

# Mondays with MoMA

to roll  
to crease  
to fold  
to store  
to band  
to shorten  
to twist  
to dapple  
to crumple  
to shave  
to tear  
to chip  
to split  
to cut  
to sever  
to drop  
to remove  
to simplify  
to differ  
to disarrange  
to open  
to mix  
to splash  
to knot  
to spill  
to droop  
to flow

to curve  
to lift  
to inlay  
to impress  
to fore  
to flood  
to smear  
to rotate  
to swirl  
to support  
to hook  
to suspend  
to spread  
to hang  
to collect  
of tension  
off gravity  
of entropy  
of nature  
of grouping  
of layering  
of felting  
to grasp  
to tighten  
to bundle  
to heap  
to gather

to scatter  
to arrange  
to repair  
to discard  
to pair  
to distribute  
to surfeit  
to complement  
to enclose  
to surround  
to encircle  
to hide  
to cover  
to wrap  
to dig  
to tile  
to bind  
to weave  
to join  
to match  
to laminate  
to bond  
to hinge  
to mark  
to expand  
to dilute  
to light

to modulate  
to distill  
of waves  
of electromagnetic  
of inertia  
of ionization  
of polarization  
of refraction  
of simultaneity  
of tides  
of reflection  
of equilibrium  
of symmetry  
of friction  
to stretch  
to bounce  
to erase  
to spray  
to systematize  
to refer  
to force  
of mapping  
of location  
of context  
of time  
of carbonization  
to continue

## Step 1 Look closely

### Questions

1. What do all these terms have in common?
2. Which ones stand out to you? Why?
3. Choose one of the verbs. What images does it bring to mind? What associations can you make?

## Step 2 Learn more

Richard Serra said, "Drawing is a verb."

In *Verblist*, he compiled a series of what he called "actions to relate to oneself, material, place, and process." Serra experimented with using words describing the physical process of making sculpture. The result was a list of action verbs—among them “to roll, to crease, to curve”—that Serra compiled, wrote on paper, and then physically did, with the materials he had collected in his studio. This work on paper reflects Serra's practices in all mediums—from early sculptures to later monumental works—which not only twist and curve but also enclose, surround, and encircle. It also shows how Serra was inspired by the movements and gestures of dancers and performance artists that he worked with.

To read the complete list of verbs:  
[ubu.com/concept/serra\\_verb.html](http://ubu.com/concept/serra_verb.html)

## Step 3 Activity: *Verblist* charades

Materials: pencil, paper, and a box or bowl

1. Cut a piece of paper into strips and write one verb from *Verblist* on each strip of paper.
2. Fold the strips and place them in a box or bowl.
3. Choose one player to start. The player selects a verb by taking a strip of paper from the box or bowl at random.
4. Using their hands or whole bodies, the player acts out that verb until someone guesses it correctly.
5. The person who guesses correctly is the next player to act out a verb.
6. You can play in teams and keep score, or just see how long you can keep the game going.

## Step 4 Share!

Play the game with other friends and see the different ways they express the verbs through movement. Or you can email us a photo of you playing the game, at: [schoolprograms@moma.org](mailto:schoolprograms@moma.org).



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Image: Richard Serra. *Verblist*. 1967–68. Pencil on two sheets of paper. Gift of the artist in honor of Wynn Kramarsky. © 2022 Richard Serra / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York