

# Family Activity

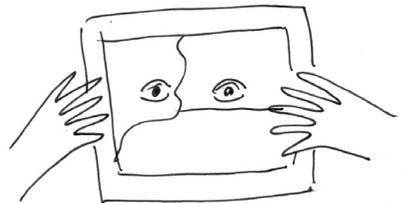
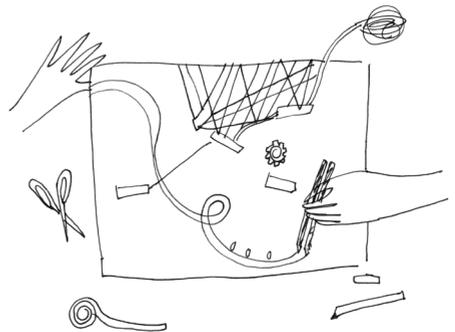
## Building as Body

These activities are all about our bodies' connections to buildings, designed by artist Amy Leung.

Each suggestion will focus on a different system, organ or function of the body/ building; encouraging you to explore the space and play with materials. This resource references Camden Art Centre and the materials available with this resource, but the activities could be applied to any building. Each activity signposts places for making: if the Drawing Studio is available feel free to use the space, and you are welcome to make and play outdoors.

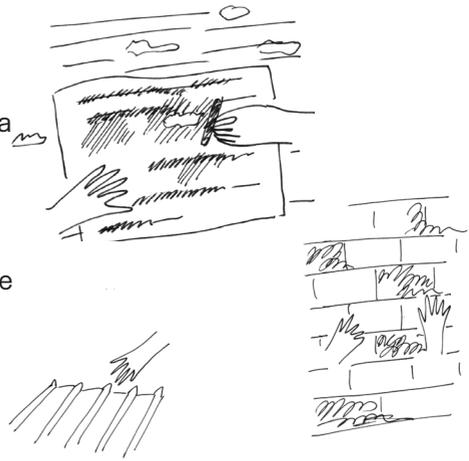
We ask you not to take any materials into the galleries. Thank you.

This resource is the culmination of Building as Body, a Family Takeover project by Amy Leung, hosted at Camden Art Centre between January - March 2022.



# 1. Skin

Our skin is our bodies' largest organ. As a barrier to inside and outside worlds, the walls of a building are a bit similar. They can feel hot or cold, rough or smooth. Rub your hands together so they feel warm. Place your hands on a wall outside or in a communal space (avoiding the gallery walls) - can you feel the heat transfer? Are there any parts of the building that are warmer or cooler than you?



1. Skin

## RUBBINGS AND CASTINGS

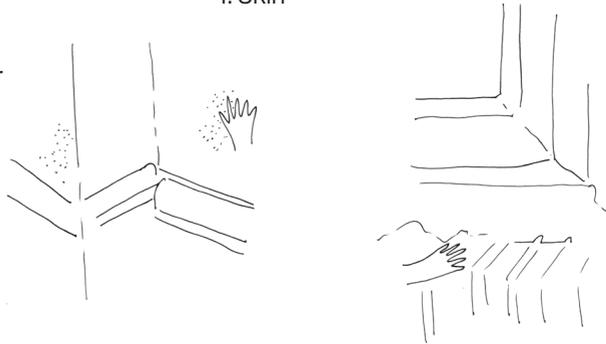
Just like our skin, the impressions and textures of a building vary and age over time. Explore the building (avoiding the galleries) and see if you can find a surface that is:

bumpy

made up of lines and grooves  
made up of bricks

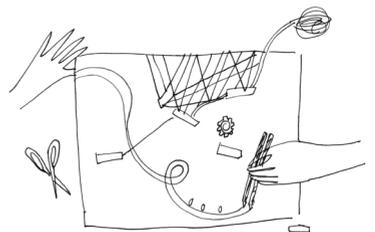
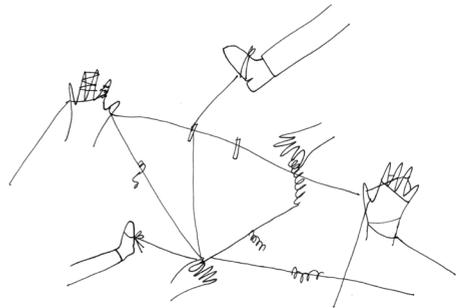
patterned

