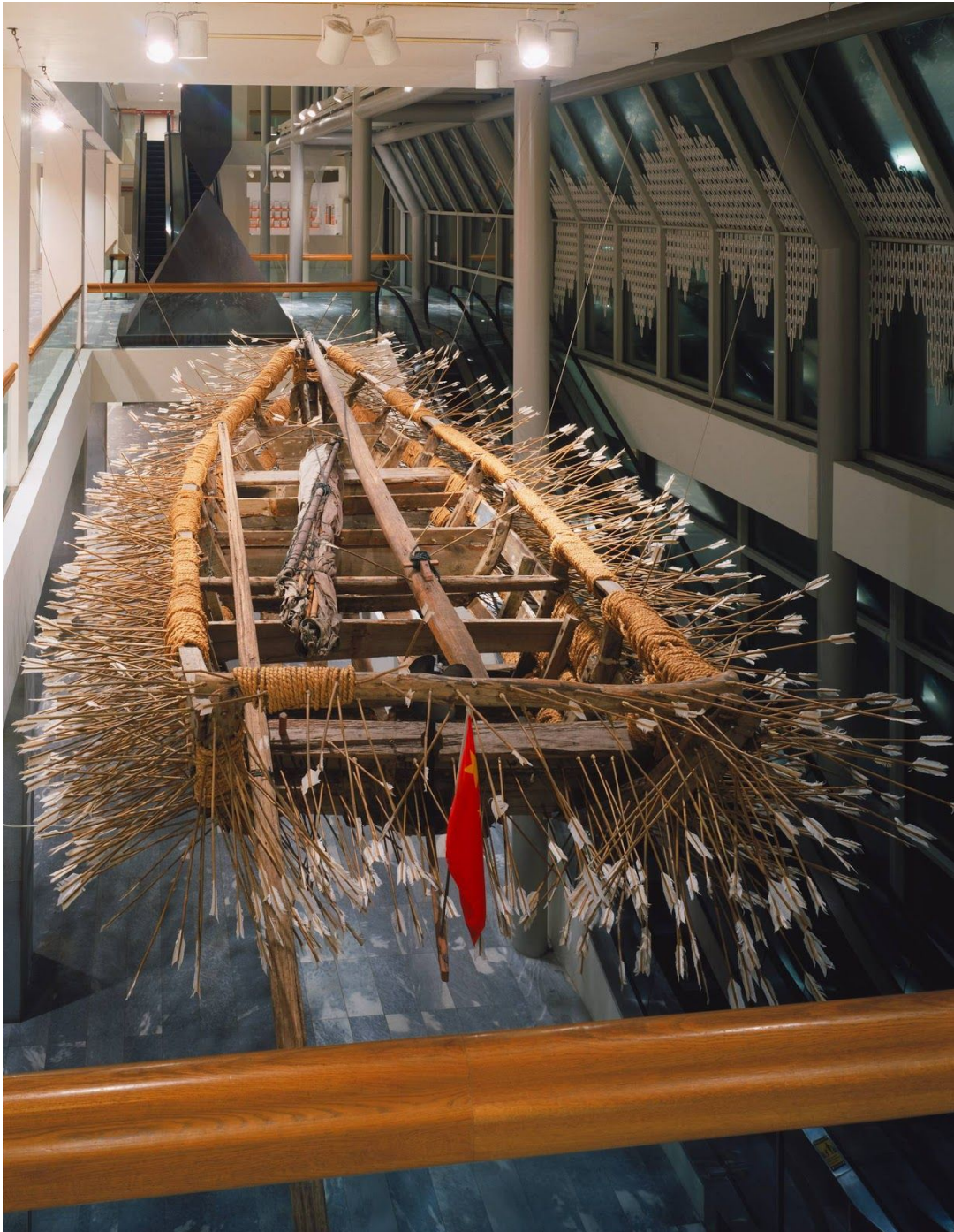


# Mondays with MoMA

## STEP 1 - Look Closely



To see an alternate view, visit this website, then click on the image for a larger view: [www.moma.org/collection/works/81348](http://www.moma.org/collection/works/81348)

*Questions:*

What do you think this sculpture is made of? Make a list of the different objects and materials you see.

Why do you think the artist chose these materials?

### **STEP 2: Learn More**

This sculpture by Cai Guo-Qiang, called *Borrowing Your Enemy's Arrows*, is built on the skeleton of an old fishing boat excavated near Cai's birthplace in China. The sculpture, which is displayed hanging aboveground, is pierced with 3,000 arrows and includes the Chinese national flag.

The title comes from an old story about the general, Zhuge Liang, who was facing an attack from the enemy but did not have enough arrows for battle. Zhuge Liang tricked the enemy by sailing across the Yangtze river through the thick mist of early dawn with soldiers made of straw, while his army remained behind yelling and beating on drums. The enemy mistook the noise and chaos for an attack and shot their supply of arrows into the straw decoys. The general returned triumphantly, having captured the enemy arrows for his own army to use.

Watch this video to see the sculpture being installed at MoMA and to hear the artist talk about the artwork: <https://youtu.be/ZGeLdEdz7Cw>

### **STEP 3: Activity**

Materials: found materials (cardboard, foam, newspapers, toothpicks, egg cartons, etc), scissors, tape or glue, markers or crayons

1. Choose a favorite story; it could be a fairytale, myth, family story, or a favorite book.
2. Think of one image that captures what the story is about (for example, a main character, a special object, or the setting).
3. Create a sculpture that conveys this image and tells the story with the found materials. Use tape or glue to hold it together.
4. Add details with markers or crayons.

#### **STEP 4: Share!**

Show your sculpture to a friend or family and tell them the story that it shows. Or email it to us at MoMA: [schoolprograms@moma.org](mailto: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:** Cai Guo-Qiang. *Borrowing Your Enemy's Arrows*. 1998. Wood boat, canvas sail, arrows, metal, rope, Chinese flag, and electric fan. Gift of Patricia Phelps de Cisneros in honor of Glenn D. Lowry. © 2020 Cai Guo Qiang

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