

## Exploring Symmetry and Making Your Own Painting

This lesson will guide you in painting a symmetrical composition inspired by David Slater's *Monkey Selfie*.

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Difficulty level:** Easy

**Messy level:** Moderate



### Investigate the Work of Art!

1. What do you see when you look at this photograph?
2. Imagine drawing a line down the center of this photograph. Is the face of this animal the same or different on each side of the line? Is it symmetrical or asymmetrical?
3. When does your family take selfies? Who do you think is taking the selfie in this photograph?

To view a hi-res image of the work, visit the [MFAH Collection online database](#).

### Let's Make Some Art!

*Gather These Art Materials*

- Paint (acrylic, tempera, or finger paint)
- Cup for water
- Paintbrush
- White cardstock or drawing paper (any size works)
- Markers



### Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Find a clear spot at home where you can make art and get a little messy. You may want to lay down old newspapers or a tarp.
2. Fold your paper in half and open it back up.
3. Dampen your paintbrush, dip it in paint, and then create a simple shape on the right half of your paper.
4. Fold the paper in half again, pressing the two sides together. When you open the paper, your shape will now appear on both the right and left sides.
5. Clean your brush, dip it in a different color of paint, and create another simple shape on the right half of your paper.
6. Press the two sides together and open it back up. Your shape will now appear on the right and left sides.
7. Continue this process until you are happy with the design.
8. Once the paint is dry, you can take it a step further by using markers to draw onto your painted surface.

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David Slater, *Monkey Selfie* (detail), 2011, printed 2018, inkjet print, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase funded by James Edward Maloney, Joan Morgenstern, and Clinton T. Willour in honor of the monkey, 2018.45.