

Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. What shapes do you see?
2. What do the shapes remind you of?
3. How did the artist repeat and arrange one shape to create a new image?

Step 2 Learn More

Willie Cole uses everyday objects to create prints like this one, which was made by repeating the shape and pattern of the bottom of a household iron into a bud-like arrangement. The iron also references Cole's mother and a grandmother who worked as housekeepers and would regularly ask him to repair their broken irons. Cole combines elements from his African-American heritage with consumer culture. He began using the steam iron as a domestic and artistic symbol, assembling irons into forms reminiscent of tribal art..

Cole has also reimagined other everyday objects like high-heeled shoes, plastic water bottles, hair dryers and bicycle parts in his work. The artist once said he was inspired after watching his son playing with his Transformer toys. Click [here](#) to see examples of how Willie Cole uses everyday objects in his art.

Step 3 Transform an everyday object!

Materials: pencil, paper, an everyday object, crayons or colored pencils (optional)

1. Choose an everyday object that is important to you, (for example: a phone, a favorite toy, or a kitchen utensil)
2. Trace that object onto a piece of paper and see what shape the outline creates.
3. Imagine how this shape can be repeated, layered, and arranged to create a new design. Keep tracing that object as many times as you need to create this image.
4. Optional: use colored pencils or crayons to add color.

STEP 4 Share

Share your artwork with a classmate or email it to us at MoMA:

schoolprograms@moma.org.



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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 Willie Cole. *Pressed Iron Bud*. 2005. Lithograph. Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM. Edition 20. © 2020 Willie Cole