The Museum of Modern Art strives to enable rewarding experiences with art for people of all ages, and MoMA's Department of Education has a long history of serving children and adults with disabilities and special needs. In 2006 the Museum launched Meet Me at MoMA, a program specifically for people with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. One year later, thanks to the generosity of MetLife Foundation, the Museum began The MoMA Alzheimer's Project, a national initiative to develop and share resources for making art accessible to this audience.

This kit — containing art modules and reproductions of artworks — is designed to serve as a framework for engagement with art. The primary goal is to help you create meaningful and interactive experiences that encourage self-expression and personal growth for people with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. In the accompanying book you will find information that may enhance your experience using the art modules. Furthermore, the book also includes an overview of a program as it unfolds in the galleries at MoMA; commentary from experts in the fields of art, aging, and Alzheimer's disease; findings from an evidence-based research study on the efficacy of the Meet Me at MoMA program; and, finally, resource guides for creating, developing, and implementing arts programs in a variety of settings, including museums, care organizations, and individual homes.

Looking at art and creating art have tremendous potential to improve quality of life for millions of people affected by Alzheimer's disease. Indeed, experiences with art are often transformative, enabling all people to live with dignity, purpose, and joy.

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Components of the Kit

Art Modules

These modules provide engaging and accessible ways to discuss and create art. Each is structured around a theme and includes five works of art, discussion questions, art-historical information, conversational activities, and an art-making activity.

The modules are not ordered sequentially, and each can be used independently as a single unit. When using this kit, it is important to be flexible and allow the needs and interests of the participants to shape the experience. For example, you do not need to cover all five works or engage in every activity included in a module. Additionally, you can extend a single module over multiple sessions. Also, any number of modules can be sequenced in order to create a coherent extended program. Furthermore, you can develop new themes by rearranging the reproductions provided in this kit.

Reproductions

All artworks presented in this kit are from MoMA's collection. The DVD contains all the images included in all eight art modules. The ten art cards are reproductions of the artworks in the first four art modules only. The digital images can be viewed on a television or a computer or projected on a screen or wall, depending upon the equipment available to you. You can use the art cards or DVD to look closely at the work in a small group or one-on-one. More information about using the DVD can be found in the back of this kit.

Components of a Module

Images of Artworks

Each module is composed of five works from MoMA's collection grouped thematically. They include work in various mediums, including painting, sculpture, and photography.

Discussion Questions and Art-Historical Information

The discussion questions should be used to invite description, interpretation, and connection. The art-historical content provides information for each work in relation to the overall theme. Together, the questions and information can launch and enhance your conversation.

Conversational Activities (Turn and Talks)

Each module contains two conversational activities, each in relation to a specific work. If you are working with a group, about midway through your discussion of a designated image divide everyone into smaller groups of four to six people. Give the prompt to foster interaction among the participants. After five to ten minutes, bring everyone back together and invite

participants to share their conversations with the group as a whole. These smaller discussions allow for a more intimate experience. In addition, these prompts can easily be used in a one-on-one conversation.

Art-Making Activity

The final component of each module is an art-making activity that is related to the theme and works discussed. We suggest materials and processes that can be used in various settings and adapted to the abilities of all participants.

Please refer to Foundations for Engagement with Art in the accompanying book (page 111) for more information on close analysis of art. The guide also includes detailed information on strategies for leading conversations that can be applied to your discussions about the artwork in these modules.