

The activities that Palazzo Strozzi dedicates to families are designed to make art an experience to be shared together. Adults and children can visit the exhibitions independently by using the Family Kit, which offers games and insights into the artworks on display, or they can participate in visits and workshops differentiated by age group from age 3 and over.

Down, down, even lower!

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

Red, yellow, black and a hint of blue

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

Reservation required. Limited places.
The activities are free with the exhibition admission ticket.

Booking office

Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
Tel. +39 055 26 45 155
prenotazioni@palazzostrozzi.org

Illustrations inspired by the works of Anish Kapoor:
Svayambhu, 2007
To Reflect an Intimate Part of the Red, 1981
Non-Object Black, 2015
Vertigo, 2006
Newborn, 2019
Angel, 1990
Void Pavilion VII, 2023

The Family Kit is a Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi project.
Devised and written by Irene Balzani and Martino Margheri.
Illustrations and graphic design by Simone Spellucci.
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FONDAZIONE
PALAZZO
STROZZI

Courtyard

THE BLACKEST BLACKNESS

What color do you see inside the rectangular openings in the walls?

Saying "black" is not enough because there are so many:

there is the **black** of ink,
the **black** of a bear's den,
the soft **black** of a velvet dress,
the **black** of the night away from city lights,
the **black** of your room after the lights are turned off,
the **black** of the screen before a movie at the cinema begins,
the deep **black** of the sea observed at night over a ship,
the **black** of a tunnel that allows a glimpse of the end with a bright spot,
the **black** of the charcoal primitive men used to paint in caves,
the **black** that can be seen when we close our eyes, and then there is...

Anish Kapoor's endless **black**.

Watch one of the rectangles carefully for two minutes (set a timer to be sure of the time). Cover your ears with your hands for better concentration. What feeling do you feel when you look at the darkness?



For adults and children ages 5 and over to explore the exhibition

Anish Kapoor
Untrue Unreal



FAMILY KIT

What is the Family Kit?

The Family Kit is a tool for exploring the exhibition with observation suggestions, points for reflection, and games to be shared between adults and children aged 5 and over.

How to use the Kit?

The Family Kit suggests a tour through the exhibition rooms; to find your way around, follow the directions on the map inside: the colored dots correspond to the works and the numbers to the rooms on the Piano Nobile (the second floor of Palazzo Strozzi).

- ▶ You can decide how much time to spend at each part of the tour.
- ▶ Keep the right distance from the artworks and keep attention to other visitors.
- ▶ Use the steps under the windows to rest.
- ▶ At the end of the tour move to the courtyard to discover the large work Void Pavilion VII.

Where do we start?

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

Who is Anish Kapoor?

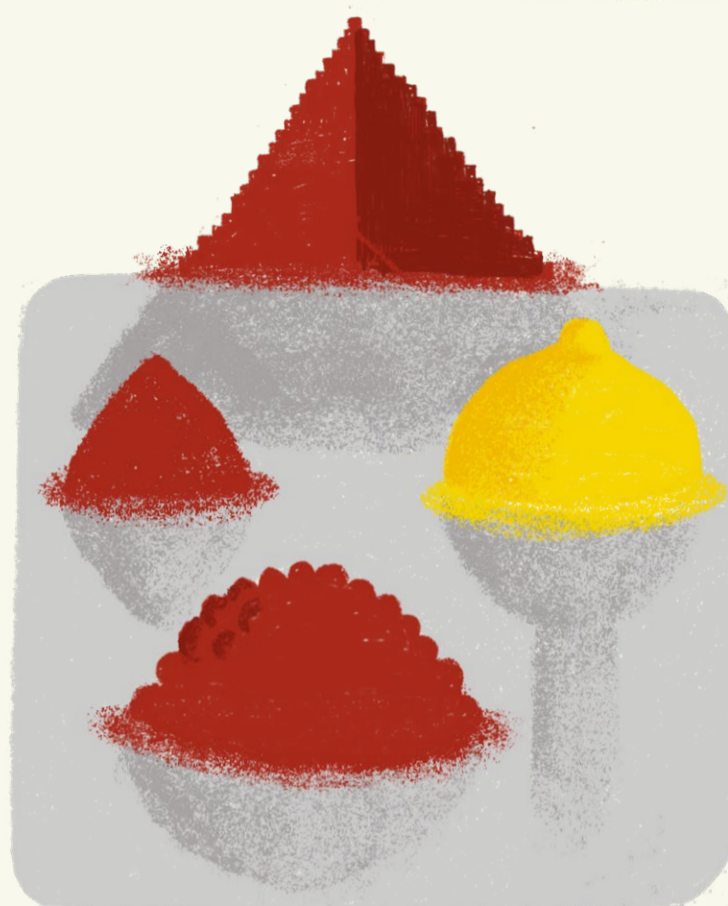
Anish Kapoor is an artist who creates sculptures with different materials, he loves intense colors like red, black, and blue, and his artworks can be so large that we can walk into them. Anish was born in India in 1954, spent his adolescence in Israel, and at the age of around 20, he moved to London, where he studied sculpture and still lives today. A few years ago, he bought a beautiful historic palace in Venice, the city where he spends some months of the year. At Palazzo Strozzi, he has brought 17 artworks that tell his world where reality and fantasy are mixed.



