

Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1

Look closely

Questions

1. What do you notice about this object?
2. What is one word you would use to describe this artwork?
3. What materials do you think it is made of?

Step 2

Learn more

Succulent, by artist Rodney McMillian, is made out of vinyl and thread. It is 14 feet tall and almost 28 feet wide. This artwork comes with instructions from the artist about displaying it so that the bottom drapes, touching the floor. In 2020, MoMA curator Michelle Kuo collaborated with the artist to display the artwork in the museum's lobby with it not touching the floor. Kuo describes the process of installing the artwork as "shape-shifting" due to the nature of the materials, having a mind of its own.

The artist often uses black vinyl and in this case he combines the industrial material with light colored thread that is hand stitched. Inspired by science fiction, McMillian describes the artwork as a "portal to another world".

Watch this video to see details and learn more about the artwork:

youtu.be/6FqmLLHLbhg

Step 3

Activity: Transform a Space

Materials: Assorted textiles (such as towels and sheets), recycled plastic bags, and (optional) string, binder clips, paper clips or tape.

1. Gather different types of household textiles and/or an assortment of plastic bags.
2. Spend time folding, twisting, and draping the material in different ways, taking note of how the material feels and how it reacts to the way you work with it.
3. Think about a space you want to transform with your materials by attaching or tethering materials together with clips, string, or tape and draping over furniture or on the walls.
4. Manipulate your material until you achieve the desired effect.
5. Document your experience by taking notes, sketching, or photographs.
6. Reflect: How did you manipulate your materials? How did the finished artwork transform the space it was in? What is one word you would use to describe the space you created?

Step 4

Share!

Share your exploration with a friend or share your work with us at MoMA:

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: Rodney McMillian. *Succulent*. Vinyl and thread. Acquired through the generosity of The Friends of Education of The Museum of Modern Art, and given in memory of W.D.S.B. by his wife (by exchange), and Richard D. Brixey Bequest (by exchange)