

Mondays with MoMA



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Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. What are the different components of this artwork?
2. What do you notice about how they are arranged?
3. What do you notice about the artist's use of color?

Step 2 Learn more

Group of Figures, by Katharina Fritsch, is made up of nine [cast](#) and painted sculptures made of copper, steel, and bronze. From left to right, on the ground or on pedestals, the piece features Saint Michael slaying a dragon, skeletal feet and shin bones, Saint Nicholas, a giant leaning on a club, an urn, Saint Catherine, the head and torso of an unidentified woman, and a Madonna; a snake lies in front of the figures. Each sculpture is a single, different color: white, black, gray, bright green, purple, or yellow. Fritsch draws from many different sources, including Catholicism, art history, and folklore. The artwork combines historical and mythical icons and symbols with household and everyday objects.

See photos of the artwork from different perspectives and listen to an audio stop to hear a curator share her thoughts about Katharina Fritsch's *Group of Figures*.

www.moma.org/collection/works/130959

Step 3 Activity: Actors and directors

Materials: 6 to 10 students, friends or family, a space to work, and a camera

Note for teachers: Consider doing this activity as a group before discussing the artwork in order to preserve a sense of curiosity and surprise about the artwork.

1. Choose who will be the “directors” and who will be the “actors.” You can have 1 to 3 directors. Make sure the actors have not seen the image of the artwork.
2. Have the directors take time to study the artwork and have a conversation about what they notice. Important things for them to consider include:
 - a. Who are the characters?
 - b. What do you think they are thinking and feeling?
 - c. What is the relationship between the objects and the figures?
 - d. What is the overall mood or feeling of this artwork?
3. Have the directors begin to arrange and direct the actors into the positions represented in the artwork, giving them feedback about how they should preposition themselves physically as well as notes about what kind of mood or tone they would like them to convey.
4. Take a photograph of your recreation. Reveal the artwork to the actors and let the actors and directors reflect on the process together.

Step 4

Reflect on activity

Have the actors and directors discuss their experience.

Questions

1. What was easy and what was hard about this process?
2. For the actors: What was it like to embody a sculpture?
3. For the directors: What was it like to direct the group?
4. How did the actors and directors use communication skills and teamwork to recreate the artwork?

Step 5

Share!

Share your photograph and experience with a friend or family member. Or you can email us at MoMA:

schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Katharina Fritsch. Group of Figures. 2006-08. fabricated 2010-11). Painted stainless steel, painted bronze, and painted copper electrotone filled with resin and fiberglass. Gift of Maja Oeri and Hans Bodenmann (Laurenz Foundation). Copyright © 2021 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn