

# Mondays with MoMA



## Step 1 Look closely

### Questions

1. What do you notice about the faces in this artwork?
2. What emotion (or emotions) do the faces convey?
3. Does the way the artist's arranged these images in a grid enhance the emotions portrayed? Why or why not?

## Step 2 Learn more

South African artist Marlene Dumas based the twenty-four portraits comprising *Chlorosis* on Polaroid snapshots of people she knows and on newspaper clippings of strangers. She said once, "I use second hand images and first hand emotions. [What] I meant was the pictures that I use have already often been shot by someone else," She used thin, exquisite washes of color to suggest apparitions or psychic projections of internal states. The title of the work comes from the Greek word for light green. It is often used to describe an anemic disease marked by a characteristic green skin tone. People used to believe that chlorosis was caused by the intense suffering caused by unrequited love.

## Step 3 Activity: Draw your memory

Materials: pencil, paper, photographs, magazines, newspapers, glue (*optional*)

1. Think of an emotion that you would like to explore.
2. Look through images in magazines, newspapers, or personal photographs to find examples of people expressing this emotion.
  - a. How do facial features such as eyes, eyebrows, mouths, etc convey this emotion?
  - b. How do people's poses and body posture express what they are feeling?
3. Cut out these images and arrange them on a piece of paper in a way that best shows the emotion through the expressions and poses.
4. Keep moving your images until you are happy with your composition.
5. *Optional:* Glue down your images

## Step 4 Share!

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



Volkswagen of America is proud to be MoMA's lead partner of education.

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: Marlene Dumas. *Chlorosis (Love sick)*. 1994. Ink, gouache, and acrylic on twenty-four sheets of paper. The Herbert and Nannette Rothschild Memorial Fund in memory of Judith Rothschild. © 2021 Marlene Dumas