Trockel has created many monochrome “paintings” made from wool, both hand- and machine-knit. The Third Floor is devoted to her works made with wool, often considered her signature material. Since the late 1990s, Trockel has worked with clay to make ceramic sculptures. On the Fourth Floor, Trockel pairs sculptures that explore ideas of copying and organic growth. Replace Me is Trockel’s most monumental artwork to date with a length of fourteen feet. A single couch served as the mold, and was remade twice in matte ceramic. Replace Me is a remake of a similar sculpture called Copy Me (2010). Ceramic objects are the most common artifacts found at archaeological sites.

Fun Facts

Replace Me is Trockel’s most monumental artwork to date with a length of fourteen feet. A single couch served as the mold, and was remade twice in matte ceramic. Replace Me is a remake of a similar sculpture called Copy Me (2010). Ceramic objects are the most common artifacts found at archaeological sites.

Questions to think about

What is wool normally used for?
What do you notice is similar or different between the knit paintings and sculptures in this room?

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Sky, 2012

Questions to think about

What is wool normally used for?
How does the the color of this piece relate to its title?
What do you notice is similar or different between the knit paintings and sculptures in this room?

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This family guide explores “Rosemarie Trockel: A Cosmos,” an exhibition that presents Trockel's artwork from the past thirty years alongside objects that have interested her during her artistic career. Use this guide to examine a few works closely and investigate some big ideas relating to the exhibition.

Since the early 1970s, Rosemarie Trockel has produced a diverse body of work that brings together ideas from art history, philosophy, theology, and the natural sciences. Trockel explores connections between humans and animals and their impact on the natural world. The New Museum's Second Floor presents Trockel's artwork with objects created by artists she calls "kindred spirits."

Inspired by “Rosemarie Trockel: A Cosmos,” discover connections between everyday objects. Look at the images below. How do they relate? Draw lines connecting the images, showing the different ways they are similar or different. At home: Explain the differences or similarities of the images below.

Why would you take a picture of a bird? What kind of bird would you take a picture of? What does it look like? What do you use to take pictures? What do you think a professional artist uses?

Rosemarie Trockel was born in 1952 in Schwerte, Germany, and studied anthropology, sociology, theology, and mathematics in college. Trockel’s first solo show was in 1983 in Cologne, Germany. With Monica Sprüth she created an arts magazine, Eau de Cologne, that only featured artworks by female artists. “Rosemarie Trockel: A Cosmos” is Trockel's first major exhibition in North America since the 1990s. Trockel once said "every animal is a female artist."

This image was taken on the artist's iPhone. The Go-away-bird is a real animal that can be found in Southern Africa. The bird got its playful name from its call which sounds like someone saying “go away.” The photograph is of a stuffed bird that Trockel keeps in her studio.

Questions to think about:
1. Why would you take a picture of a bird?
2. What kind of bird would you take a picture of? What does it look like?
3. What do you use to take pictures? What do you think a professional artist uses?

Artworks:
Rosemarie Trockel:
Go Away Bird, 2011. Digital print on cardboard, 35 x 24 5/8 x 1/2 in (89 x 62.5 x 2 cm). Private collection.