1 SLOWER THAN A SNAIL

Svayambhu is a large sculpture made of wax and red paint that moves over a track through two rooms of Palazzo Strozzi. Each time this "wax wagon" is built for an exhibition it adapts to the shape and size of the passageway it crosses, also the length of the track changes according to the space available. At Palazzo Strozzi the sculpture passes through a large door and very slowly reaches the opposite side. It takes 30 minutes to travel 19 meters: so much time for such a short distance!

With 30 minutes to spare, starting from your home, what is the furthest place you can reach by foot, bicycle, or car?



2 THE TOP OF THE ICEBERG

Four red and one yellow sculptures emerge from the floor. They are covered by pigments, a colored powder that the artist has dropped on top, like icing sugar on cakes.

The shapes created by Kapoor have a mysterious appearance. The artist says that perhaps they are the memory of some architecture he saw as a child in India, but he is not sure and leaves it up to us to interpret them.

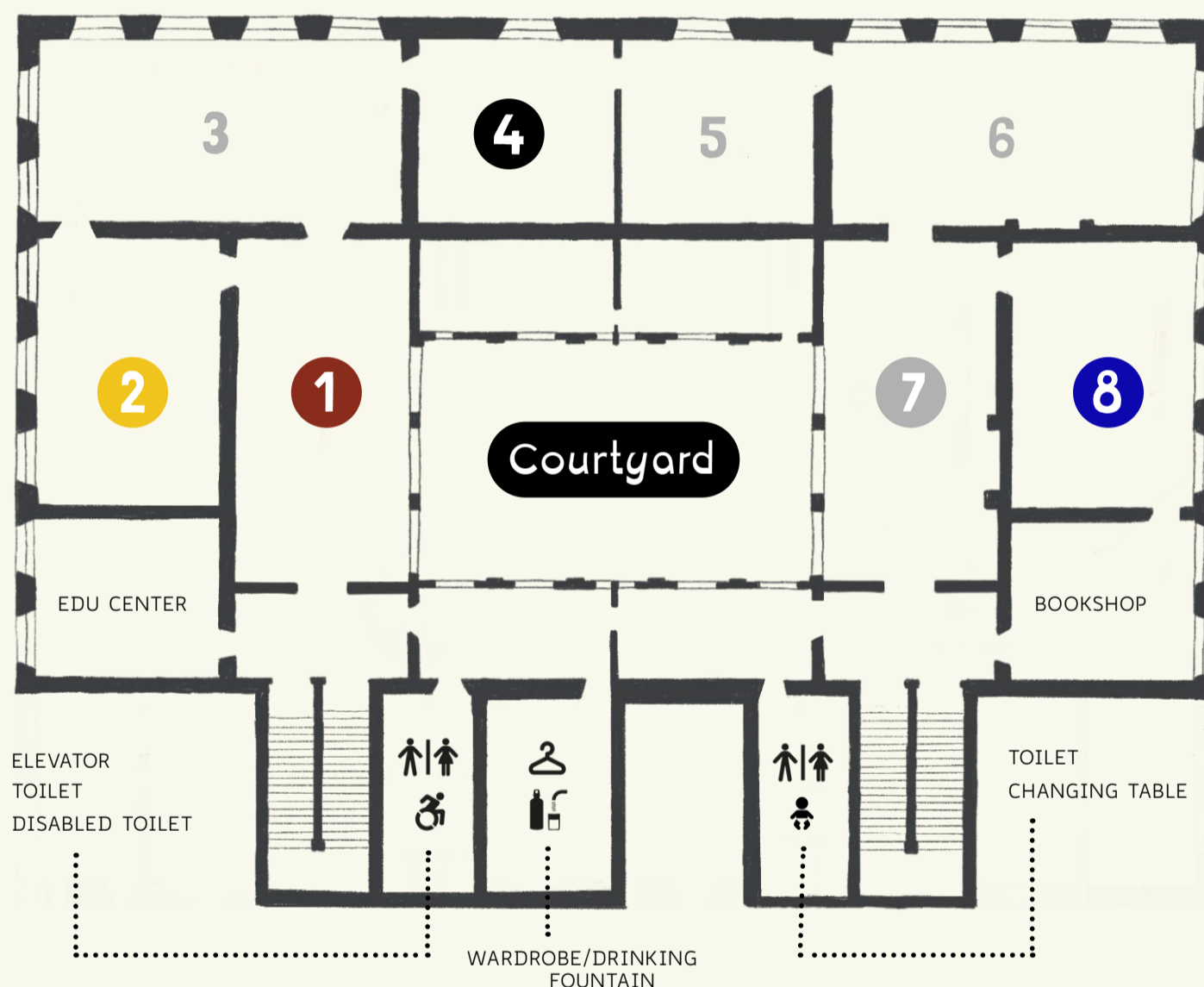
The sculptures appear to be five icebergs whose we see only the top. Choose one and imagine it whole: what shapes are hiding under the floor?

8 THE PETRIFIED SKY

Anish enjoys exploring the interplay of opposing or contrasting elements. What happens when the color of levity, blue, encounters an immensely heavy stone? In his work *Angel*, the artist applies blue pigment to slate rocks, also known as Blackboard stone, transforming them into what can be described as 'a petrified sky' or 'velvet rocks.' The Italian writer Gianni Rodari referred to such word combinations as 'fantastic binomials'—pairings that, when put together, create a whimsical duo capable of igniting the imagination.



Try it yourself! Invent other fantastic binomials by changing the color or material to objects in your home. What tale can come from, for example, a "wax floor"?



