

William Kentridge

I AM NOT ME

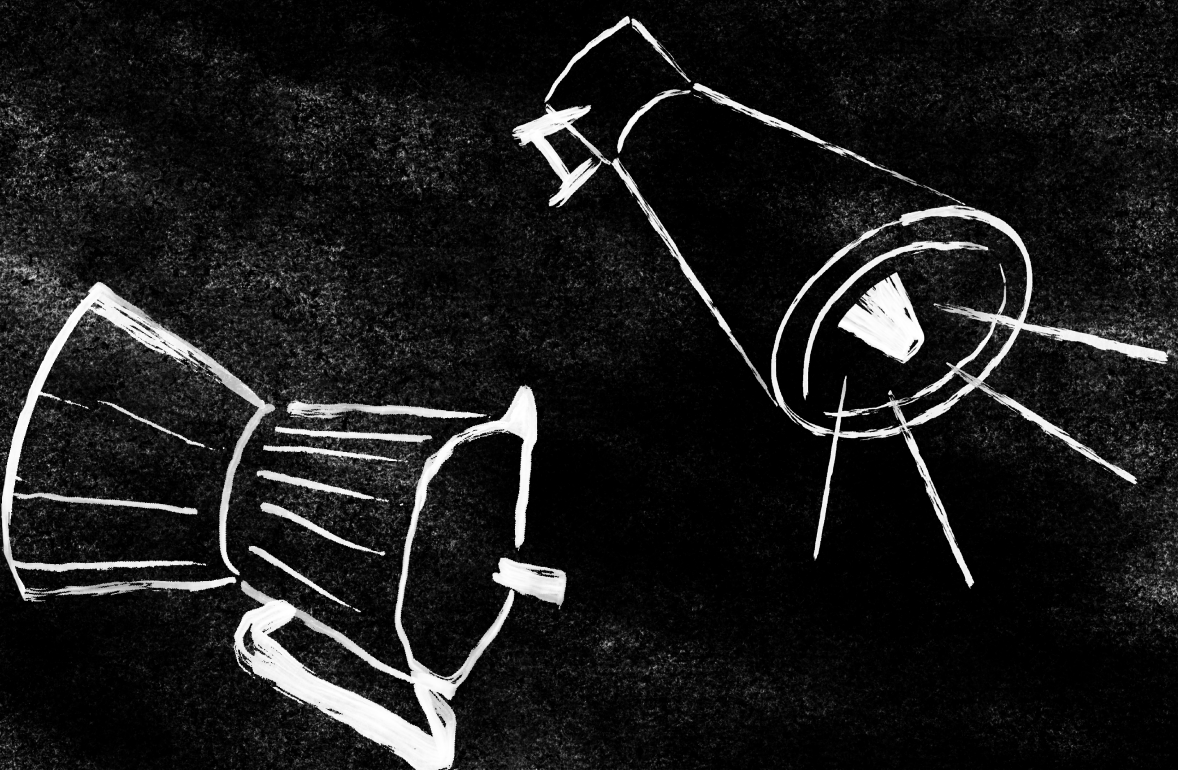
THE HORSE

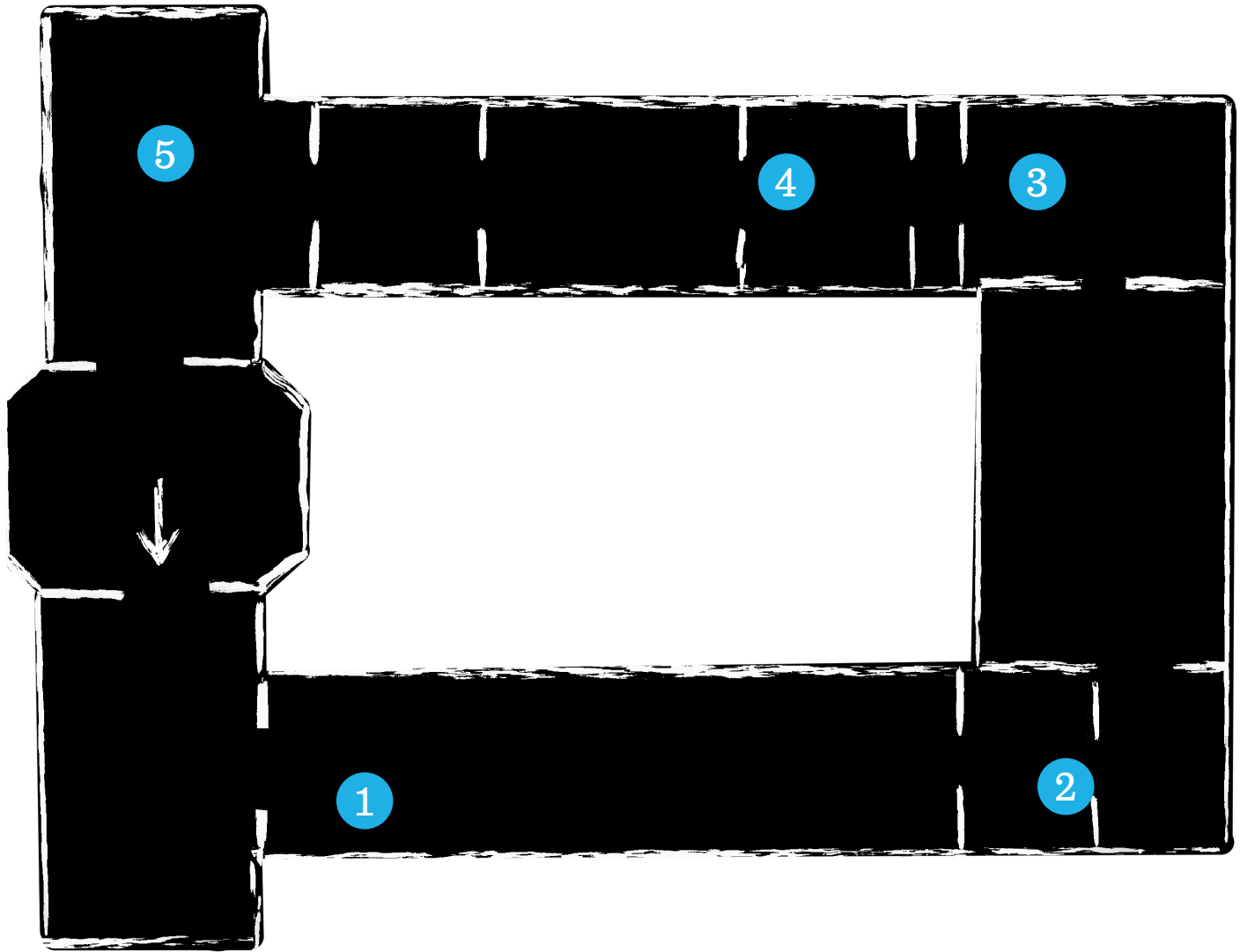
IS NOT MINE

Kids Guide



Bozar





*Sometimes the rooms are dark because a film is being shown.
You may also hear music or other sounds.*

Things you can do



Things you can't do



THERE'S NEVER JUST ONE THOUGHT

There are lots of them, and they come from all directions. At a certain point, it gets so busy in my brain that they collide. And that creates a spark!

I'm William Kentridge, a South African artist who creates drawings, paintings, collages, animations, installations, theatre, films and operas. And I love drinking coffee. My head is bursting with ideas!

In this exhibition – *I am not me, the horse is not mine* – I'll show you how a spark develops into an artwork.

Use this newspaper to discover my work by looking, thinking, talking and doing.

Are you curious?
Let's go!



This is me
in a white shirt
and black trousers.

THE STUDIO!

Many artists have a studio.

It's a place where they can think and try out new ideas. My studio is very important to me. Even a big theatre production starts there, on a tiny scale.



THE NOSE

Lots of my artworks are absurd. That means something is so strange or unexpected that it makes you laugh or think, 'That's impossible!' Can you see that big nose?

It's from an opera* about a man whose nose runs away!

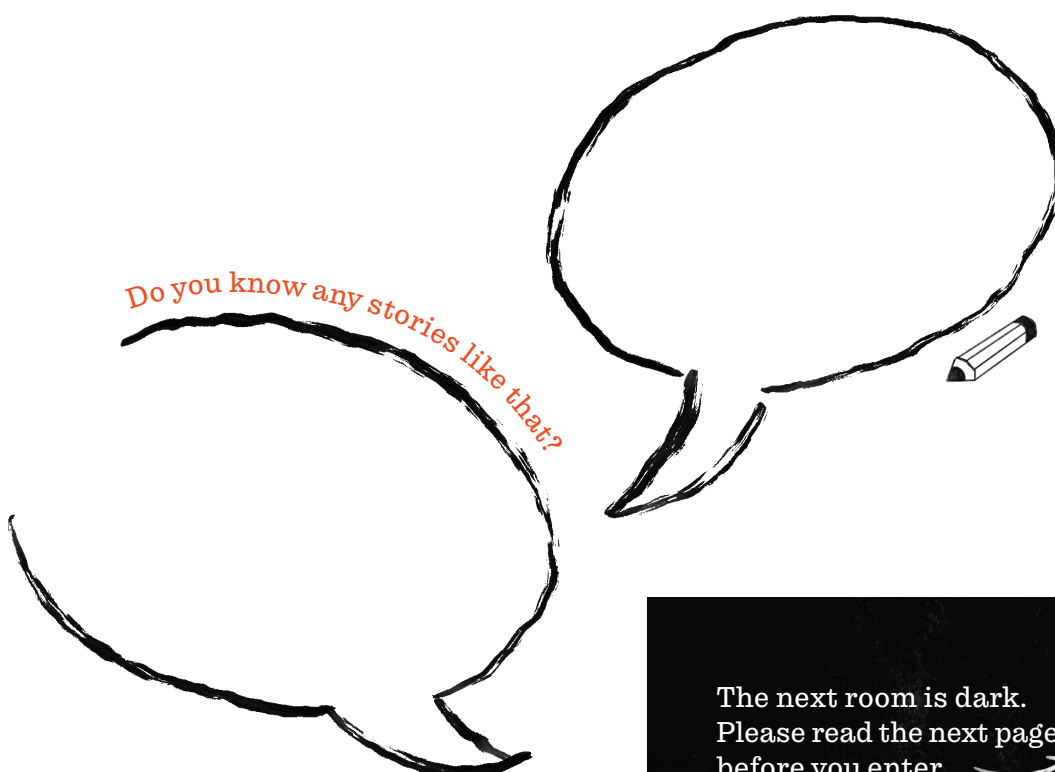
**An opera is a play in which the actors sing instead of speaking, and a large orchestra performs the music.*



1 ACTIVITY

Stand in front of the cabinet with the small figurines. Take a good look at them all. Pick two of the figures. What do they get up to together? What do they say? Write it in the speech bubbles or tell one another!

Do you know any stories like that?



The next room is dark.
Please read the next page
before you enter. →

ABSURD!?

The film on the screen is called:

I AM NOT ME

THE HORSE IS NOT MINE

Just like the exhibition.

What do you think of the title?

