

Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1 Look closely

What shapes do you see?
What do the shapes remind you of?
How did the artist repeat and arrange one shape to create a new image?

Step 2 Learn More

Willie Cole uses everyday objects to create prints like this one, which was made by repeating the shape and pattern of the bottom of a household iron into a bud-like arrangement. The iron also references Cole's mother and a grandmother who worked as housekeepers and would regularly ask him to repair their broken irons. Cole combines elements from his African-American heritage with consumer culture. He began using the steam iron as a domestic and artistic symbol, assembling irons into forms reminiscent of tribal art..

Cole has also reimagined other everyday objects like high-heeled shoes, plastic water bottles, hair dryers and bicycle parts in his work. The artist once said he was inspired after watching his son playing with his Transformer toys. Click [here](#) to see examples of how Willie Cole uses everyday objects in his art.

Step 3 Transform an everyday object!

Materials: pencil, paper, an everyday object, crayons or colored pencils (optional)

1. Choose an everyday object that is important to you, (for example: a phone, a favorite toy, or a kitchen utensil)
2. Trace that object onto a piece of paper and see what shape the outline creates.
3. Imagine how this shape can be repeated, layered, and arranged to create a new design. Keep tracing that object as many times as you need to create this image.
4. Optional: use colored pencils or crayons to add color.

STEP 4 Share

Share your artwork with a classmate or email it to us at MoMA:

schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image Willie Cole. *Pressed Iron Bud*. 2005. Lithograph. Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM. Edition 20. © 2020 Willie Cole