

# **Mondays with MoMA**



**MoMA**

## Step 1 Look closely

### Questions

1. The artist combined two photographic images. What do you think the original photos were, and how are they put together into a new image?
2. What message was the artist trying to convey by combining these images?

## Step 2 Learn more

This [photomontage](#) by artist Martha Rosler is titled *Cleaning the Drapes* and is part of her series *House Beautiful: Bringing the War Home*. She began the series in 1967, during a time of increased American military intervention in Vietnam. Rosler spliced images from news magazines taken by photojournalists in Vietnam together with images of American homes from the pages of the interior decorating magazine *House Beautiful*.

When asked about how she first started making the collages, the artist said: “We were looking at this war every single night at dinnertime on our TVs, which is why it’s called the ‘living-room war.’ I was interested in a visual means of fighting something imposed on us visually, and what I thought of doing was taking these damn news photographs and putting them on images of our living rooms, which is where we actually saw the footage. It was in our homes, which were supposedly safe and far away.”

## Step 3 Activity: Combined-image collage

Materials: paper, images from newspapers, magazines, photos, or printed materials, scissors, glue

1. Find two images reflecting contrasting points of view that portray current events. You can find images in newspapers, photos on social media, memes, magazines, etc.
2. Combine the images into a new composition that reflects how you feel about the topics or subject matter in the photos. You can print out the images or use a free app or program like [canva.com](#).
3. What made you choose these images? How do they reflect what is happening in the world today? How are your two images different? How are they similar?
4. How does your collage convey your point of view about the current moment? How did combining these images alter or amplify their original meaning?

## Step 4 Share!

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



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Image: Martha Rosler. *Cleaning the Drapes* from the series *House Beautiful: Bringing the War Home* c. 1967–72. Inkjet print (photomontage), printed 2011. Committee on Photography and The Modern Women's Fund © c. 1967–72 Martha Rosler