

## ROOM 1 WINGS OF LEAD AND FRAGMENTS OF GOLD

Kiefer often makes very large artworks and within them he inserts so many materials and objects that his paintings become three-dimensional. In this painting an airplane wing protrudes until it almost reaches the middle of the room. It is made of lead, a very heavy metal that is not suitable for airplanes, but which Kiefer loves because it is easy to work with and, according to an ancient secret science (alchemy), can be turned into gold by a mysterious process.

Take a look at the entire canvas and try to measure it. How many steps fit its length? In the painting, besides the lead, there are parts in gold. Can you see them?



## ROOM 2 IN LOVE WITH THE SUN

Kiefer is passionate about sunflowers, which he often portrays in his paintings. In Japan he bought a giant variety that he planted in the grounds of his studio in France. When sunflowers dry out they drop many seeds to the ground, which makes the cycle of life never stop. In Greek mythology it is a plant associated with the love between the nymph (a nature-related deity) Clytia and Apollo god of the sun. In fact, the sunflower always turns its flower toward the sun, following its movement in the sky, as if it were in love with it.

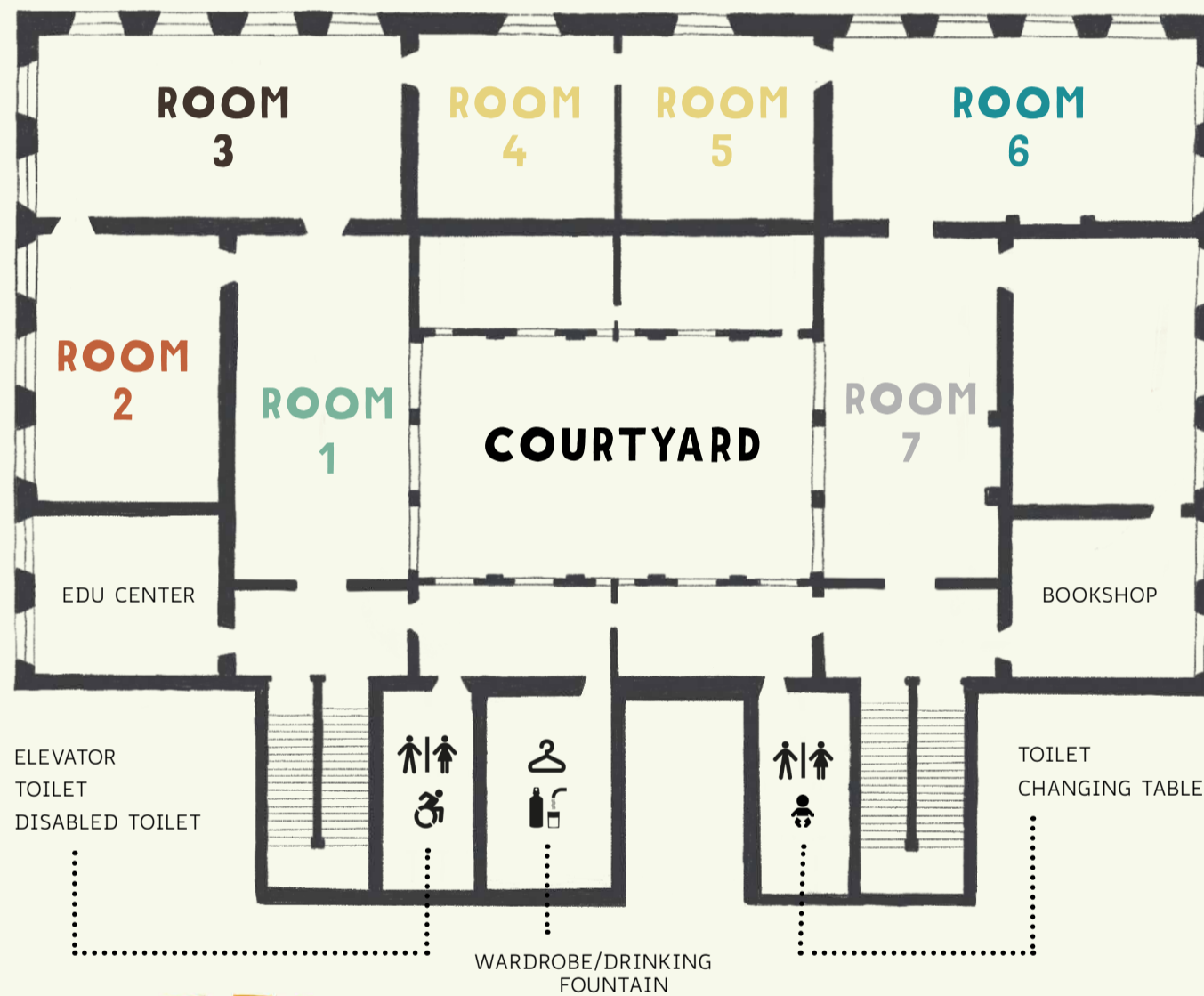
Give it a try! Plant a sunflower seed: place a seed in a damp cotton ball, and as soon as a small root emerges, move it into a pot with soil.



## ROOM 7 BEING A PLANT

An elegant white dress and a tree sprouting from her head: this is how Kiefer represents the myth of Daphne. Daphne was a nymph who, in order to escape the god Apollo, who was in love with her, preferred to be transformed into a laurel plant. The writer Ovid recounts, "her hair was transformed into leaves, her arms into branches, her feet in a moment were frozen and quickly changed into roots, her face was lost. Only her resplendent beauty was left untouched."

Imagine becoming another living being (a plant or an animal), what would be the advantages and what would be the disadvantages of this transformation? Share stories with your family!



