this group participated in monthly competitions, where members would submit work according to the month's assigned subject (e.g., portraits, still lifes, landscapes, architectural views, animals, scenes of childhood, neighborhood life, shadows, solitude, movement, "a cup of coffee") The winning photographs were often featured on the cover of the club's magazine.

The FCCB had several contests around the theme "Abstractions from Nature." Photographers would take pictures of nature in a way that made the subject not easily recognizable and allowed for multiple interpretations. This photograph by Jose Yalenti is called "Sand/Areia."

Step 2

Look closely

Every members of FCCB could submit a photograph in the club's monthly contest. Submitting a photo was not only a chance to win, but was also an opportunity for members to get feedback on their own pictures to learn and improve. The members used a scorecard to make sure that each photograph was evaluated in the same way. The rubric on page four is inspired by the scorecards used by the FCCB.

Look closely at the photograph by Jose Yalenti and use the rubric on page four to evaluate it. You can also use the rubric to give and receive helpful feedback on your own and your classmates' photos.

Step 3

Activity: Take a photograph that abstracts nature

Abstract images do not depict scenes or objects and do not have recognizable subject matter.

1. Find a spot in nature that has interesting shapes, lines, and colors.
2. Take a photo that abstracts (makes unrecognizable) the subject. You can use any camera you have: your phone, digital camera, or even a film camera, if you have one.
3. Suggestions for taking your photos:
 - a. Zoom in close to capture small details
 - b. Focus in on one area and blur others
 - c. Find a new and interesting perspective or angle from which to take your photo
 - d. Use a filter or editing software to change colors or add different effects

Step 4 Share!

Email your photograph to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org. Or join MoMA's Photo Club challenges and share your photos on social media using #MoMAPhotoClub.



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Image: José Yalenti. *Sand (Areia)*. c. 1950. Gelatin silver print. Acquired through the generosity of Patricia Phelps de Cisneros through the Latin American and Caribbean Fund

Photographer:

Title of Photograph:

Look closely at the photograph and answer the following questions. You can also rate the picture on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 is lowest and 5 is highest) in each category, but it is important to have a reason for your rating.

Use of camera

What do you notice about how the photographer used the camera (example: focus, zoom, filters, etc)?

Light

What do you notice about how the photographer used light and shadows to create effects such as texture, depth, mood, etc?

Composition

How did the photographer arrange or frame individual elements of the photograph? What did they include and what did they leave out?

Theme

How did the photographer respond to the challenge theme "Abstraction of Nature"? Did the photograph make you look at the subject in a different way?

Notes: