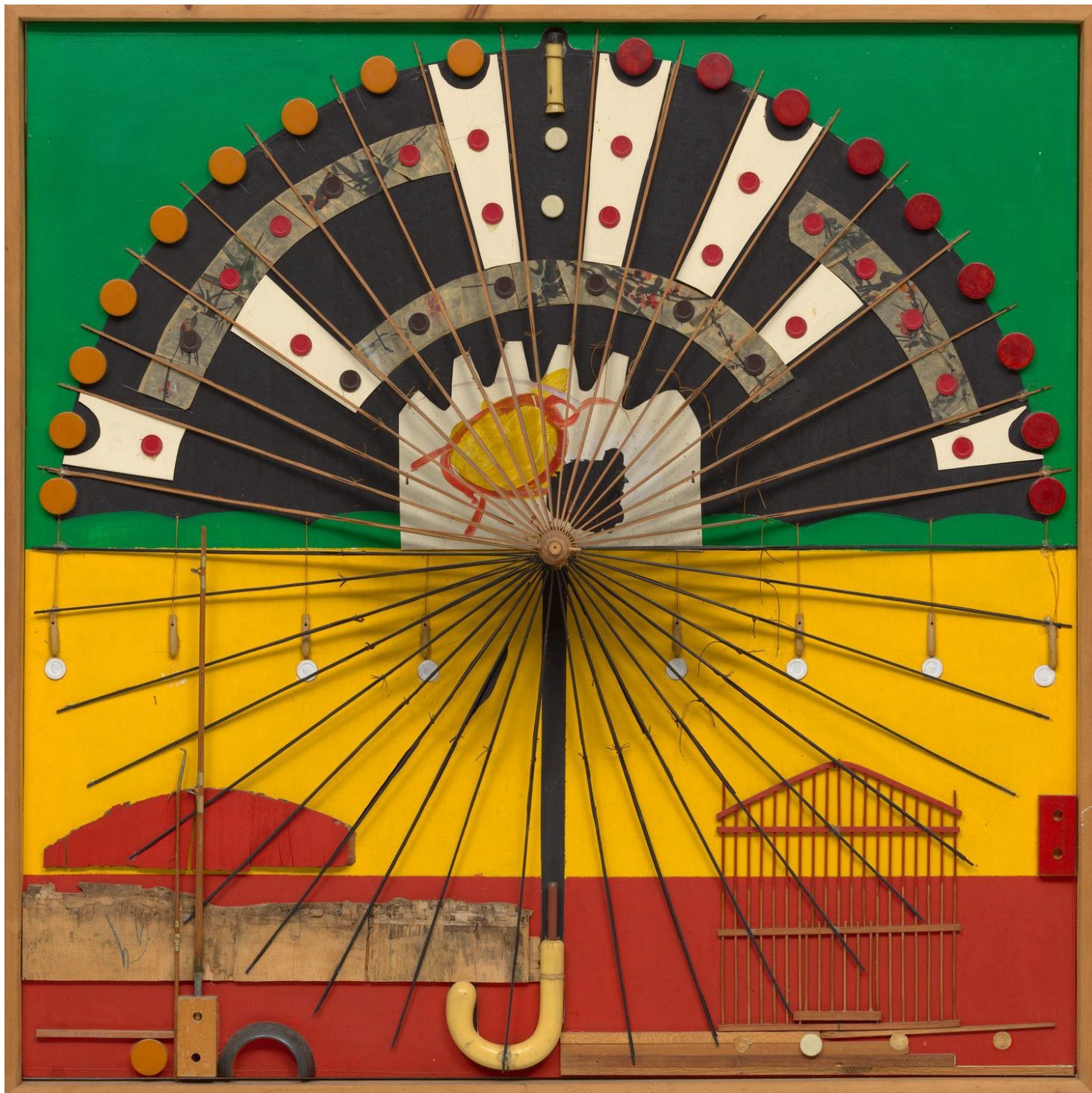
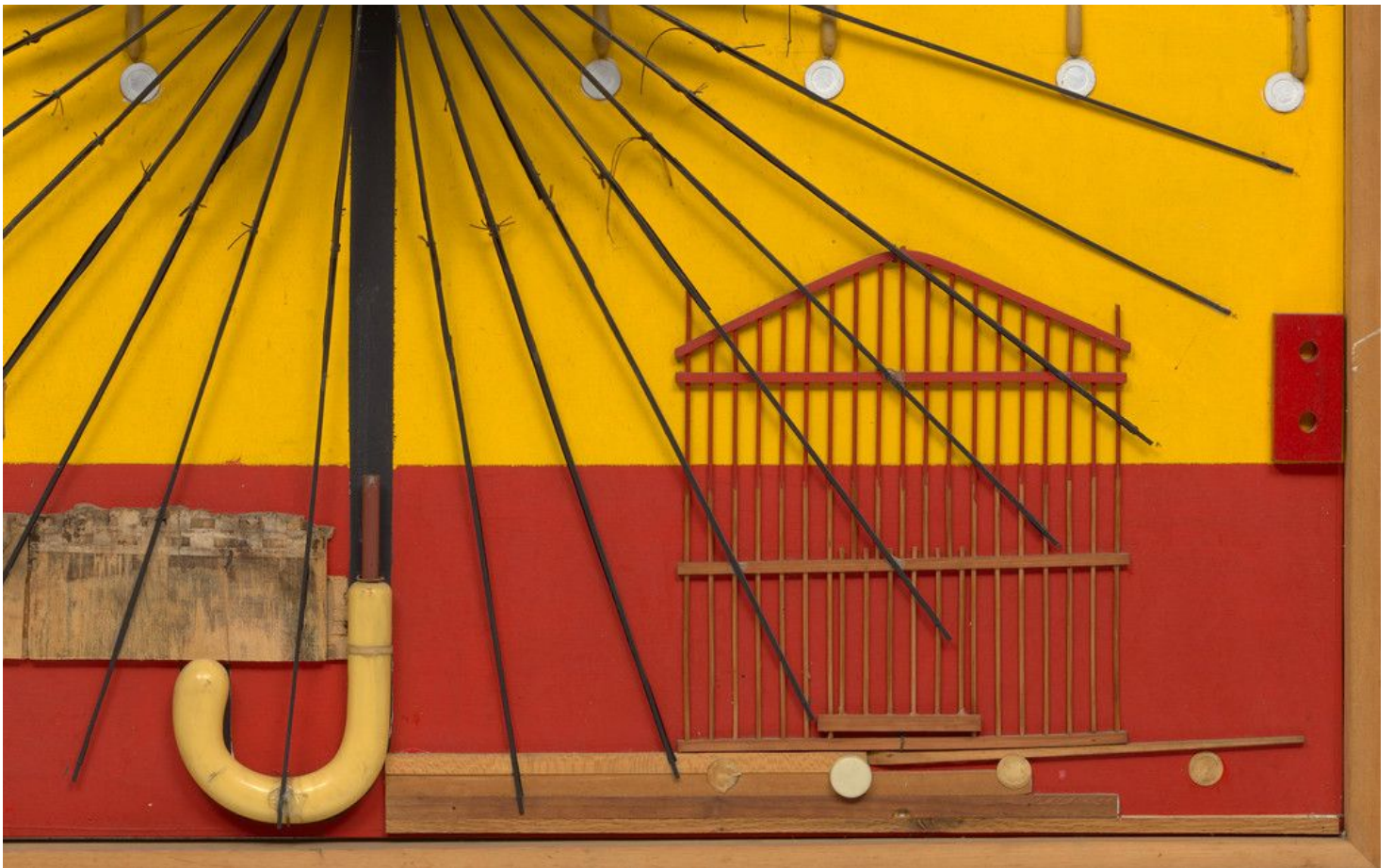


Mondays with MoMA



MoMA



Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. This artwork is an assemblage, a three-dimensional work of art made from combinations of materials including found objects or nontraditional art materials. Do you see any objects that are familiar to you? Do any of them remind you of daily life?
2. What do you notice about how the objects are arranged?

Step 2 Learn more

Noah Purifoy's early assemblages were made from objects he found in his Los Angeles neighborhood after the Watts rebellion, a time when African-American people who lived there fought back against the country's history of racial violence and injustice. Purifoy reused scraps of wood and debris, materials that many would think of as junk, as a way to pay tribute to the pain and struggles of his community.

To make *Unknown*, Noah Purifoy used parts of a parasol and placed them at the center of this assemblage. He followed the curving shape of the parasol with strips of patterned paper and game pieces. He also included scraps of wood and parts of a fishing pole and a bird cage. He painted the background in green, yellow, and red, colors found in many flags of countries in Africa.

Step 3 Activity: Create an assemblage that represents daily life

Materials: everyday objects around you and a camera to photograph your assemblage. Optional: glue or glue stick.

1. Start by gathering objects and materials that are connected to your surroundings and daily activities.
2. Find a sturdy base for your assemblage, such as recycled cardboard or a box.
3. Choose one of the objects to be the focal point that you build around. Place that object at the center of your base.
4. Consider the color, shape, and size of the other objects you collected, and spend some time trying different arrangements until you find one you like.
5. Depending on the objects you selected, you can either glue or tape them in place or you can take a photograph and return the objects to where you found them.
6. Reflection: Why did you select these objects? What story does your composition, or arrangement of the objects, tell?

Step 4 Share!

Show your assemblage to a friend or family member. Or you can email it to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Noah Purifoy. *Unknown*. 1967. Painted wood with parasol armature and handle, found wood, pasted papers, backgammon and poker chips, fishing pole, wire, bird cage parts, and other materials. Committee on Painting and Sculpture Funds. © Noah Purifoy Foundation. Used by permission