includes a corner



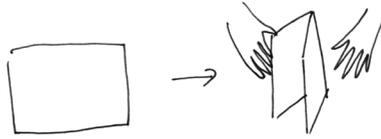
2. Networks and Systems

For interesting textures outside, place your paper on top of the surface and use your wax crayon to create a rubbing. For indoor surfaces, you could also use some tin foil to create impressions. Smooth your hand over the surface and see what details it picks up! What other impressions can you make onto your tin foil surface? There is a staircase in the front of Camden Art Centre that doesn't lead anywhere. It is full of interesting textures, see if you can create a tin foil casting of some of them!



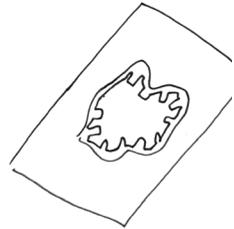
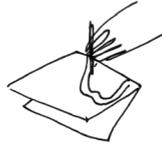
## 2. Networks and Systems

Our bodies' systems send substances, signals and messages, similar to the networks that connect across a building. Can you guess what the electrical system in Camden Art Centre looks like? Where would you find the plumbing system?



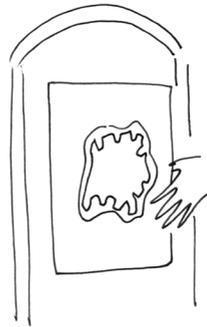
### MAKING CONNECTIONS

As these systems are mainly invisible, let's make some imagined ones that we can see! Using materials like pipecleaners, tape and string, make temporary connections between your hands, different body parts or even each other. It could be a simple system or a complex web using lots of materials. You could also draw and create a completely new network using the drawing materials in the box.



## 3. Mouth and Teeth

How many doors are there in the building? Have a look around Camden Art Centre. Our mouths and doors act as boundaries between inside and outside spaces. How many different expressions can you make with your mouth? What shapes can you create?



3. Mouth and Teeth

### CHATTERING MOUTHS

Using your sheet of paper or card, create your own mouth sculpture:

1. Fold your piece of paper / card in 2.
2. Decide on your expression and draw your mouth across the fold. Feel free to add teeth and colour it in.
3. Carefully cut out the inside space of your mouth. Ask your adult if you need help.
4. Explore the space with your mouth frame - what can it eat or where can it be a portal to?



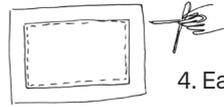
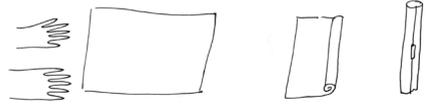
5. If you would like to, you could continue drawing, cutting and sticking to create a character around your mouth sculpture.

## 4. Ears and Eyes

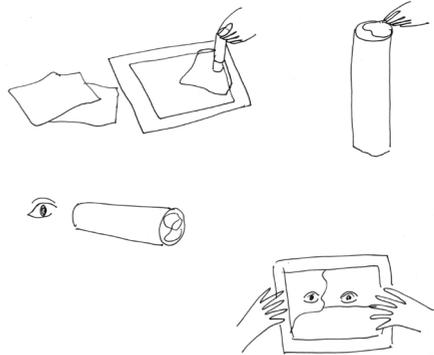
The Roman translation for windows is 'wind eye' and Camden Art Centre has lots of windows letting light and wind in at different times of the day.

### EXPLORING SPACES

You could also make a looking device by rolling a sheet or cutting out shapes to create a frame. Choose colourful acetate for your viewfinder and stick with masking tape. Your colours could overlap creating mixtures. Look through and frame your favourite view of the building and the art inside it. Has it changed how the gallery looks and feels?



4. Ears and Eyes



## 5. Bones

What can you feel in your bones? The bones of a building are often hidden within its walls. Can you find a ghostly footprint of the foundations of terraced houses that used to stand in the garden? Look carefully under the café tables outside, what do you think the tiles and brickwork mark?

### STRUCTURES

Build your own small structures with tin foil, wooden sticks, paper straws, pipe cleaners and tape. Experiment with making the materials stand up and test out how they balance against each other. If it's sunny why not try the activity outside, using the garden to create site specific structures, just remember to remove any of your temporary installations and return unused materials to the resource box before you head home.

5. Bones

