

MCA Kids' Adventure Trail

For ages 5-10. Children under 7 may need assistance.

**Level 4
Galleries**

JACKY REDGATE
LIFE OF THE SYSTEM 1980–2005

+

SELECTED WORKS FROM
THE MCA COLLECTION
Guest artist/curator Jacky Redgate **1967**

**Levels 1 & 2
Galleries**

ERWIN WURM
*Glue
your brain*

**Explore works from these three exhibitions
the MCA's special Summer season
Kids' Adventure Trail!**

You will be looking at artists who work in very different ways and who use different materials and things (also called **media**) to make their art.

You will see paintings, videos, sculptures and interactive art (art which can be moved or touched by the public).

Read the information in the box to the right first ➡

Now go up the lifts to Level 4. There are two exhibitions on this floor. First we will look at an exhibition by Australian artist **Jacky Redgate**.

She is interested in **systems** – a set or sets of things which work or belong together in a particular order.

You will see lots of different **colours, patterns and shapes** in her art.

Gallery rules:

1. Children must be **supervised by an adult at all times.**
2. **WALK SLOWLY** in the gallery space and **stay at least a metre back** from the artworks.
3. **DO NOT TOUCH** the artworks unless this worksheet or the label on the wall says you can. Artworks can be very fragile.

LOOK for the labels on the walls to find the name of the artist and how the art work was made and when.

★ Activities with this symbol can be completed at home.

Jacky Redgate: Life of the System 1980 - 2005

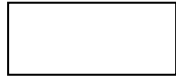
1. Walk out of the lift and go straight ahead to the artwork with stripes on it. These are covered with strips of **buckram**, which is used to bind library books.

How many pieces are in this artwork? _____

What **shape** are these? Circle the correct answer below:



square



rectangle



circle



cylinder

Look carefully at the different coloured stripes (remember to stand back from the artwork). Write down all the **different colours** you can see below:

Look at each part of this artwork:

How many of them use the colour yellow? _____

Which one has the hardest colour **combination** (mixture of colours) for your eyes to look at? Write the colour combination below:

Turn right and walk down the long gallery. Turn left into the gallery space and look at the large photographs on the wall to your left and straight ahead.

2. These photographs are all of ordinary household objects which the artist has arranged in a very ordered way against a black background. This type of display copies how history museums show fossils or other objects in cases.

FACT: These objects are all printed to exactly the size they really are (this is called 1:1 scale)

Look at the photographs:

How many **hinges** can you count? _____

How many **wheels**? _____

How many **rulers**? _____

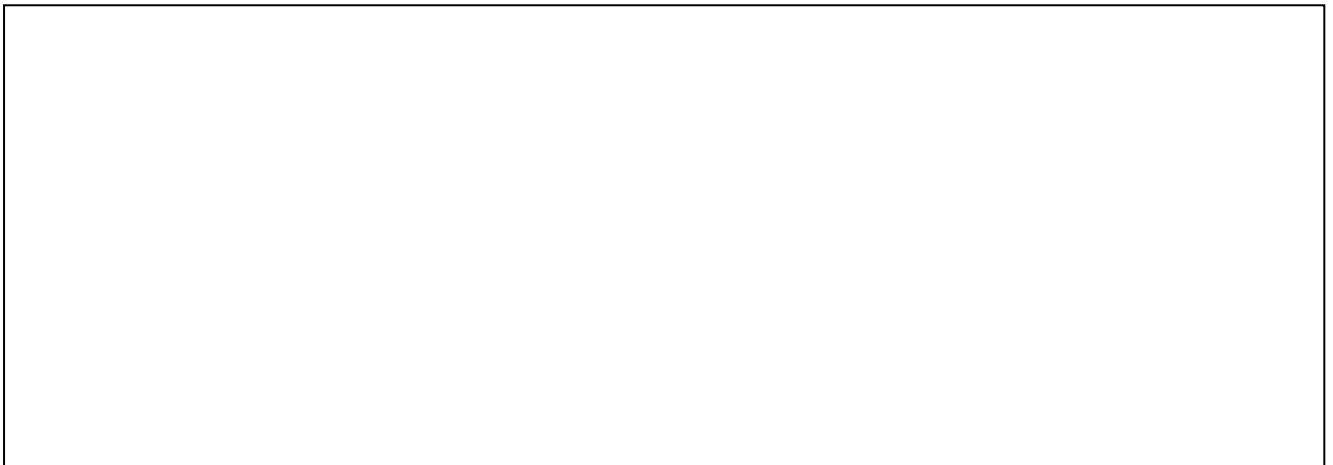
Where do you normally find a **hinge**:

on a floor on a door on a ceiling

Write down **three** things you can find in these photographs that are shiny:

★ At home, collect several different kinds of one object. Look in kitchen drawers or the garden shed for interesting things. Carefully display the objects on black paper or in a shallow box similar to how Jacky Redgate has. Ask members of your family if they think of the objects in a different way when they see your display.

