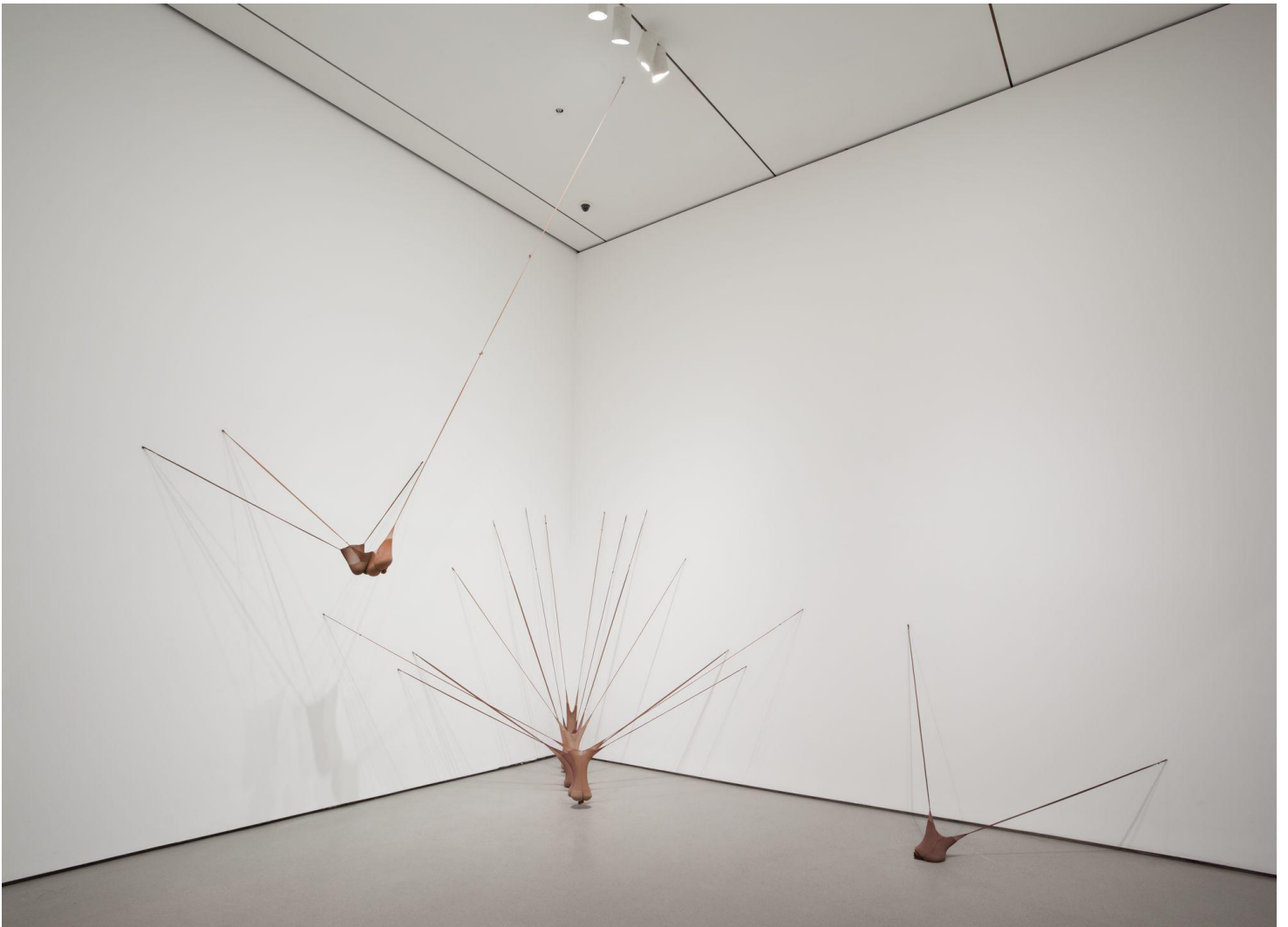


Mondays with MoMA



MoMA



Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. Find three words to describe this [installation](#).
2. What forms and shapes do you notice in this installation? What do they remind you of?
3. What do you notice about how the artist used space, weight, and tension with the materials?

Step 2 Learn more

Senga Nengudi's *R.S.V.P. I* is a sculptural environment composed of two ordinary materials: pantyhose and sand. Ten pairs of used pantyhose are tacked onto and stretched between two walls in the corner of a room. Nengudi created *R.S.V.P. I* in part as a response to the changes her body had undergone during pregnancy and with aging. Some of the pantyhose Nengudi used were "infused with the energy of the women that wore them" and somehow embody the spirits of those women: "I very much liked the idea of used pantyhose. Because when a woman wears pantyhose, she's usually under extreme stress."

In the title, the *RSVP* (a commonly used French acronym for "please respond") implies that the objects were meant to be interacted with, not just observed passively. During an exhibition in 1977, she staged performances in which she probed and manipulated the sculptures.

Step 3 Activity: Movement inspired by clothing

Materials: Everyday article of clothing; pencil and paper (optional)

1. Think of an article of clothing that you wear that brings up a strong feeling. What are the associations you have with this item?
2. Consider how you move in this piece of clothing. What kind of movements do you make? Are the movements casual or formal?
3. Create a short movement pattern that embodies the associations, feelings, and actions that you connect with the item.
4. Optional: You can also choose to make a drawing including the forms, gestures, and feelings associated with this article of clothing.

Step 4 Share!

Perform your movements for a friend or family member. Or you can email a video or photo to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Senga Nengudi. *R.S.V.P. I*. 1977/2003. Pantyhose and sand, 10 pieces. Committee on Painting and Sculpture Funds, and The Friends of Education of The Museum of Modern Art; Installation view of the exhibition, *Contemporary Galleries: 1980–Now*. November 16, 2011–February 09, 2014. Digital Image © 2011 The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Photo: Jonathan Muzikar