## ROOM 3 BEARDS OF PHILOSOPHERS



More than 2,500 years ago in Greece a discussion began that continues to this day. What is the origin of the world? What are the rules of nature? The philosophers who lived at that time are the ancestors of today's scientists: seekers of knowledge who wanted

to understand the workings of all things. Philosophers (almost) all wore thick beards, a symbol of wisdom. Anselm Kiefer is fascinated by these thinkers and dedicated the paintings in this room to them. To recognize them, he wrote their names next to their heads.



Observe the three large canvases: can you find the philosophers without beards?

## ROOM 4/5 ORDINARY OBJECTS YET EXTRAORDINARY

Kiefer loves books, fantastic stories, mythology, and he is passionate about symbols: objects that can have multiple meanings. For instance, the ladder with rungs can represent the union of earth and sky, and suggests a journey of discovery; the snake is a dangerous animal, but because of its ability to mutate its skin it has a positive value of renewal. Kiefer often uses it in his artworks!

In the four vitrines and paintings in these two rooms there are many symbols: two books, a mistletoe plant, a ladder, a snake, teeth, a sunflower, and even artichokes. Try to imagine a story where they are all connected!



## ROOM 6 ART IS EVERYWHERE

"Time and weather are part of my work," says Kiefer, who, in fact, leaves his artworks in the dark for years, buries them or exposes them to sun, water and wind (as is the case with the courtyard work). These actions create unexpected results that the artist does not control. The 60 paintings in this room also continue to change over time as they have been subjected to "energy baths" (radiation). They are even attached to the ceiling: it is like entering inside a great work of art still in transformation!





The activities Palazzo Strozzi dedicates to families are designed to make art an experience to be shared together. Adults and children can visit the exhibitions on their own using the Family Kit, which offers activities and insights into the artworks on display, or they can participate in visits and workshops tailored to different age group from 3 years old and up.

## Small Seeds

Families with children ages 3 to 6.  
Every Wednesday at 5 p.m.

## The Surprising Life of Books

Families with children ages 7 to 12.  
Every Sunday at 10:30 am

Reservation required.  
Activities are in Italian only,  
free with the exhibition  
entrance ticket.

## Reservations Office

CSC Sigma  
Monday through Friday  
9am-6pm  
Tel. +39 055 26 45 155  
prenotazioni@palazzostrozzi.org

Illustrations inspired by  
the works of Anselm Kiefer  
*Luzifer* (Lucifero), 2012-2023  
*SOL INVICTUS Heliogabal*  
(UNCONQUERED SUN. Heliogabalus), 2023  
*Vor Sokrates* (Before Socrates), 2022  
*Danae*, 2016  
*En Sof* (The infinite), 2016  
*Vestralte Bilder* (Irradiated Paintings), 1983-2023  
*Daphne* (Dafne), 2008-2011  
*Engelssturz* (Fall of the Angel), 2022-2023



FONDAZIONE  
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STROZZI

The Family Kit  
is a project of the Fondazione  
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## COURTYARD DESTROY THIS KIT!

This large canvas, over seven meters tall, was conceived by Kiefer specifically for the courtyard of Palazzo Strozzi and **tells of a battle that occurred at the origin of the world.** Against a backdrop of a golden sky, the archangel Michael, with a sword in hand - his name is written on the right in the Hebrew alphabet **לאאכימ** - fights the rebellious angels led by Lucifer. These angels have been expelled from heaven and fall to earth. It is the battle between Good and Evil, and **from this struggle arise the things of the world: imperfect and destined to change over time.**

Usually paintings are guarded very carefully, protected by glass and kept in indoor spaces. However, this work by Kiefer has no protection and will remain outdoors for the duration of the exhibition: **sunlight will hit it and rain will soak it.** Transformation is part of the life of artworks according to the artist; when the painting leaves Palazzo Strozzi it will be different from how it arrived.

**“Destruction  
is part of the  
creative process”**  
Anselm Kiefer

Try to modify this Kit yourself, use pencils, crayons, and markers.  
You can even cut it out or make it into a collage and then:

- **soak it in water (fresh or sea water) for a few minutes;**
- **leave it outside the window for two weeks and observe how it changes;**
- **bury it (in a pot, in the garden or under the sand) and take it back after a month.**

What happens? What effect does this transformation have on you to see?  
Do you like the result?

FAMILY  
Kit

A path for adults  
and children ages 5  
and up to share  
to explore

Anselm Kiefer  
Fallen Angels

## What is the Family Kit?

The Family Kit is a tool designed to explore the exhibition with observation suggestions, prompts for reflection, and games to be shared among adults and children aged 5 and up.

## How do you use the Kit?

The Kit suggests a path through the exhibition rooms; to guide yourselves, follow the indications on the map found inside: the numbers of the rooms on the Noble Floor (the first floor of Palazzo Strozzi) are indicated.

- **You decide how much time you want to devote to each stage of the path.**
- **Keep the right distance from the artworks**
- **You can use the steps under the windows to rest.**
- **At the end of the path, move to the courtyard to discover the great work *Engelssturz* (Fall of the Angel).**

## Where do we start?

Palazzo Strozzi is the building that Filippo Strozzi decided to construct in 1489 as the residence for his family. Today, it's an art center where exhibitions span from ancient to modern and contemporary art.

## Who is Anselm Kiefer?

Anselm Kiefer was born in a small village in the Black Forest in Germany, just before the end of World War II. As a child he used to play with the rubble of buildings destroyed by bombing, he wanted to be a lawyer and a writer. He then decided to be an artist and began to turn memories of the war, books, poems, and anything that affected him into artworks. He mixes many different materials to create his paintings and sculptures: oil paint, lead, wax, seeds, earth, flowers, sand, and ash.

At Palazzo Strozzi he is presenting 25 artworks: some made in past years and some new ones including a large canvas created for the Palazzo's courtyard.