



Pre- and Post-Visit Materials for Educators
Here Is Every. Four Decades of Contemporary Art
September 10, 2008–March 23, 2009
Contemporary Galleries, second floor

The Museum of Modern Art

About the Exhibition

The fifth in a series of installations focusing on MoMA's contemporary holdings, *Here Is Every. Four Decades of Contemporary Art* maps a chronological path through the art of the recent past. The exhibition brings together photographs, paintings, sculptures, drawings, films, and videos in thematic groupings, and includes several new acquisitions, on view for the first time at MoMA, by such artists as Matthew Barney, Mircea Cantor, Nan Goldin, Paul McCarthy, and Bruce Nauman. The exhibition examines such topics as the artist's studio, the changing urban landscape, politics, and the radical transformation of media culture.

Themes/Curricular Connections: Identity, Environment, Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts, Appropriation, What Makes This Art?

Note to teachers: Due to the nature and content of some of the works, we advise that you preview the exhibition before bringing your students for a visit. Although the exhibit description implies thematic groupings, there are no text panels contained within the exhibition to explicate those outlined themes.

Booking a visit: To make a group reservation, please contact the Group Services Department. Visit www.moma.org/visit_moma/schoolgroup_req.html for details.

Above: Richard Tuttle. American, born 1941. *Letters (The Twenty-Six Series)*, 1966. Galvanized iron, twenty-six parts. Each approximately 6 x 9 x 5/8" (15.2 x 22.9 x 1.6 cm), overall dimensions variable. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Nina and Gordon Bunshaft Bequest (by exchange). © 2008 Richard Tuttle

Pre-Visit Discussion and Activity

1. The world of contemporary art seems to know no limits as it challenges conventional ideas about art. Lead a discussion with your class on their ideas about what contemporary means. Ask your students what they think contemporary art is and what they might expect to see? How do contemporary artists challenge our ideas about traditional art-making themes and practice? The exhibition brings together photographs, paintings, sculptures, drawings, films, and videos created by artists spanning the last forty years. Ask your students to consider what events or ideas of the last forty years may have had an influence on the art of this time? How have those ideas been represented in our culture across different media (TV, film, newspaper, Web).

2. Print or project a selection of images from *Here is Every* in your classroom. An online checklist is available on the MoMA Web site at http://www.moma.org/collection/browse_results.php?SHR&tag=ex4614

Have your students spend some time observing the works you have selected. Lead a discussion about their observations. Take notes about your students' observations and interpretations of the works. Summarize their findings on chart paper. Next, ask your students to group the works by theme based on your discussion. Encourage students to select works across a range of media. Break your students into smaller groups and assign a group of objects based on a theme to work with.

At the Museum

While visiting the Museum with your class, you can assign your students to small groups or pairs to observe and record observations of a selection of objects that they chose for in-class exhibition. Ask your students to spend some time looking at the actual objects and have them revisit their themes. Have them create a journal of their experience and have them consider the following:

How have your ideas about the work changed now that you are seeing it in person?

What aspects of the artist's process can you observe in person that you could not in reproduction?

What do you notice about the size and scale of the objects?

What new information did you learn by reading the object label (if any)?

After your students' self-guided exploration, have them gather in small groups to discuss their findings. Encourage them to go to the works they selected and lead a discussion with their classmates about what they observed.

Post-Visit Discussion and Activity

Back in the classroom, lead a discussion about your visit. Compare the objects and ideas you experienced in the museum to those that you experienced in the classroom. Have your students revisit the exhibition they created before they visited the museum and ask them to make any changes to their grouping, selected works, or theme. Have your students conduct online research about selected works and have them incorporate this research into a new curatorial statement. Have each of the students create a small presentation about their exhibition, focusing on their theme, object selection, and process.

Resources

For lesson plans, information, and resources, visit Modern Teachers online at www.moma.org/modernteachers