Mondays with MoMA

MoMA

Step 1
Look closely

Questions
1. Take a moment to carefully look at the whole image. What do you notice? What are the people doing?
2. Imagine yourself in this space. Where in the image would you like to be? What do you smell? What do you hear?
3. The artist, Max Beckmann, titled this print *Happy New Year 1917.* What about it makes you think of New Year?

Step 2
Learn more

In his work, Max Beckmann often portrayed a made-up world of characters like actors, singers, and heroes on city streets, at masquerades and carnivals, and in candlelit rooms. Sometimes, the artist would include himself, usually costumed, but identifiable by his enormous head and scowling face.

This is a drypoint print, which is a printmaking process in which a design is drawn on a plate with a sharp, pointed needle-like instrument. Watch this video to see this process:
moma.org/multimedia/video/151/936

Step 3
Illustrate a memory from a past New Year's Celebration

Suggested materials: paper and something to draw with

1. Think of a memorable New Year's moment you shared with friends or family.
2. Draw a picture of that moment. Who will you include? What activities will you add? Are there any customs or traditions you observe that you want to include?
3. Optional: include yourself in your drawing. Add in any identifiable markers to show it is you (how do you look different from everyone else?)
4. Share your drawing with a friend or family member. Tell them about your memory and ask if there are any New Year's memories they would like to share.
5. Share your drawing with us at schoolprograms@moma.org