

Learn with MoMA



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Step 1 Look closely

1. What do you notice about the flag's colors and how they are arranged?
2. How is this flag similar to and different from other flags you have seen?
3. What do the colors of the flag mean to you?
4. Where have you seen this flag before?

Step 2 Learn more

The Rainbow Flag was first unfurled at the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade on June 25, 1978. The flag's designer Gilbert Baker and thirty volunteers hand-dyed and stitched rainbow flags for the parade. The contemporary, mass-produced version of the flag in MoMA's collection celebrates the accessibility and worldwide adoption of this humble masterpiece of design.

Baker admired the universality of the rainbow, which he called a "natural flag in the sky." Since its inception, Baker's flag has undergone numerous revisions, but all variations maintain the rainbow scheme. Today the flag is most widely seen with six colored stripes: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for serenity, and violet for spirit. The flag continues to be a powerful symbol of acceptance, community, diversity, and, above all, love.

Step 3 Activity: Create a flag to celebrate acceptance, community, diversity, or love

Materials: paper and coloring materials of your choice.

1. Think about colors, objects, and symbols that to you represent acceptance, community, diversity, or love.
2. Consider how you will arrange the colors, objects, and symbols to create a powerful design.
3. Draw your flag design on a piece of paper with crayons, markers, colored pencils, or any coloring material.
4. Attach a stick if you would like a handle for your flag.

Step 4 Share!

Hang your flag in a place where people will see it and celebrate acceptance, community, diversity, and love. You can also email a photo of your flag to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: The Rainbow Flag waving in the wind at San Francisco's Castro District. Phot: Benson Kua. Image used through Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic