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**BROKEN**  
THE POWER OF THE FRAGMENT

AGES 5 AND UP

The Family Kit is a tool for exploring the exhibition *Broken. The Power of the Fragment*, with suggestions for looking, questions to spark curiosity and activities to explore together.

Inside the Kit, you will find a map suggesting an itinerary through the rooms of Palazzo Strozzi, with different stops to discover the exhibition as a family.

The Family Kit is a project by the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi.

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# EVERY FRAGMENT IS...



## ... A DISCOVERY

For hundreds of years, statues have been reused in many different ways. They became building materials, ground down to make lime, or melted down to make weapons. Some sculptures were used in **very unexpected ways** and sometimes their discovery has happened by chance.

The *Torso of Christ*, now in the Metropolitan Museum in New York, was discovered in the French countryside, where it was being used as... a **scarecrow** in a field!



## ... A TRANSFORMATION

Some works remain hidden for a very long time. The statue *Crouching Boy* sank in the Aegean Sea after the ship carrying it was wrecked and was discovered almost 2,000 years later by sponge divers. One part of the statue remained buried in the sand, which **protected and preserved** it. The other part, submerged in the water, was transformed by natural forces: currents **slowly wore it away**, while marine organisms encrusted its surface, giving it a new shape.

## WELCOME TO PALAZZO STROZZI!

The exhibition you are about to visit brings together more than 80 works of art, objects and archaeological finds **from all over the world**: from Europe to Asia, from Central America to Africa.

Everything you will see is a fragment: what remains of something bigger that no longer exists. Fragments bear the marks of the **passage of time**, the **forces of nature** and **human actions**, and tell stories of different places, cultures and periods. The oldest fragments date back **more than 4,000 years**, while the most recent were created by contemporary artists specifically for this exhibition.

## BROKEN THE POWER OF THE FRAGMENT

Every exhibition is a space for **discovery** and **sharing**, and the Family Kit will help you explore it:

- follow the suggested **itinerary in full** or **choose** to skip some stops;
- decide **how much time** you want to spend at each stop;
- **talking** is always welcome in the exhibition, but please remember to keep your voice at a level that respects other visitors;
- take your time looking and **move slowly** through the rooms, paying attention to the people around you;
- use the steps beneath the windows as **seats**;
- look at the works of art from many different perspectives, find the one you like best.

## ... A BREAK

Works of art and objects can break by accident, because they have not been properly cared for, or as a result of natural disasters. Others, however, may have been deliberately created to become fragments. This may be the case with *dogū*, Japanese terracotta figurines whose purpose remains a **mystery**. We do not know whether they were dolls, deities to be worshipped, or supernatural beings, but we do know that some parts were more fragile than others. Perhaps they were **made to be broken** during ceremonies asking for healing, fertility and abundance.



Find these works on the map. Look for the ★

## ... A NEW WORK OF ART

Some artists create works of art that **appear incomplete**. The large sculpture in the courtyard, *Tilted Head* by Mark Manders, looks fragile, as if it were made of clay, and like part of something bigger that may **not yet be finished**. But this is an illusion: the sculpture is made of fiberglass-reinforced resin, a very strong material, and it is complete just as it is. The artist wants to leave each person **free to imagine** the missing parts.



Room 2

## WHAT'S MISSING

These female and male bodies are slim, soft, muscular, standing, crouching, naked or partly covered. The way bodies are represented changes according to different periods and places.

These sculptures have missing parts, and we do not know what they originally looked like. Choose one and take turns copying its pose. Use your body to show the missing parts, too: let your imagination run free!



Room 1

## WHAT REMAINS

All the heads in this room have missing parts. Very often, it is the nose—a fragile, projecting element—that has broken off or been deliberately removed to make the sculpture stop “breathing”.

Compare the faces to discover their differences and similarities.

Look at:

- **hair:** short, long, straight, curly, loose or tied up;
- **ears:** some are stretched out, as they might become from wearing heavy earrings, while others are swollen, like those of wrestlers;
- **eyes:** open, closed, half-closed, with colored pupils and bronze eyelashes that have left marks that look like tears.



Room 3

## BREAK IT OR KEEP IT

The big foot you see in this room is all that remains of an enormous statue of the French king Louis XIV, which was torn down in Paris during the French Revolution. The revolutionaries wanted to erase an image of power associated with the past. They decided to save the foot and take it to the Louvre as a reminder of what had happened.

Do you ever keep something even when it is broken? Why? Is there a particular memory connected to that object? Tell each other stories about broken things.



Rooms 4–6

## AND NOW, WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?

War destroys everything, including works of art. What remains can be preserved as it is, or specialists can try to reconstruct it, as in the case of the *Seated Grave Figure*. It took nine years to put its many pieces back together! Fragments can also become the starting point for new creations, such as *The Swan* by Francesco Vezzoli, which brings together a female bust with an older male head.

At home, cut out the top corner with the statue fragment and imagine the rest of the body. Draw what is missing or create a collage using photographs and cut-outs!



Room 8

## WHAT DOES IT SAY?

The huge hand in this room once belonged to an enormous statue, that no longer exists. It may have represented the Roman emperor Constantine. Walk around it and copy the position of its fingers.

Do you ever make this gesture? What does it mean? Gestures speak and tell stories. Try having a conversation using only your hands. Words are forbidden!



Room 9

## BECOMING FRAGMENTS

The large statue of a man on horseback is inspired by to the 19th-century German politician Otto von Bismarck in a square in Bremen. But this statue is different from the original: it moves! Slowly, it crumbles, revealing that it is made up of many pieces. Once it has fallen apart, the figure rises again and gets back up and puts itself together again perfectly.

Watch the whole process. Try to guess what the man is thinking as he falls and as he gets back up! What are you thinking while the sculpture falls apart and comes back together?



Turn the Kit over to discover the works of art ★

