

Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1 Look closely

To see alternate views of this artwork, visit this website, <https://mo.ma/3E4svEy>.

Questions

1. What details do you notice?
2. What materials did the artist use?
3. This sculpture is called *Head*. How does this remind you of a real head? How is it different?

Step 2 Learn more

This is one of several wooden heads that Sophie Taeuber-Arp made. It is made of wood pieces painted with geometric shapes embellished with beaded objects.

Sophie Taeuber-Arp was a multidisciplinary artist; she was a teacher, puppet maker, interior designer, painter, sculptor, and jewellery maker, among other things. She created puppets and costumes for plays, dance, and other performances. She often performed wearing her own creations.

For Taeuber-Arp abstraction was connected to everyday life in which objects were to be used and manipulated, spaces to be moved about in, and artworks to be looked at and experienced.

Read more about Sophie Taeuber-Arp and see more things that she made:

www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/d/dada/five-things-know-about-sophie-taeuber-arp

Step 3 Activity: Make a mask

Materials: blank mask or printed template (p. 3), markers, crayons, or paint, beads, glitter, sequins, yarn, raffia, etc.

1. If using the template: Print page 3 on heavy paper, cut the mask out and cut holes for the eyes (you can do this by folding the paper horizontally and cutting semicircles). To make the mask rounded, cut out the dotted line wedges and tape the edges together.
2. With a pencil, divide your mask into geometric shapes.
3. With markers, crayons or paint, fill in the shapes with different colors.
4. Add three dimensional details using colored paper, sequins, beads, yarn, or any other materials you have.
5. Attach strings to your mask or use a stick or other rigid material to hold it up.
6. Put your mask on and consider:
 - a. What movements does this mask inspire?
 - b. What sounds do you feel like making while wearing this mask?
 - c. What would you name your creation?

Step 4 Share!

Share your mask and performance with classmates. Or you can email it to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org



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Image: Sophie Taeuber-Arp. *Head*. 1920. Oil on wood with glass beads on wire. Mrs. John Hay Whitney Bequest (by exchange) and Committee on Painting and Sculpture Funds.
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