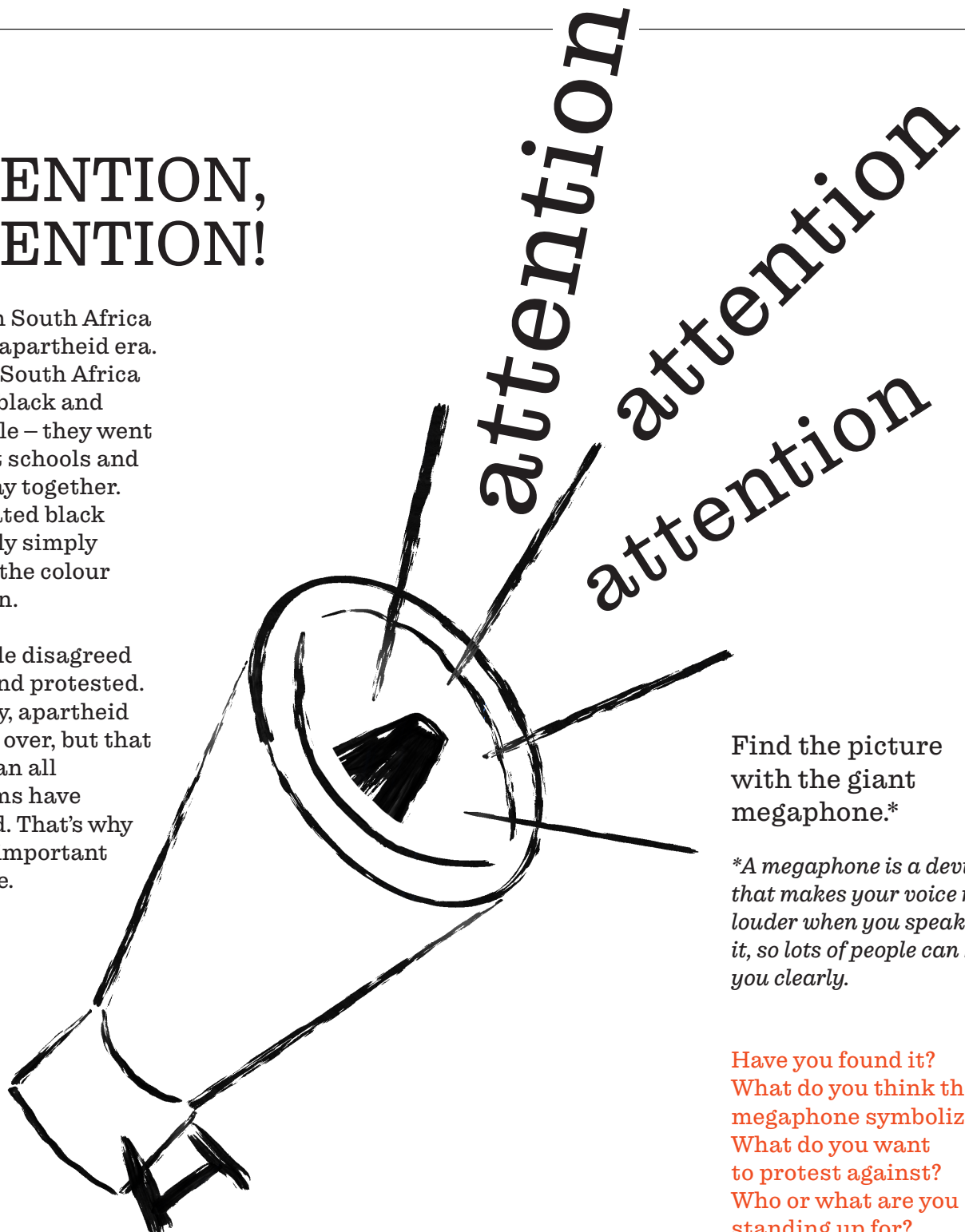
I explore and discuss important issues in an absurd way – history and politics, for example, but also how people live together today. Which absurd images stand out to you in the film?

The film is 6 minutes long. You can watch it to the end, but you don't have to.

ATTENTION, ATTENTION!

I grew up in South Africa during the apartheid era. Back then, South Africa separated black and white people – they went to different schools and couldn't play together. People treated black people badly simply because of the colour of their skin.

Many people disagreed with this and protested. Fortunately, apartheid is officially over, but that doesn't mean all the problems have been solved. That's why it's still an important issue for me.



Find the picture with the giant megaphone.*

*A megaphone is a device that makes your voice much louder when you speak into it, so lots of people can hear you clearly.

Have you found it?
What do you think the megaphone symbolizes?
What do you want to protest against?
Who or what are you standing up for?

