

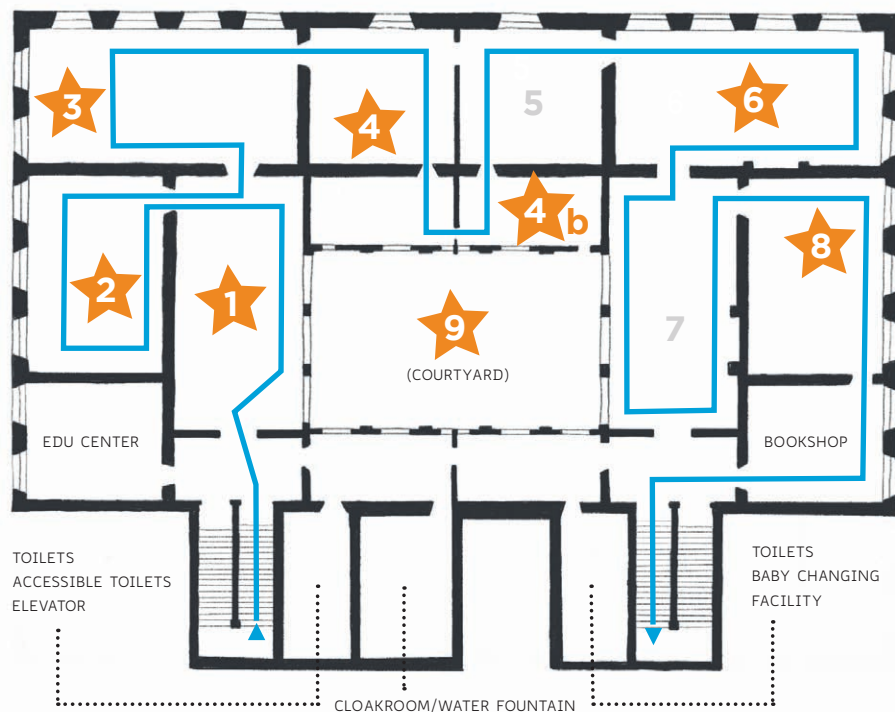


# KIT TEEN AGER

A tool for exploring  
the exhibition  
designed for visitors  
aged 12 to 19

REACHING FOR  
THE STARS

## Exhibition tour



## What is the Teenager Kit?

The Teenager Kit is a tool for exploring the exhibition on your own or with your friends by following a tour in stages through the exhibition rooms and delving further than just skin-deep into some of the content about the artists.

## How do I use the Kit?

To find your way around the exhibition, just follow the map: the stars indicate the exhibits, and the numbers refer to the rooms on the Piano Nobile (the first floor of Palazzo Strozzi) and to the courtyard.

- Decide how long you want to devote to your tour using the Kit. You can explore the exhibition in even greater depth using the panels and captions in the rooms.
- Remember to keep at a proper distance from the exhibits and please try to show consideration for other visitors.
- You can sit on the steps under the windows while using the Kit.
- At the end of the tour, go down to the courtyard then carry on down to the Strozzina, Palazzo Strozzi's basement.



## Let's start here

Palazzo Strozzi is a building that Filippo Strozzi decided to build in 1489 as his family home. Today it's an exhibition centre hosting exhibitions ranging from ancient art and old masters to modern and contemporary art.

The *Reaching for the Stars* exhibition showcases a selection of artworks from the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo collection. This collection is one of the most important in Europe, documenting the multiple contemporary styles and approaches to artistic expression and including different generations of artists from all over the world.

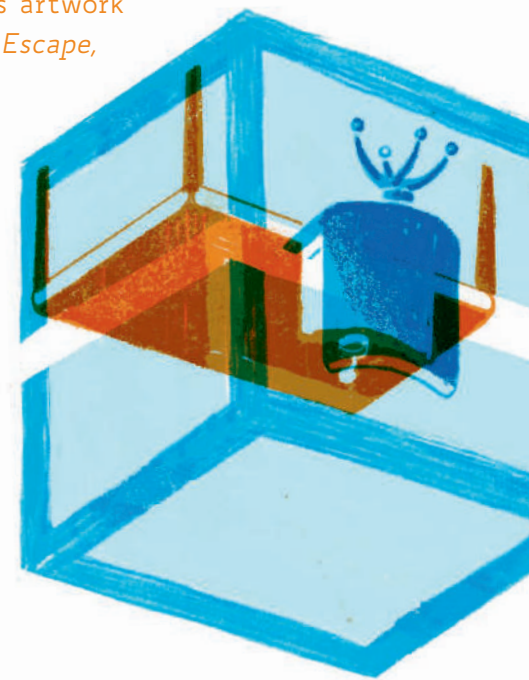
Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo began collecting art in London in the 1990s, when she took an interest in an emerging group of artists known as the Young British Artists who became famous for their irreverent and provocative work. The first room is devoted to some of these artists.



## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Take a close look at **Damien Hirst's** artwork entitled *The Acquired Inability to Escape, Inverted and Divided*, 1993

Damien Hirst (England, 1965) was one of the most influential artists in the United Kingdom in the 1990s and today he is one of the best-known artists in the world. He often works with large showcases in which he places everyday objects or animals preserved in formaldehyde, a chemical substance that prevents them from decomposing.



The artwork on show is a glass and metal room with no doors; the only way in (or out) is a slit that splits its volume into two horizontally.

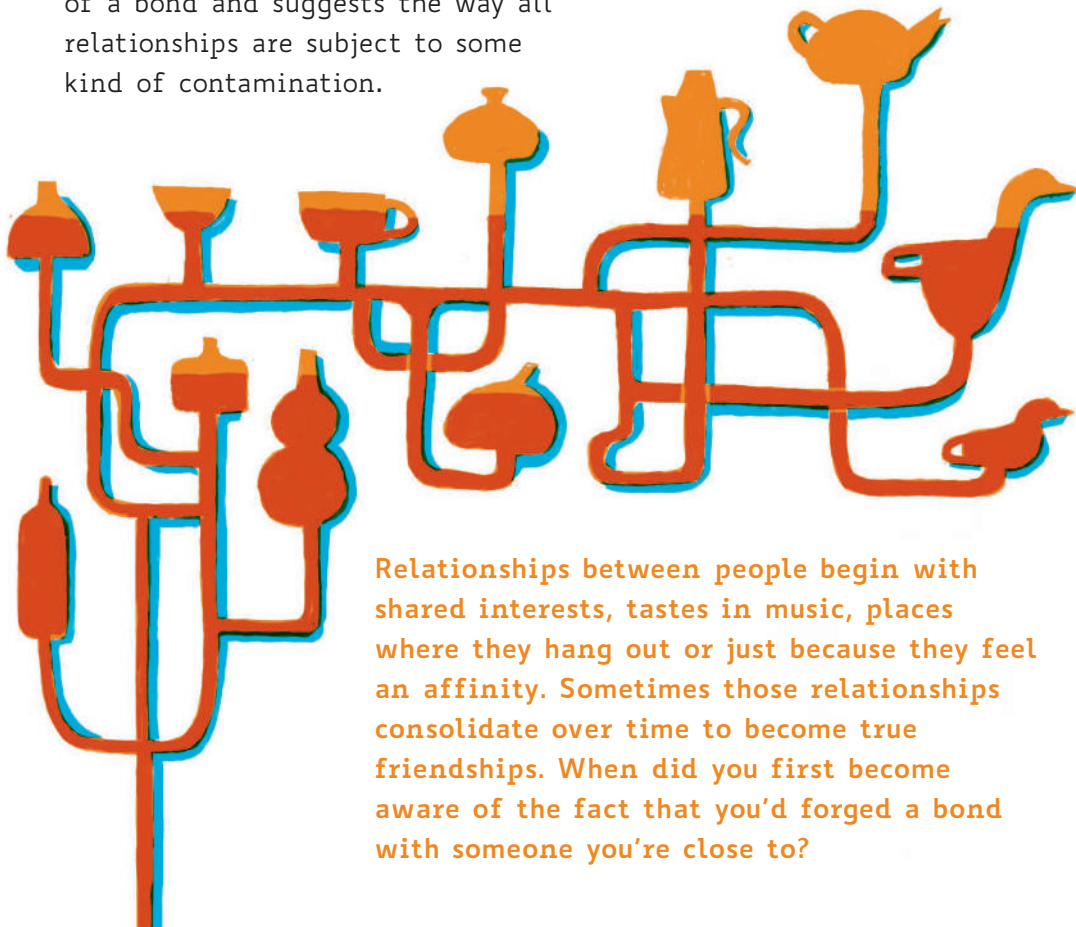
The presence of an upside-down chair and desk suggest the stifling atmosphere of the office, which feels like a prison cell rather than a workplace.

**In our everyday lives there are actions that we repeat daily and that are always the same, so that it sometimes feels impossible to escape from the shackles of monotony. How do you break that routine? What's your space for freedom?**

## 2 ART MATTERS

Take a close look at **Charles Ray's** artwork entitled *Viral Research*, 1986

Charles Ray (USA, 1953) is an artist who works mainly with sculpture. In the work on display he uses a table on which he has placed eight glass bottles linked to one another by tubes visible beneath the tabletop. Black liquid runs in the tubes and fills the bottles, reaching the same level in each one in accordance with the law of communicating vessels. The link between jugs, glasses and bottles highlights the idea of a bond and suggests the way all relationships are subject to some kind of contamination.



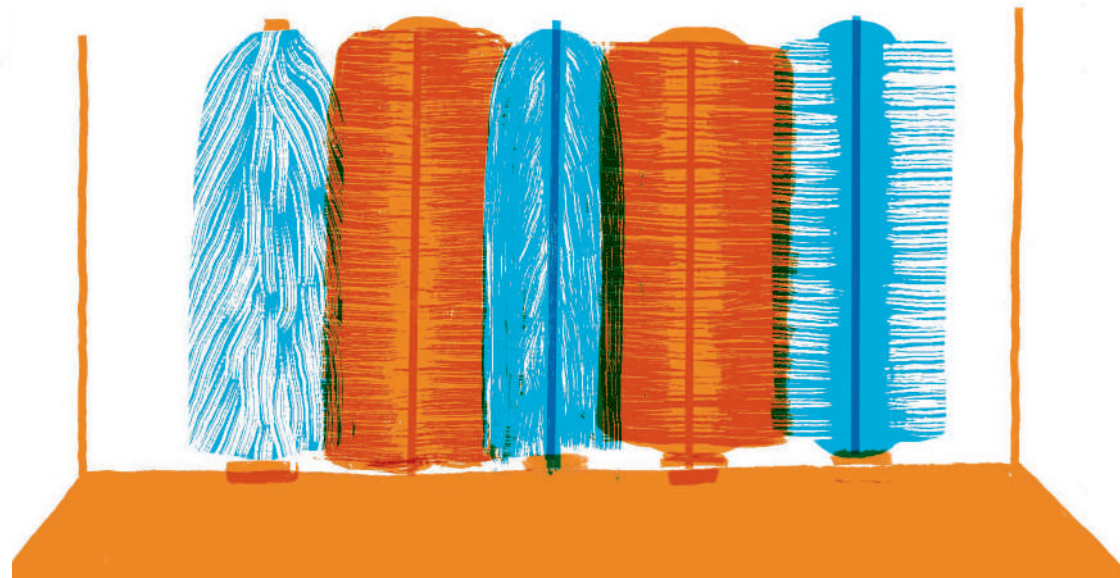
Relationships between people begin with shared interests, tastes in music, places where they hang out or just because they feel an affinity. Sometimes those relationships consolidate over time to become true friendships. When did you first become aware of the fact that you'd forged a bond with someone you're close to?

## 3 MADE IN ITALY

Observe **Lara Favaretto's** artwork entitled *Gummo V*, 2012

Some artists use everyday items to create works of art precisely because they can perceive something out of the ordinary in them, unlike us who usually only consider them for the purpose they serve. In this exhibition Lara Favaretto (Italy, 1973) presents *Gummo V*, a sculpture made of five carwash brushes of different colours and sizes arranged in sequence on a wall of iron plates. The brushes rotate just as they would in their original setting, but in the exhibition, without either soap or water, the artist amplifies the hypnotic effect generated by a choreography of movement and colour.

After your visit to Palazzo Strozzi, try looking at the first everyday item you come across from a purely aesthetic point of view. What new features do you notice when you shift your attention from its function?





Not

silly

enough

enough

Not

## 4 IDENTITIES

Take a close look at **Barbara Kruger's** artwork *Untitled (Not ugly enough)*, 1997

Barbara Kruger (USA, 1945) began working as a graphic artist and illustrator for magazines such as "Vogue" and "Vanity Fair". Her experience in the world of communication has had an influence on her approach to art, prompting her to associate existing photographs with words and phrases that echo the concise language of advertising.

### Not ugly enough

*Untitled (Not ugly enough)* is part of a series of four faces of celebrities twinned with phrases voicing negative opinions bursting with stereotypes. The one in the exhibition presents the former US First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt: not ugly, sexy, stupid, silent or useless enough.

