

CHILDREN'S TRAIL



ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

CONTEMPORARY GALLERIES

featuring the John Kaldor Family Gallery

HAVE FUN EXPLORING &
MAKE SOME ART OF YOUR OWN

ART
GALLERY
NSW

Collect
a pencil



Go on a journey
through the
contemporary
galleries



Discover
the artworks

★ **Look, draw and have fun!**

cover: Installation view of the new contemporary galleries featuring works by Sol LeWitt © Estate of Sol LeWitt/ARS. Licensed by Viscopy, Sydney. below: Installation view of the new contemporary galleries featuring Ugo Rondinone's *clockwork for oracles* 2011. © Ugo Rondinone



CONTEMPORARY GALLERIES

featuring the John Kaldor Family Gallery

Discover the art of our time. The Gallery's new floor for contemporary art opened in May 2011. With the inclusion of the Kaldor Collection, the Gallery now holds Australia's most comprehensive representation of contemporary art from the 1960s to the present day.

LOWER LEVEL 2

Developed by the AGNSW Public Programs Department. Text: Victoria Collings
© Art Gallery of New South Wales 2011



CONTEMPORARY ART WITH UBS

★ **Listen** to the sounds made by this large sculpture.

The artist, Callum Morton, has used sound to capture our imagination. What do you think is going on up there? Would you like to drive on this motorway?



Observe all of the details on the motorway structure. Can you spot the graffiti?

Imagine you can see the traffic jam chaos that we can hear. How many cars do you think are involved? What other vehicles might be stuck in the jam?

Draw your own version of the traffic jam.



At home make your own sculpture of a motorway or part of a city, and use some of your toys to create a dramatic traffic jam.



★ **Walk** around this spiralling sculpture.

The artist, Tony Cragg, uses everyday objects to make us see them in new and exciting ways by assembling them into sculptures.

Look closely at the bottles. What colours can you see?

Describe the colours. Are the bottles all the same size? Do you think they have to be placed in a certain order?



What does this sculpture remind you of? **Imagine** this sculpture in a different place. Where would you put it?

Draw the new environment for the sculpture here.

At home assemble your own sculpture out of discarded objects and recycled materials of a particular colour.



★ **Marvel** at the skilled carving on this table.

All of these sea creatures have been hand-carved by the artist, Ricky Swallow. **Look** closely at all the details. How long would it take to make this sculpture? What if the artist made a mistake!



Everything is carefully placed on the table in a style which is like a still-life painting. **Notice** the folds of cloth and the fruit peel dangling. Which part do you like best?

Swallow's father was a fisherman and he made this sculpture to remind him of the things his father caught. **Write** a poem about fishing in the ocean starting each line with the letters of 'seafood'.

S _____

E _____

A _____

F _____

O _____

O _____

D _____

At home set up your own still-life of objects arranged on a table and draw it paying close attention to detail and shading.



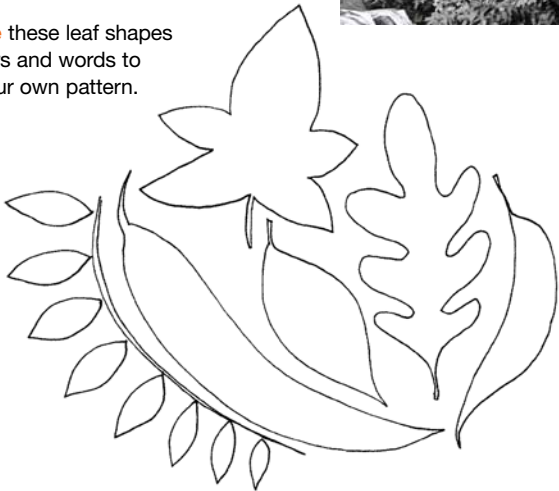
★ **Find** this series of photographs.

What can you spot amongst the plants?

Observe how the artist, Simryn Gill, has deliberately cut, torn and placed pages from books into the forest scenes.

Look closely at the way Gill has matched the paper shapes to the leaves and bark so they become almost invisible. **Move** away from the photographs to see how they blend with the leaves. Would these photographs be as effective in colour?

