Mondays with MoMA
Step 1
Look closely

Questions
1. What elements of this sculpture can you identify? What elements do you have questions about?
2. Do you think these elements go together? Why or why not?

Step 2
Learn more

Salvador Dali believed that connecting unrelated things can open new and unexpected ways of thinking. Dali explored this idea in painting and sculpture, like this one, called Retrospective Bust of a Woman.

The idea for this work began when Dalí discovered an inkwell that featured figures in prayer on it. He embedded the inkwell and pens in a loaf of bread and placed the whole thing onto the portrait bust of a woman. He also placed corn cobs and a strip of images from an early cinematic toy called a zoetrope around the neck of the bust. He painted ants swarming along her face and forehead.

The original sculpture from 1933 has had some of the elements replaced. When this work was first exhibited, Pablo Picasso’s dog is said to have eaten the original loaf of bread. Some other elements of the sculpture were reconstructed in 1970.

Step 3
Activity: Write a surrealist dialogue

1. Imagine walking up to this sculpture and having a conversation with it.
   a. What would you like to say to this figure?
   b. What questions would you like to ask?
   c. How do you think this figure would answer? Would the figure be friendly, mean, funny, or serious?
   d. What advice might this figure have for you?
2. Write up your dialogue.
3. Read your dialogue out loud with a classmate, each person taking on one role. Play with different voices, tones, and moods as you read.

Step 4
Share!

Share your dialogue with a classmate and see if they have any suggestions of things to add to your conversation with the sculpture. Or you can email your dialogue to us at schoolprograms@moma.org.

Volkswagen of America is proud to be MoMA’s lead partner of education.

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.