

“The Museum strives to create the most inclusive environment possible for every visitor.”

## Foreword

The Museum of Modern Art has long been committed to ensuring that all people have access to the very best of modern and contemporary art, regardless of age, ability, or background. From the Museum’s groundbreaking rehabilitation work with World War II veterans to the wide variety of award-winning programs it offers to children and adults with disabilities today, the Museum strives to create the most inclusive environment possible for every visitor. Access Programs at MoMA directly serve over ten thousand people with disabilities annually, including individuals with Alzheimer’s disease.

The MoMA Alzheimer’s Project is a nationwide expansion of the Museum’s commitment to this audience. This initiative enables MoMA to develop resources designed to equip museum professionals, care organizations, and individual families with methods for making art accessible to people living with early and middle-stage Alzheimer’s disease.

The MoMA Alzheimer’s Project is made possible by a major grant from MetLife Foundation. The Museum is proud to partner with the Foundation in this important effort and deeply appreciates its tremendous support. A key aspect of the project, *Meet Me: Making Art Accessible to People with Dementia* presents the Museum’s innovative initiatives in the field of art and Alzheimer’s disease to date. With MetLife Foundation as our partner and this publication as a tool for ongoing outreach, we look forward to continued progress toward our goal of making art accessible in our own community and beyond.



Glenn D. Lowry  
Director, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

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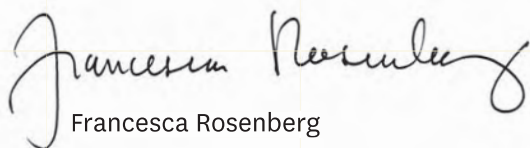
## Introduction

The journey toward this publication began several years ago when we learned that there are few opportunities for people with Alzheimer’s disease to remain involved in the community and to participate in meaningful activities that can be both educational and enjoyable. Realizing the great potential for self-awareness, expression, and empowerment through the arts, MoMA began to develop programming for this audience. In 2006, we launched the Meet Me at MoMA program for individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Through the development and evaluation of this program, it became apparent that engagement with art offers participants an opportunity to enhance their quality of life through mental stimulation, communication, personal growth, and social engagement.

*Meet Me* provides an overview of a program unfolding in the galleries at MoMA, commentary from experts in the fields of art, aging, and Alzheimer’s, research findings regarding the efficacy of the Meet Me at MoMA program, and guides for developing and implementing art programs in a variety of settings. The accompanying kit, comprised of art modules and reproductions of works in MoMA’s collection, serves as a complement to the book. We’ve designed the modules to inspire meaningful interactive experiences that encourage participation and self-expression.

As a testament to our belief in the communicative power of art objects, this publication is illustrated with works from MoMA’s collection. Most prominently featured are works by two artists who explore the nature of human perception — both visually and cognitively. In *Map of an Englishman* (2004), featured on the cover, Grayson Perry grapples with the complexity of human consciousness by attempting to map the complicated landscape of his own mind. The works of Gerhard Richter, which introduce each section, visually demonstrate that what is elusive is not without great evocative power.

These works of art remind us of the overarching goal of this project. We aim to contribute to an ideological shift in the way both institutions and individuals think about Alzheimer’s disease, a move away from concentrating on deficiency toward focusing on the many rich and satisfying emotional and intellectual experiences that are newly possible.



Francesca Rosenberg  
Director, Community and Access Programs,  
The Museum of Modern Art, New York





