

# Mondays with MoMA

## STEP 1 - Look Closely



To see an alternate view, visit this website, then click on the image for a larger view: <https://www.moma.org/collection/works/82016>

### *Questions:*

How would you describe this object to someone who has not seen it before?  
What does this object remind you of?

## **STEP 2: Learn More**

Rachel Whiteread was commissioned to create a public sculpture in New York City. She looked throughout the city until she found her desired subject. She admired the water towers perched high above the streets and was drawn to their uniqueness in the cityscape. She said: “One of my first times in America I noticed the water towers on the rooftops of New York City and I enjoyed these objects. I

didn't really know what they were, didn't really know why they were there, but as these weird wooden barrel-like objects that sat on top of many roof tops in very awkward ways...I decided that what I wanted to do was to cast one of these water towers in a clear resin. I wanted to make a jewel on the skyline of Manhattan..." By doing this, Whiteread recreated the form of the water tower and changed its intended use.

### **STEP 3: Activity**

Materials: paper and pen/pencil

1. Look outside for an object you see everyday that you find curious or interesting.
2. Make a sketch or write notes. What is this object used for? Where do you normally see it?
3. How would you alter this object? How would you change the original function? What materials would you use? Where would you place it? Make a sketch or new description of your transformed object.

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

Share your writing or drawing with a classmate or email it to us at MoMA: [schoolprograms@moma.org](mailto:schoolprograms@moma.org).



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**Image:** Rachel Whiteread. *Water Tower*. 1998. Translucent resin and painted steel. Gift of the Freedman Family in memory of Doris C. and Alan J. Freedman. © 2020 Rachel Whiteread

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