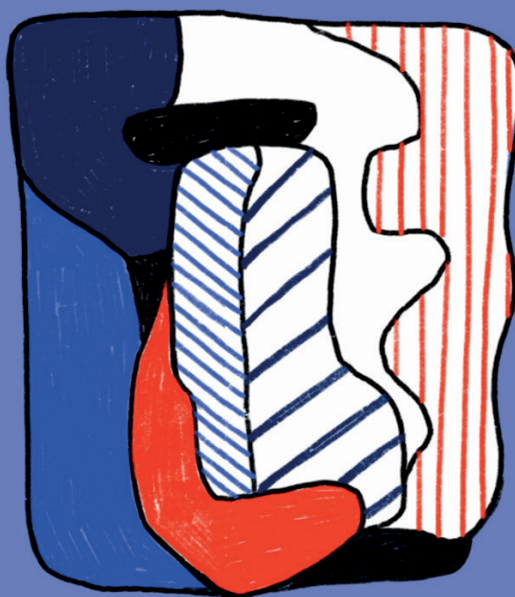
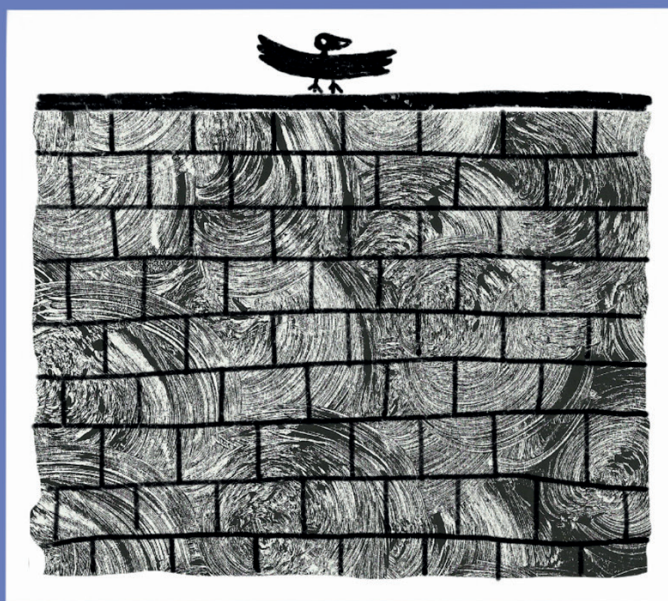


barbican

Jean Dubuffet: Brutal Beauty

2021

Activity Sheet



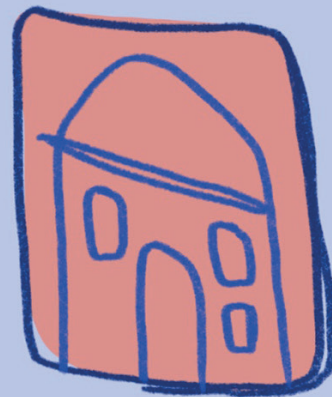
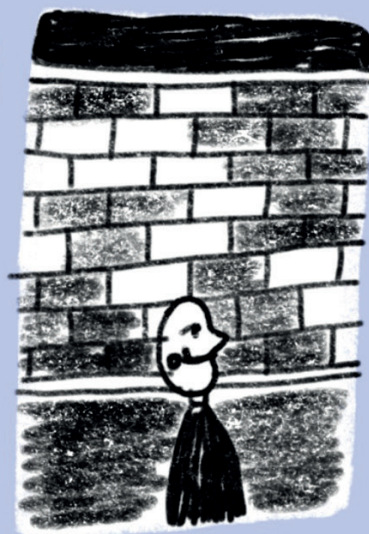
INTRODUCTION

Jean Dubuffet was a French artist who lived from 1901–1985. He liked to experiment with art, so in this exhibition you'll see lots of different styles and materials – he even put mud in his paint sometimes!

Dubuffet also questioned what art can be and who can make it – for example, he often preferred art made by children to that made by formally trained artists.



Each activity has a number.
Make sure to follow these from **1-6**
because there's only one way around
the exhibition and you don't want to
miss anything!



Check the back page to learn who the artists are whose work features in this activity sheet.

1 TRUE FACE

In 1945, Dubuffet began to make pictures of his friends, all from memory. He'd stare at his friends for a really long time – sometimes hours – and then go to his studio and draw or paint their portraits from memory.

Now it's your turn! Ask someone you're with if you can draw them.

Look at them closely for 10 seconds, then look away and try to draw their portrait below.

How does your portrait compare to their face?



'Art addresses the mind, not the eyes.' - Dubuffet

2 ART BRUT

Art Brut literally means 'raw art' in French. Dubuffet came up with this term for people who hadn't been to art school but made incredibly powerful artwork. They included children, tattoo and graffiti artists, and patients of mental health hospitals. Dubuffet visited and wrote letters to some of these people and collected many of their artworks.

Fleury-Joseph Crépin (1875–1948) was an artist whose work Dubuffet collected. Crépin made dreamlike images of temples that spirits had guided him to make.

Using the power of symmetry, can you complete this dreamlike temple?

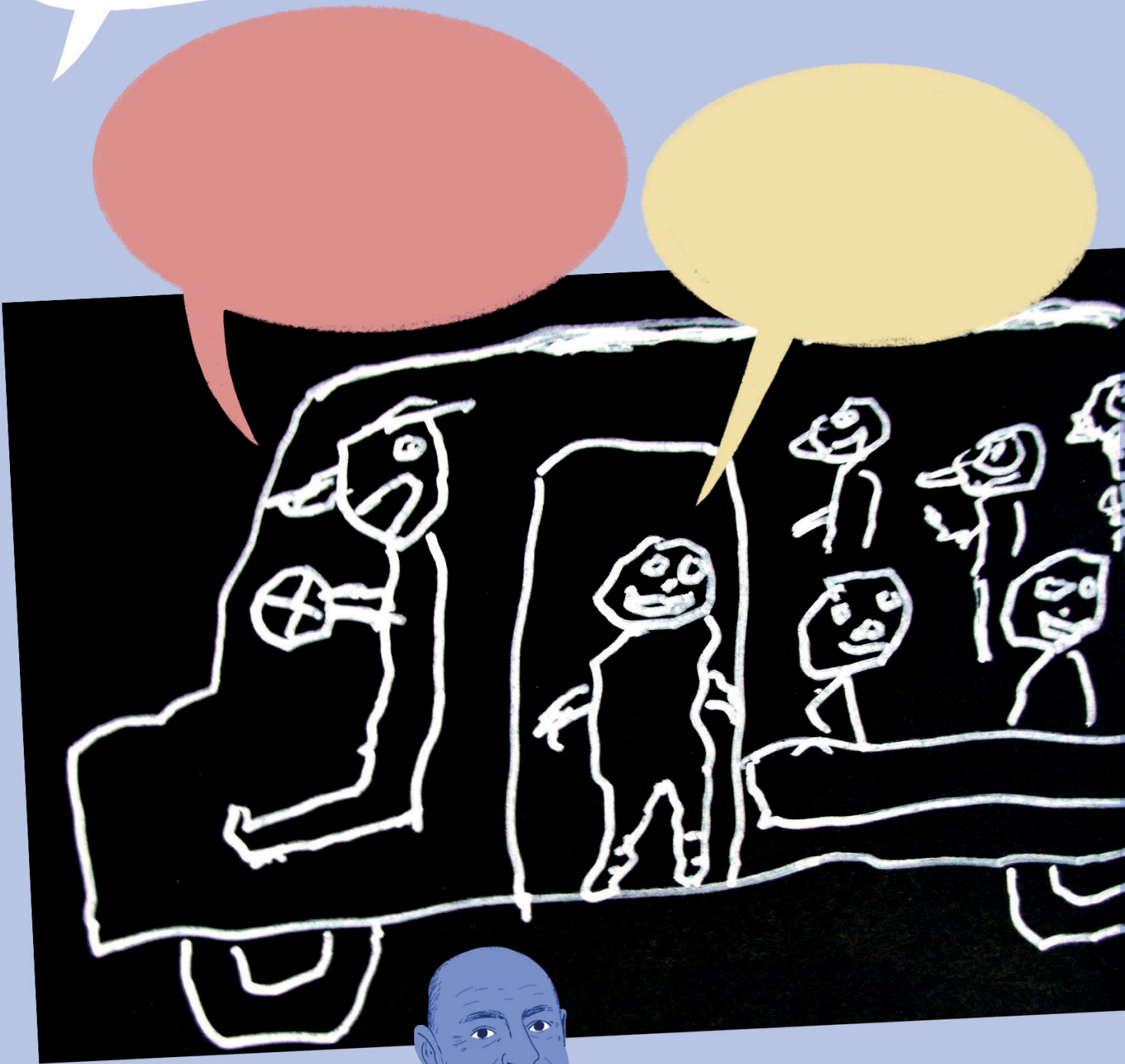
Symmetry is when one side of something is a mirror-image of the other side.



3 PARIS CIRCUS

In 1961, Dubuffet set about capturing Paris's bustling street life in his paintings. Focus on two characters in one of the paintings you see. What do you think they are doing or thinking?

Use the speech bubbles to give the characters on the bus a voice. What are they saying?



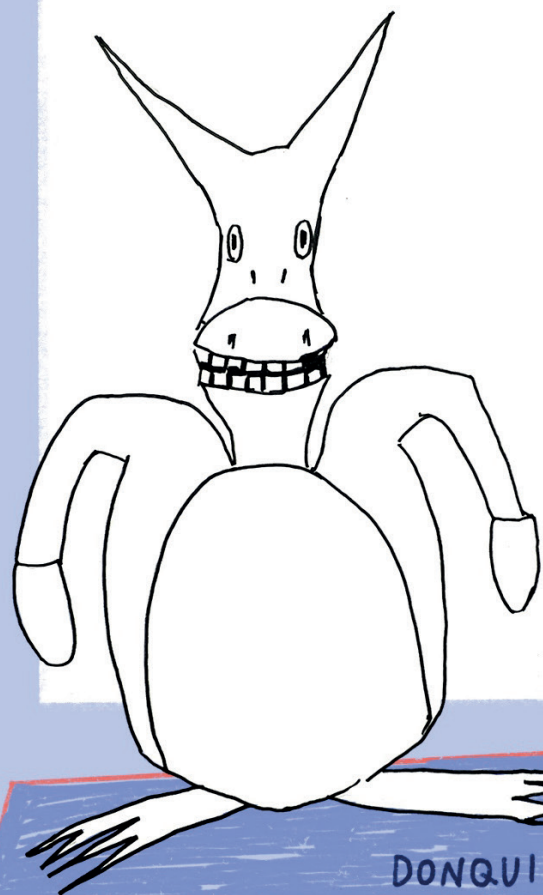
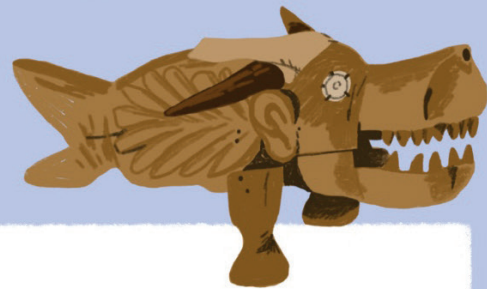
'I want my street to be crazy.' - Dubuffet

4 THE COLLECTION RETURNS

Auguste Forestier (1887–1958) was a Frenchman who lived most of his life in a mental health hospital. He built a workshop there and loved to carve sculptures out of wood – vehicles, humans, and sometimes mythical creatures combining parts of different animals.

Can you find Forestier's wooden sculpture in the gallery?

Draw your own fantastical animal like the ones you see below.



