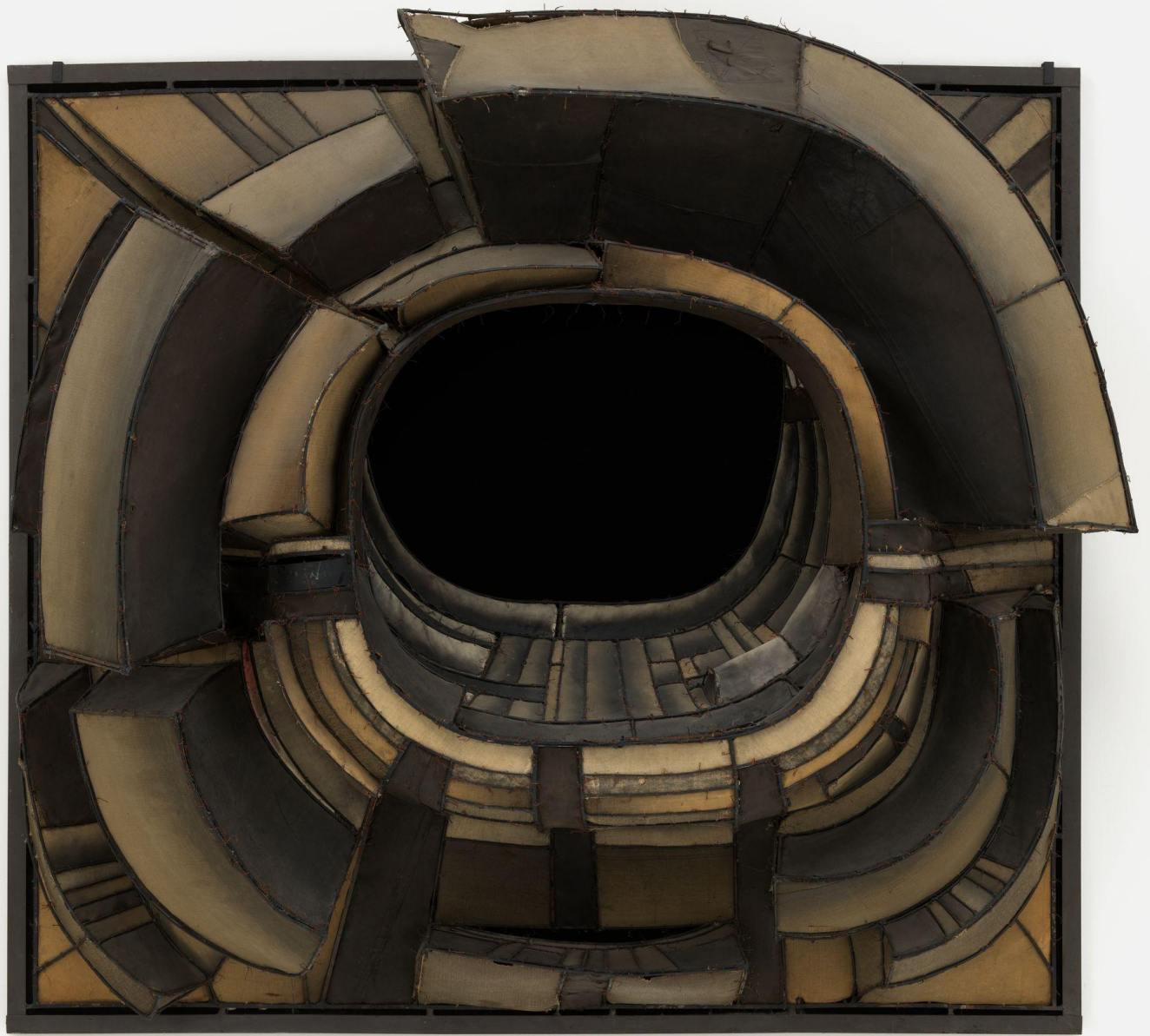


Mondays with MoMA



MoMA



Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. Let your eye travel over the artwork. Where is your eye drawn to most?
2. What new details do you notice when you see the artwork from different angles?
3. What words come to mind when looking at the artwork? If looking as a group, create a word bank with all the words you come up with.

Step 2 Learn more

To make this work, Lee Bontecou took canvas from conveyor belts discarded by a laundry below her East Village apartment and stretched the pieces across a steel armature. Many of Bontecou's works from this time feature a black center, which is reminiscent of a void or a portal, to express the insecurity and unrest of the 1960s. She wrote, "My concern is to build things that express our relation to this country ... to other worlds to glimpse some of the fear, hope, ugliness, beauty, and mystery that exists in us all and which hangs over all the young people today."

Step 3 Activity: Creative writing

1. Enlarge the image on page 1 as much as possible and position it so that you can focus your attention for 30-60 seconds without external distractions. Imagine yourself standing in front of this artwork being pulled into the artwork.
2. Write down all the words and phrases that come to mind. You can also incorporate the words from question 3 in Step 1.
3. Review the words and see what themes, ideas, or feelings emerge.
4. Write a story beginning with the phrase, "I moved toward the center and suddenly ..." Use your imagination and be creative using the words and ideas that came up during the close looking. Your story can be as long or short as you want, but make sure it has a beginning, middle, and end.

Step 4 Share!

Read your story to a classmate. Ask them what they imagine might happen. You can also email it to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Images: Lee Bontecou. *Untitled*. 1961. Welded steel, canvas, fabric, rawhide, copper wire, and soot. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Kay Sage Tanguy Fund. © 2022 Lee Bontecou; Installation view, *Everyday Encounters*, in *Collection 1940s–1970s*, November 14, 2020–November 1, 2023. Digital Image © 2022 The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Photo: Jonathan Muzikar; Installation view, *From the Collection: 1960–1969*, March 26, 2016–March 12, 2017. Digital Image © 2022 The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Photo: Martin Seck. Also shown: Richard Hamilton. *Pin-up*. 1961. Oil, cellulose, and collage on panel. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Enid A. Haupt Fund and an anonymous fund. © 2022 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/DACS, London