OLD PAPER

Do you know the story of the Sibyl? She knew all the answers to questions about the future and wrote them on the leaves of a tree. But the wind blew all the leaves into a jumble, and nobody could work out which answer belonged to which person... In my opera, it's not leaves that flutter through the air, but pages from old books. Those pages give me new ideas!

Do you know that feeling? You smell popcorn and think of the cinema. We call those connections in your mind 'associations'. They take you from one idea to another.

*The film is 10 minutes long.
You can watch it to the end, but you don't have to.*

2 ACTIVITY

Everyone circle a word on this page.

① Draw the first thing that springs to mind when you think of that word.

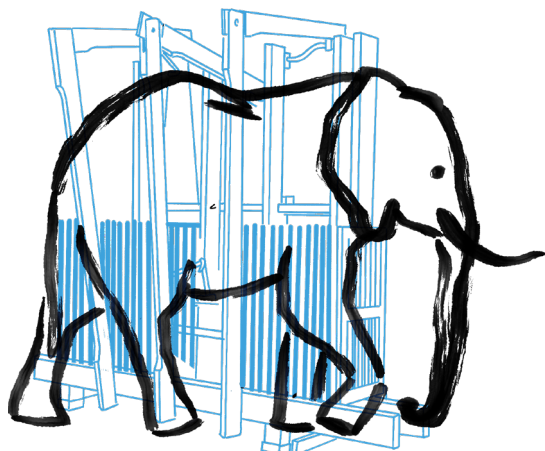
Circle another word. ② Draw another picture. Take a look at all the drawings together – what do they make you think of?

1

2



AN ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM



Do you see this machine?
What does the machine remind you of?

It normally moves up and down, as if it is breathing. It reminds me a bit of an elephant. That's why I sometimes call my breathing machine 'the elephant'.

The film in this room is 30 minutes long. You can watch it to the end, but you don't have to.

FÜMMS BÖ WÖ

My people eventually join me in the studio. I invite other people to help me make the artwork. They're often actors, dancers, musicians or writers, but sometimes scientists or technicians too. Together, we improvise.

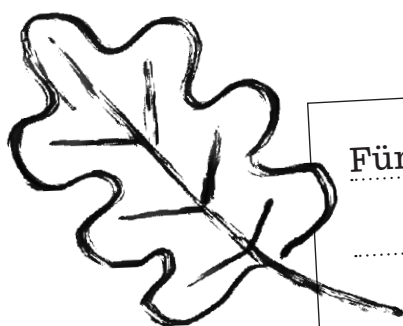
Improvising means coming up with or doing something on the spot, without practising first. You make things up as you go along. In the video, you can see how that works during rehearsals.

3 ACTIVITY

The men in the film recite a poem by the artist Kurt Schwitters. Here's a snippet of the text – have a go at it yourself.

What does your voice sound like when you're sad? Or nervous? Improvise and play around with your voice. Everyone is welcome to join in!

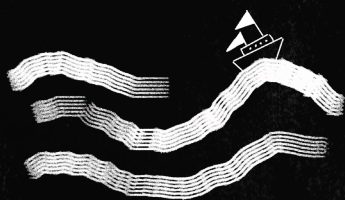
Fancy taking it a step further? Roll up your newspaper and use it as a megaphone to share your sound poem. Don't worry, you're allowed to make some noise!



Fümms bö wö tää zää Uu,
..... pögiff,
..... kwii Ee.
Oooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo,
dll rrrrr beeeee bö,
dll rrrrr beeeee bö fümms bö,
rrrrr beeeee bö fümms bö wö,
beeeee bö fümms bö wö tää,
bö fümms bö wö tää zää,
fümms bö wö tää zää Uu:

TIME TRAVELLERS

During the Second World War, a ship full of artists and writers set sail from France. They searched for a safe place. That story inspired me to create a performance about a new sea voyage. I made my own ship and filled it with famous historical figures. They travel, talk and sing together, although they didn't all live at the same time.



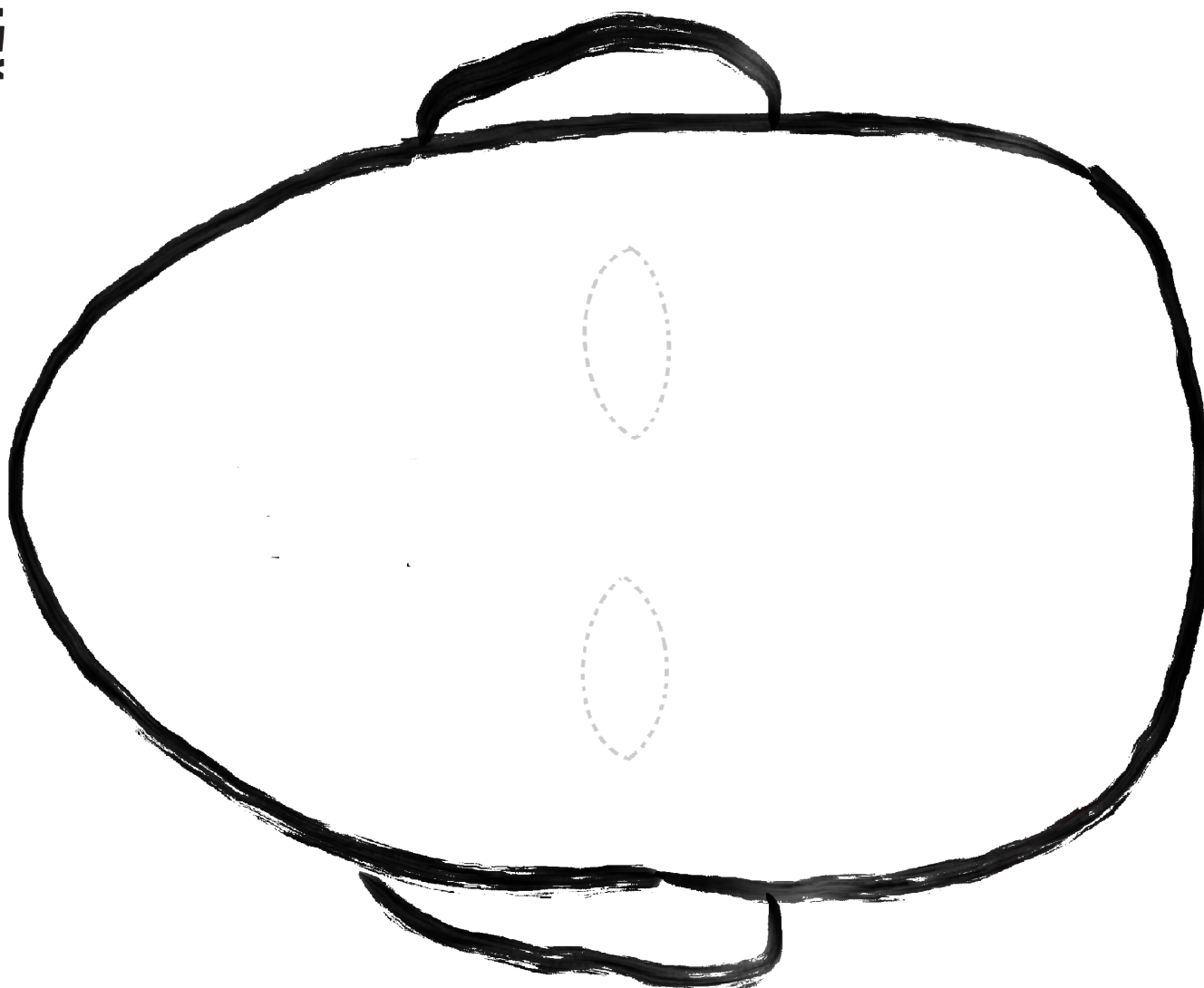
4

ACTIVITY

By wearing masks, the actors transform into characters. Can you see the masks hanging in the room?

Now tear out two eyeholes along the dotted lines in your newspaper. Turn the page over and look through the openings. Jump aboard and meet the other characters!

Who would you take with you on the ship, and why? Draw your character here. Is it you? Or someone else? It can be anyone you like!



BACK IN THE STUDIO!

Drawing is a way of thinking and exploring that involves your whole body. You move your finger joints, your hand, your wrist, your arm and your shoulder. All your muscles help you discover new ideas.

Look for the artwork called *Parcours d'Atelier*. The lines show you the steps that I take in the studio. My footsteps tell a story: where do I stop? Where do I often go?

Can you find the scale model of this exhibition? A scale model is a small version of something big. Study it carefully. You've been to all these rooms! Do you remember everything you saw?

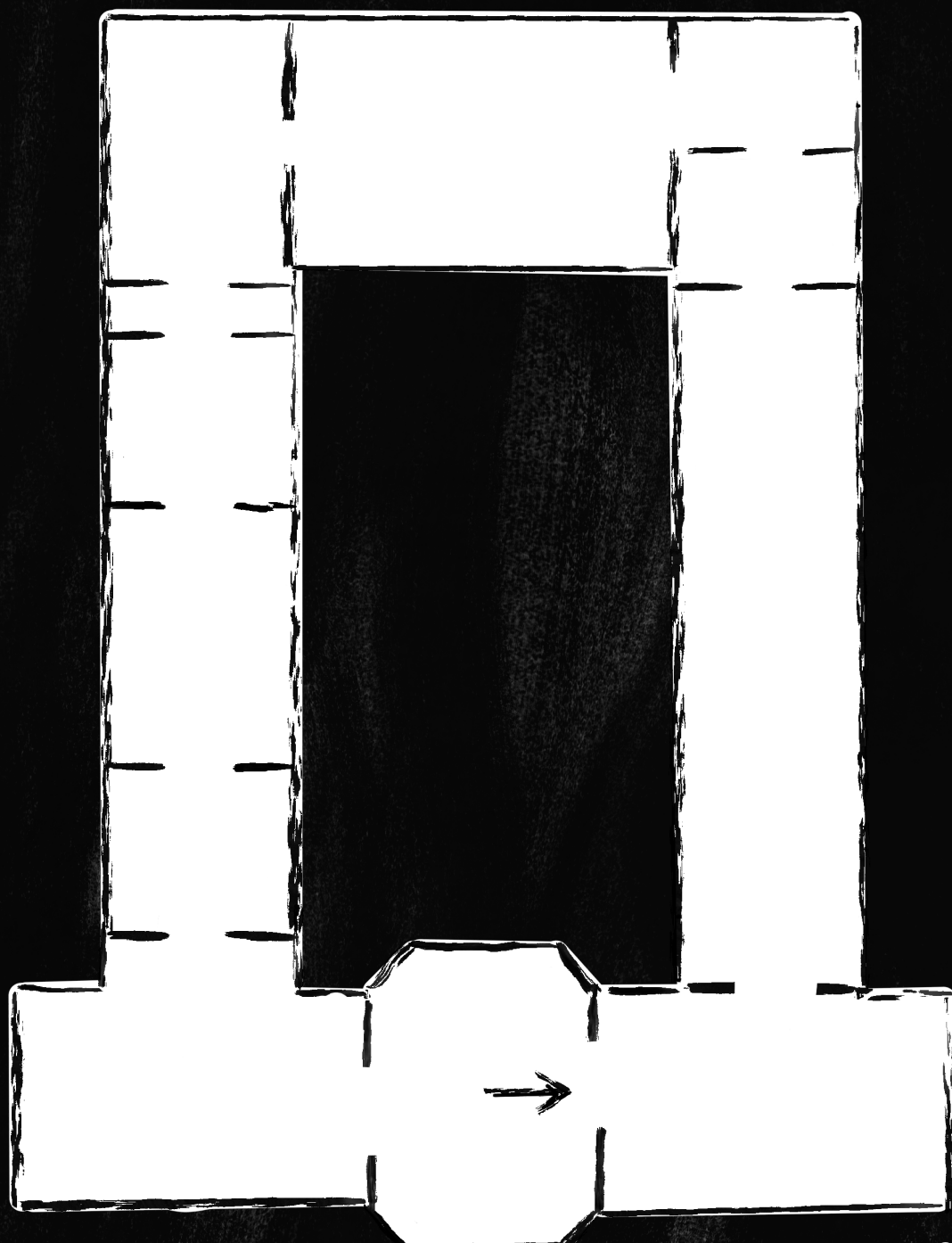
5 ACTIVITY

Do this activity with everyone in your group.

This is the exhibition floor plan. Place it on the ground and sit around it. Everyone take hold of the same pencil and put the point in the first room.

Think carefully: how did you walk through the exhibition? Try to talk as little as possible and draw your route – as a line – without lifting the pencil from the paper!

How does it feel to move and draw together? What does your map tell us?



Thank you for visiting!
It was lovely to meet you.

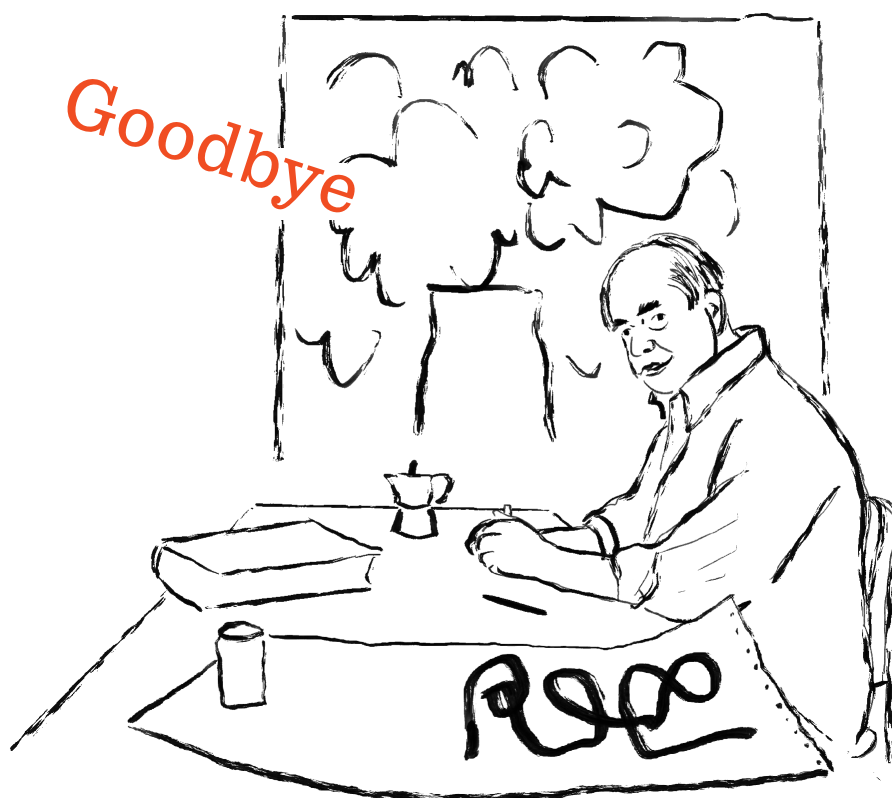
You've seen moving drawings,
strange machines, old stories
and fragments of history.
Perhaps you've discovered that
ideas can grow, and learned
what improvisation means.

Don't forget: keep looking,
ask questions and use your
imagination – then a simple
drawing might just come to life!

All you need is a pencil.
And a spark, of course.

But you don't need me
to tell you that, do you?

Goodbye
Goodbye



6 ACTIVITY

Here's one last activity
that you can do at home:

Tear out the black page and use it to make
your own coffee pot. Glue everything in place,
cut out your artwork and put it in a nice spot.

Fancy being part of an exhibition?
Then share a photo of your coffee pot
on social media using @bozarbrussels



COLOFON

Want to discover even more
fun activities for children?

Take a look at our website:
www.bozar.be



**William Kentridge. I am not
me, the horse is not mine**
18 September 2026 –
7 March 2027
Bozar – Centre for Fine Arts,
Brussels

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Bozar

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