Decorate these leaf shapes with letters and words to create your own pattern.



At home experiment with cutting leaf shapes out of colourful paper and place them in your garden or a nearby park. Photograph your results and compare them to Gill's black-and-white photographs.



★ **Peer** through the windows of this colourful room.

This work of art is a recreation of a room in John Kaldor's home that the artist, Sol LeWitt, made in 2003. **Notice** the door and window shapes.

Look closely at the patterns that cover the walls. How many colours have been used? Are any of the shapes and patterns repeated? Would you like a bedroom like this?



LeWitt wrote down the ideas for his wall drawings and let other people make the drawings following his instructions. **Find** other examples of his wall drawings in this gallery. Which one is your favourite?

Ask someone to give you instructions for a drawing and draw what they say in this box.



At home devise your own instructions for drawings and ask several people to carry them out. Do the results vary even though they followed the same instructions?



★ **Meet** this lovable pooch.

The artist, Jeff Koons, is interested in everyday objects such as toys and animals which he re-shapes and re-styles into works of art. This cute dog is made of wood and looks very clean and pampered.

Notice the detail of the fur and the shiny eyes – he looks like he could come to life at any moment. What would this dog do if he could leap off his pedestal and explore the Gallery?

Write a story about his adventures and invent a name for him.



At home draw a picture of your own pet or soft toy and focus on the detail of their fur as you sketch.

★ **Walk** around the wrapped trees.



The artist, Christo, is well-known for wrapping things – from objects to buildings and even the coastline of Little Bay in Sydney in 1969.

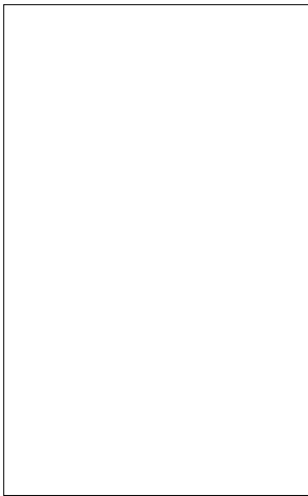
Find the model nearby of how it looked.

Focus on these two trees. Would you have known they were trees without reading the title of the work? Why do you think the wrapping is different for the roots?

The idea of wrapping something makes it more mysterious and we have to guess what is inside.

Find more examples of things wrapped by Christo. What do you think is inside them?

Draw your idea for one of the objects here.



At home find out more about how Christo wrapped Little Bay in 1969 and how many people helped him.



★ **Locate** this series of miners' houses.

These photographs were taken by Bernd and Hilla Becher over a period of 12 years. **Describe** what you can see. How can you tell the houses are not in Australia? Where are they?



The artists were very particular about how they took the photographs. **List** some of the rules they may have had such as

the time of day or year, the camera angle and so forth. Would the series be as effective if they took random photographs?

Extend and draw the garden and surroundings for this house.



At home take photographs of your home from a particular view-point at different times of the day and display them as a series.



★ **Find** this unusual musical instrument.

List all of the things you can recognise on this sculpture. Do you have any of these things in your home?

The artist, Nam June Paik, was one of the first artists to work with television and video as an artform. He made a cello out of these old TVs and perspex boxes which can be played as a musical instrument. Would it be easy to play?

Watch the video playing on the TVs. What is happening? Does the video help you understand the sculpture better?

Draw your own musical instrument here using parts of TVs and other electronic devices.



At home make your own musical instrument out of recycled and found materials and compose and play your own music.



★ **Look** at this large wall painting.

The artist, Richard Long, produced this artwork especially for the Gallery using a technique of mud painting that he has developed over the years. Have you ever done mud or finger painting and enjoyed the feeling of mud or paint squelching in your hand?



Stand back and look at the whole wall. Now get up close and look at the detail. Can you see the finger marks, drips and swirls? How do you think gravity has played a part in this creation?

Role-play how the artist would have moved his body, arms and fingers to create this mud painting.

Long is very interested in nature and landscape and uses mud, rocks, slate and other features of the natural environment in his art making. **Find** more of his works of art in this gallery.

At home make your own finger painting. Experiment by painting flat on the table or upright to let the paint drip. Which technique produces the most exciting result?

