

Mondays with MoMA



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Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. Use your finger to trace lines in the artwork. How would you describe the lines?
2. How do you think he made the different types of lines?
3. The artist, Uche Okeke, made this memory drawing of the place where he grew up. What type of place might this be?

Step 2 Learn more

Uche Okeke was born in Nigeria and created artwork inspired by the Igbo, his family's ethnic group. When he was growing up, tales of the Igbo told by his family heightened his curiosity of his own culture.

This drawing, titled *Savannah Landscape*, is inspired by traditional *uli* designs, a technique of body and mural painting practiced by Igbo women, including his mother. The bold outlines represent the trees and shrubs from the area of his childhood.

Okeke considered drawing fundamental to the creative process. He represented complex images with simple and varied lines, combining contemporary and traditional art practices.

Step 3 Activity: Exploring Lines

Materials: paper and pencil, pen, or marker

1. Draw a line you see around you: Look around you and find different lines that you see. Choose a couple lines and draw them on your paper.
2. Draw a continuous line, without lifting your drawing utensil from the page so that the shape is made up of one free-flowing, unbroken line.
3. Draw an expressive line: Represent an emotion or feeling by drawing a line. For example, a zigzag might represent anger or stress.
4. Draw a gestural line: Think of an action and represent it through a line.
5. Draw a thick and a thin line: Play around with the pressure of your utensil or the way you hold your utensil to get lines of different thicknesses.
6. Draw a line using your non-dominant hand.
7. Make up your own line and draw it.
8. Try to fill your sheet of paper with as many types of lines as you can make.

Step 4 Share!

Share your drawing with your classmates and talk about the different types of lines you made. Or you can email it to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Uche Okeke. *Savannah Landscape*. 1962. Ink on paper. Gift of Alexandra Herzan from the Collection of Lily Auchincloss (by exchange). © 2021 Uche Okeke, Courtesy Skoto Gallery, NYC