

Learn with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1

Look closely

1. What do you notice about the main figure in the image?
2. What do you notice about the figure in relation to its setting?
3. Compare and contrast this image with [this photo](#) of Columbus Circle.

Step 2

Learn

“If we want an equitable future, we need to have our collective memory include the stories of Black and Brown folks who have been purposely erased from the canon of American history,” says Idris Brewster, Executive Director of the Kinfolk Foundation. Kinfolk grew out of a collective of artists and activists who worked to challenge the Eurocentric version of history upheld by public monuments in New York City. The group protested for the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue at Columbus Circle. Despite their efforts, the statue not only remained in place but also was designated a landmark in 2018.

Frustrated with the slow process of effecting change in physical space, Kinfolk turned to the digital realm. Using immersive technologies like augmented reality, they developed an app that superimposes virtual monuments over specific locations throughout the city. The app makes the untold histories of Black and Brown communities widely accessible, allowing users to bring overlooked figures in front of them and to interact with them.

This collage shows an augmented reality image of Toussaint L’Ouverture superimposed onto Columbus Circle where the statue of Christopher Columbus stands. L’Ouverture was a general and leader of the Haitian Revolution, an insurrection led by enslaved people against French colonial rule that led to the creation of the Haitian state.

Step 3

Look again

1. How are the creators of this project challenging the dominant narrative of history?
2. Why do you think the creators of this project chose to use augmented reality to retell the story?
3. What is the role of technology in shaping social and civic life? What are other ways that you might use technology to challenge dominant narratives?

Step 4

Activity: Envision your own monument

Materials: a map of your city and/or neighborhood

1. Take a walk around your neighborhood. Make a list of all the monuments that you see (monuments could be buildings, statues, plaques, etc).
2. Consider who these monuments are honoring.
 - a. Are you familiar with these people and their contributions? Have you learned about them in school or at home?
 - b. What are the contributions of the people the monuments are named after?
 - c. Were/are these people part of a community in your neighborhood?
 - d. Do you think these people reflect the community? Explain your answer.
3. Consider alternate monuments.
 - a. Whom would your monument honor?
 - b. Why did you choose this person/people? What have their contributions been to the neighborhood and its communities?
 - c. How does your monument help to fill a gap or reframe the story of your neighborhood?
4. Draw, collage, or create a digital image of your new monument on a map of your neighborhood.

Step 5

Learn more

Download the [Kinfolk app](#).



Bring artwork featured in the Museum of Modern Art to your classroom and/or living rooms. Access the curriculum: [New York, New Publics–It Takes a Village to Raise Good Algorithms](#). In this unit, students will use the Kinfolk app to experience the following histories in augmented reality:

1. David Ruggles
2. Seneca Village
3. The Young Lords

Join us on Instagram [@kinfolktech](#) and [@kinfolk_edu](#).

Share your own lessons with us at kinfolk_edu@shakers.tech.

Step 6

Share!

Share your new monument with a classmate and tell them why you chose this monument. You can also share your monument with us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org and/or the team at Kinfolk: kinfolk_edu@shakers.tech.



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Image: Kinfolk. The Monument Project. 2022. Proposal for augmented reality monument in honor of General Toussaint Louverture on Columbus Circle. Courtesy Kinfolk