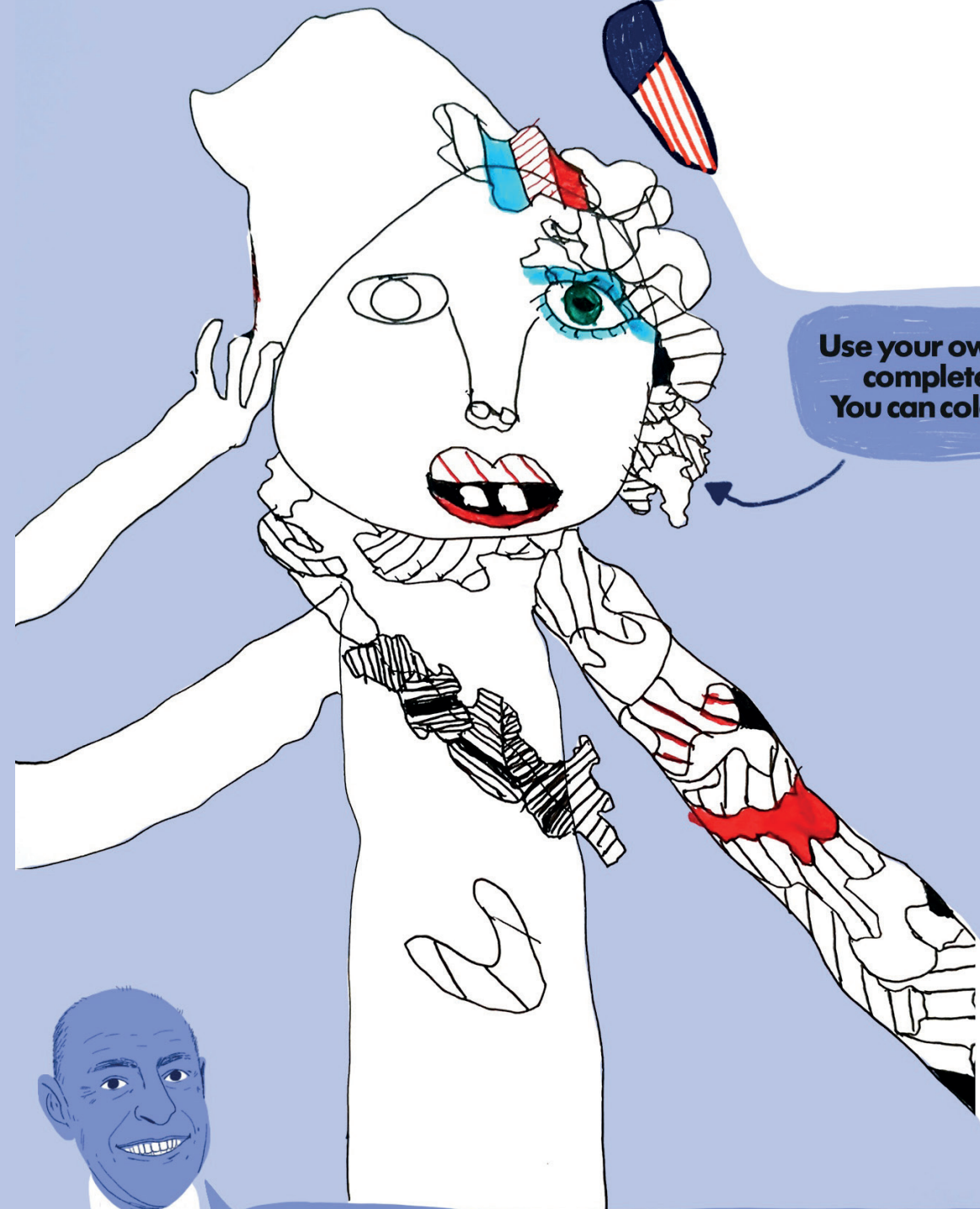
GIVE YOURS A NAME



5 L'HOURLLOUPE

One day, Dubuffet was doodling while on the phone. He looked down and was inspired by the pattern he'd made. Dubuffet went on to create paintings, sculptures and theatre-sets all using this same pattern for the next 12 years.

Come up with your own radical, new pattern. Doodle first to experiment.



Use your own new pattern to complete this drawing. You can colour it in at home!



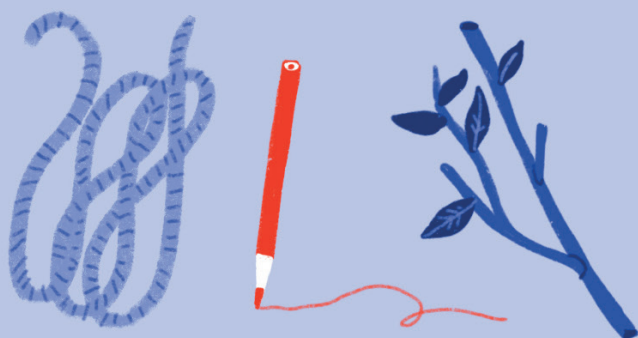
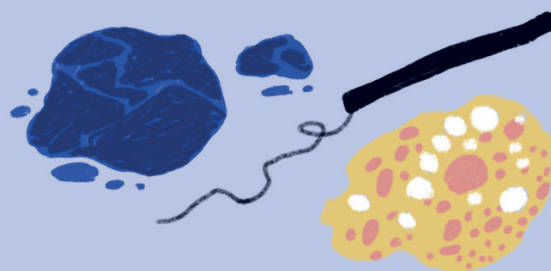
'The artist teams up with chance. It takes two to tango...chance always joins in.' - Dubuffet

6 GET CREATIVE AT HOME

Dubuffet loved using everyday materials in his artworks. He made sculptures and collages using torn newspaper, mud, stones, wood, salt and sponge.

When you get home...

Choose your everyday materials and combine them to make an artwork. This might be a portrait or a landscape. Take inspiration from the list of Dubuffet's materials above. Here are two examples students have already done:



An artist handles 'enchanted materials that seem to have a will of their own ... like someone who wields lightning.' - Dubuffet

Hashtag your artworks using #BrutalBeauty.

We would love to hear any feedback you have on this activity sheet. Please email creative.learning@barbican.org.uk

Illustrations and Artworks: Students from The Garden School and The Sydney Russell School

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Illustrations and Design: Aleesha Nandhra

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