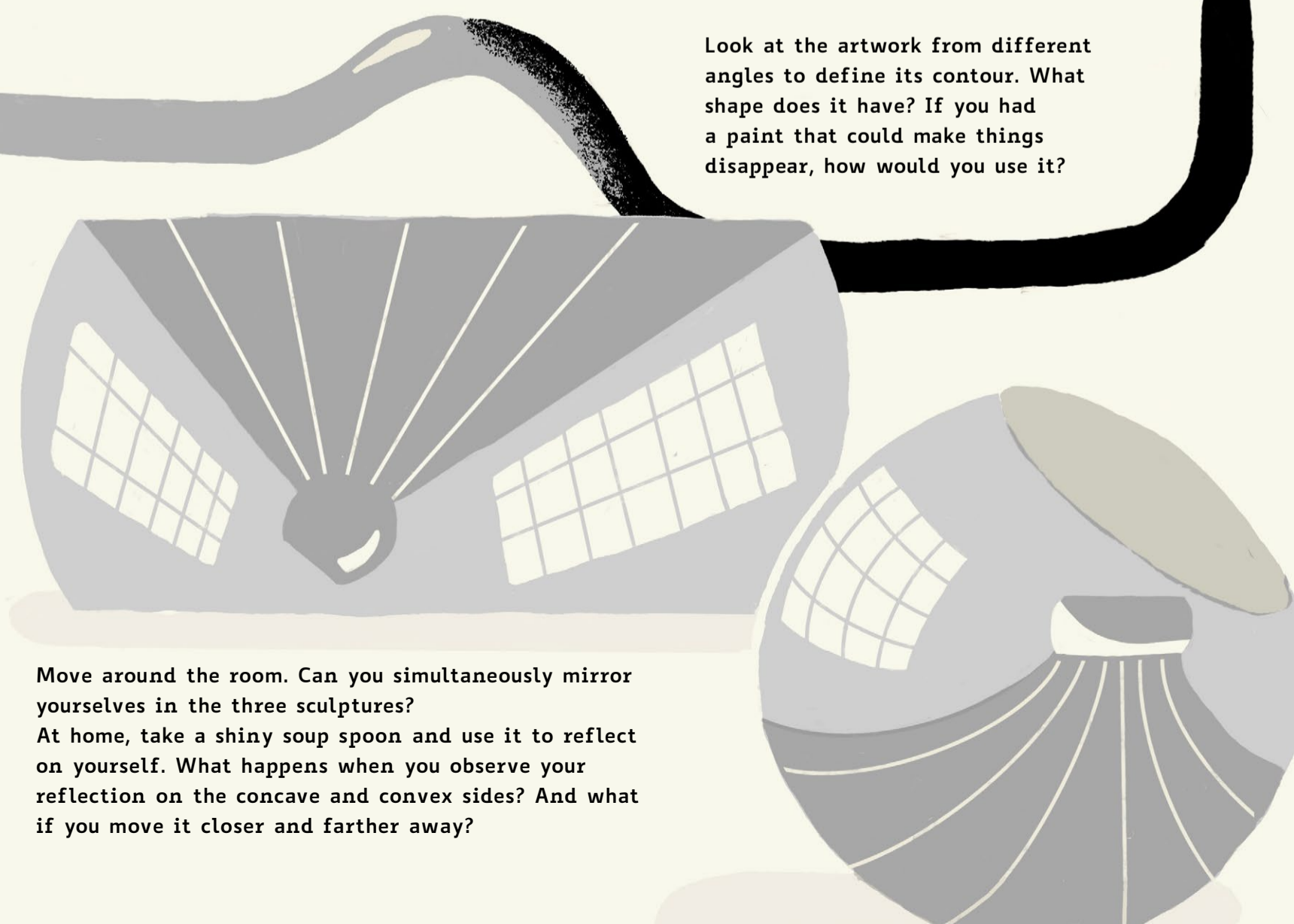
4 NON-OBJECTS

The artwork in the vitrine in this room is mysterious and surprising, it is called *Non-Object Black*. It is made of Vantablack, a material created for scientific and military uses that absorbs 99.9% light and makes the contours of an object invisible, making a three-dimensional shape appear flat. Vantablack seems to fulfil a Kapoor's childhood desire: "as a child I had a fantasy that I could invent a paint that would literally erase a part of the world".

Look at the artwork from different angles to define its contour. What shape does it have? If you had a paint that could make things disappear, how would you use it?

7 DISTORTIONS STRETCHES AND FLIPS

Vertigo, *Mirror* and *Newborn* are three sculptures that have one thing in common: they are made with a curved, concave or convex reflective surface. Common mirrors and car rear-view mirrors are flat, this makes the reflected image match our way of seeing distances and look familiar. By looking in Kapoor's artworks something strange happens: distortions, stretching, compressions and reversals. With every movement we make, the reflected image acts in unexpected ways almost throwing us off balance.



Move around the room. Can you simultaneously mirror yourselves in the three sculptures? At home, take a shiny soup spoon and use it to reflect on yourself. What happens when you observe your reflection on the concave and convex sides? And what if you move it closer and farther away?