

Mondays with MoMA



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Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. What are the different elements in this artwork? What materials do you notice?
2. What do you notice about how the elements are arranged?
3. How would you describe this artwork to someone who has never seen it?

Step 2 Learn more

Sheela Gowda is an artist living and working in Bangalore, India. She makes three-dimensional work using unusual materials in response to the rapid economic and cultural changes in India.

To make *Of All People*, Gowda built an environment out of recycled architectural elements—door frames, window frames, and a wooden table—fragments of houses torn down as a result of modernization in Bangalore. She transformed these everyday objects by painting them bright yellows, pinks, and turquoises, colors characteristic of homes in rural Bangalore, then placed thousands of small wooden votive figurines throughout (see Image 5 for detail). The figurines and Gowda's structure represent the physical, economic, and ideological systems people in India experience.

What kinds of changes or transitions have you witnessed in your community?

Step 3 Activity: Responding to social issues with assemblage

An assemblage is a three-dimensional work of art made from combinations of materials including found objects or non-traditional art materials.

Materials: A variety of everyday and found objects, such as boxes, containers, cardboard rolls, old toys, figurines, etc.

1. Think about an issue within your community (gentrification, pollution, accessibility, etc). Consider who and what are affected by this issue. How are people discussing it within your community? What do you want to add to this conversation?
2. Gather a variety of found objects and materials that symbolize your thoughts and ideas. Think of how the objects you collect could represent the people, places, and events connected to the issue you chose to highlight.
3. Arrange your objects into a three-dimensional sculpture or a two-dimensional composition. Consider how the combination and placement of different images and objects express your views and ideas.

Step 4 Share!

Photograph your assemblage and tell a friend or family member about the ideas that it represents. Or you can email us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Sheela Gowda. *Of All People*. 2011. Wood doors, shutters, door frames, windows, pillars, table and fragments, framed photographs, wood chips, and metal chains. Committee on Painting and Sculpture Funds.
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