

Mondays with MoMA

STEP 1 - Look Closely



To see an alternate view, visit this website, then click on the image for a larger view: [moma.org/collection/works/101902](https://www.moma.org/collection/works/101902)

Questions:

Write a short list of words to describe this sculpture.

What do you think it is made of?

Imagine you can walk around this sculpture. What would it look like from the side or back?

STEP 2: Learn More

Richard Serra often experimented with nontraditional art materials like fiberglass, neon, and rubber. For this sculpture, he used a piece of discarded rubber from a warehouse in New York City. He said: “I wanted to reduce things to pure process and activity. So I wrote down a [list of verbs](#): to lift, to curl, to roll, to bend, to tie, to curve, to inlay, to splash. There are probably over sixty or seventy of them...In this case, the verb was ‘to lift.’ And I found that if I just lifted this piece of vulcanized rubber up from its center, it would free stand...I thought, Isn't this curious? All I've done is followed the action of the verb, lifted the thing up, and I have what I consider to be a sculptural form.”

STEP 3: Activity

Materials: any type of paper (scissors optional)

1. Make a list of action words. Choose three or four of your favorites.
2. Tear or cut your paper into three or four strips, depending on how many words you chose.
3. Assign one of your words to each strip of paper. Manipulate or transform the paper to reflect your chosen words.

STEP 4: Share!

Share your list of verbs with a classmate, and show how you represented those words with paper. Or, you can email it to us at MoMA:

schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Richard Serra. *To Lift*. 1967. Vulcanized rubber. Gift of the artist. © 2020 Richard Serra / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

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