**No one's exempt from criticism; we're all constantly subject to some form of judgment. Such phrases highlight a shortcoming by comparison with accepted social standards. What makes you feel that "you're just fine the way you are"?**

silent

sexy

enough

Not

useless

enough

## 4<sup>b</sup> IDENTITIES

Take a close look at **Josh Kline's** artworks *Thank you for your years of services* (Joann / Lawyer), 2016 *Wrapping things up* (Tom / Administrator), 2016

After the economic crisis of 2008, Josh Kline (USA, 1979) began to research the economic system and its impact on people's lives. Projecting himself hypothetically into the year 2030, the artist imagines the consequences of a new economic crisis in which technological progress and the automation of jobs are going to make many professions superfluous. In this dystopic future, people are going to be fired and tossed out like so much dross for rapid disposal.

To make his sculptures, Kline chose people who were out of a job – Joann, a former lawyer, and Tom, a former manager – and he paid them to be allowed to take a cast of their bodies, which he then recreated in plaster using a 3D printer.

**Aiming to tell their stories and to trigger solidarity with people in general, Kline faithfully reproduced every detail of Joann's and Tom's faces and hands. Crouch down, look at them from close up and share their outlook.**



## 6 BODIES

Explore the whole room

Art has the power to create images capable of suggesting emotions and sensations that take us back to experiences we've lived through or lead us into unexplored territory. This room showcases sculptures, paintings and a photograph representing the body in more than one way: displayed, trapped, destroyed, sexualized, concealed... but artists have the ability to make even the most fleeting aspects such as one's character, passions or aspirations become visible.

Take the time to look at all the exhibits in the room.

Imagine that the artworks are like a mirror and find the one you feel closest to, the one that tells us something about you and your life, your experience.



## 8 ABSTRACTIONS

Take a close look at Tauba Auerbach's artwork entitled *Crumple VII*, 2009

To create a work of art is to attempt to give a visible shape to an idea, and to achieve that aim artists face endless possibilities in their choice of materials, technique and format. This last room showcases the work of artists who devote their time and energy to creating images midway between the abstract and the figurative, where it isn't immediately clear what we're looking at.

Tauba Auerbach's (USA, 1981) picture is at once an abstract and a two-dimensional image. It's made up of multiple black dots arranged on a white background, but it's also the depiction of a crumpled sheet of paper whose shadows cast by its volumes we can actually see. In her work, the artist represents the coexistence of two opposites – the two-dimensional and the three-dimensional – in the same image.

Move up close to the artwork and then move away from it: what's the exact distance at which the dots turn into a crumpled sheet of paper and the surface acquires depth?



## 9 GONOGO

Now go down into the Palazzo Strozzi courtyard and discover **Goshka Macuga's** work entitled **GONOGO**, 2023

Goshka Macuga (Poland, 1967) has produced a new artwork for this exhibition and she's showing it in the Palazzo Strozzi courtyard for the very first time. The sculpture simulates a space rocket standing on a launching pad. It's 15 metres tall in all and can be explored on the interactive digital platform [www.gonogo.space](http://www.gonogo.space)

The title, GONOGO, echoes the expression "go / no go" used in tests to check the functioning of a missile before its launch, the command indicating the start of the launching process or else the need for further verification.

Interplanetary exploration testifies to the most incredible ambition of man as he leaves planet earth to reach the stars and discover new worlds. Macuga's rocket visually conveys that idea and urges us to imagine a future in which we can pursue our aspirations.

**Imagine getting into the rocket and firing up the engines. What destination would you like to aim for?**

Continue your tour under your own steam downstairs in the Strozzina



## Le "stelle" della mostra *Reaching for the Stars* provengono da



## Teenagers in Palazzo Strozzi

Palazzo Strozzi develops specific activities for teenagers with an interest in the language and styles of art. Palazzo Strozzi produces its Teenager Kit and its No Grownups project as part of the **Plurals** scheme, the annual PCTO (Pathways for Transversal Skills and Orientation) project for high school students.

## No Grownups

No Grownups is a cycle of tours run by teens for teens exploring the *Reaching for the Stars* exhibition. In the course of the tours, students recount the artworks in the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Collection from their own perspective.

5 and 19 April at 16.00

3, 17 and 31 May at 16.00

14 June at 16.00

Tours are free of charge, included in the price of admission to the exhibition. Reservations are required and should be made using the Palazzo Strozzi website.

Activities in Italian only.

The Teenage Kit and No Grownups are produced with the pupils of the Liceo Ernesto Balducci in Pontassieve and of the Liceo Virgilio in Empoli who have been training on a weekly basis since November on the content of the exhibition and on how to involve visitors.



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STROZZI

The Teenager Kit is a Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi project.

Devised and written by Martino Margheri and Azzurra Simoncini.

Illustration and graphic design by Simone Spellucci

High legibility font biancoenero®

The activities that Palazzo Strozzi devotes to teenagers are produced with the support of the Fondazione Hillary Merkus Recordati



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