3. Turn around and look at the six large sculptures hanging in a row in the air. Stand or sit in front of the work and draw all the shapes in the box below.



? Are these things all the same size?

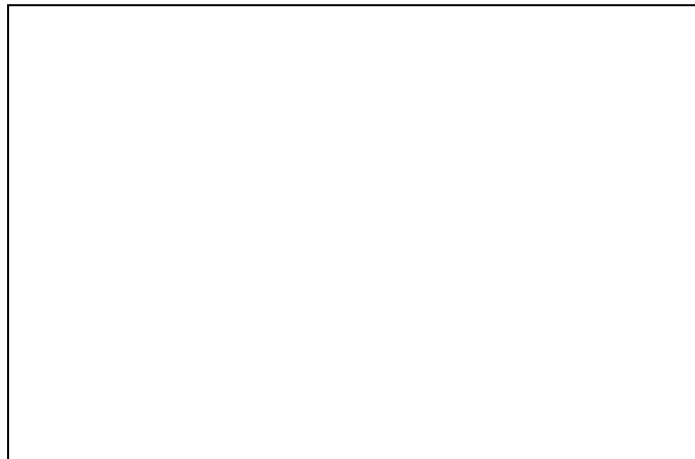
On your drawing above circle the object you think has the most mass or **volume** (this means takes up the most space).

Then put a square around the object you think has the least mass.

Answer: Surprise! All the shapes have the same mass. Each one used exactly the same amount of wood to make! The title of the work gives away the clue:

Equal Solids - Volume 25,196,000 cubic mm each

Pick your favourite *Equal Solid* shape and draw it below. Try drawing from a **different angle** – stand or sit, move to one side or to the very end of the row. Also draw the pattern of the wood-grain.



Walk into the room behind these sculptures. Walk up to the series of photographs on the end wall called *WORK-TO-RULE*.

4. Jacky Redgate has placed and lit the objects in these photos so they look like they are ads from the pages of a glossy magazine. Like her other artworks these use **geometric** shapes.

Compare the way these photos look to the series you have just seen.
What are some differences you can see?

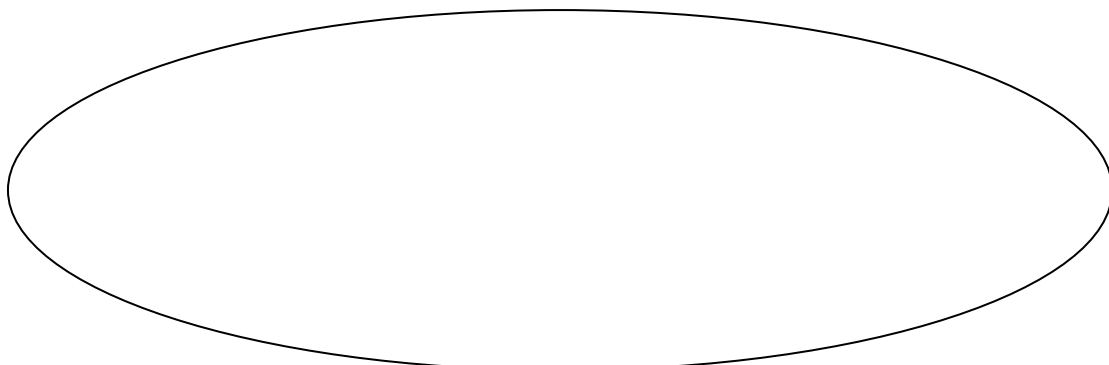


Look closely at the **second photograph**. At first glance this looks like a **golf ball**. Walk closer – what has Jacky really used to make the golf ball shape?

Write what she used here: _____

What do we usually do with these things? _____

Fill the outline of the shape below with lots of these things:



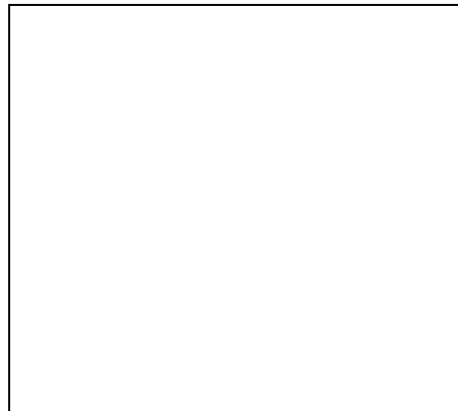
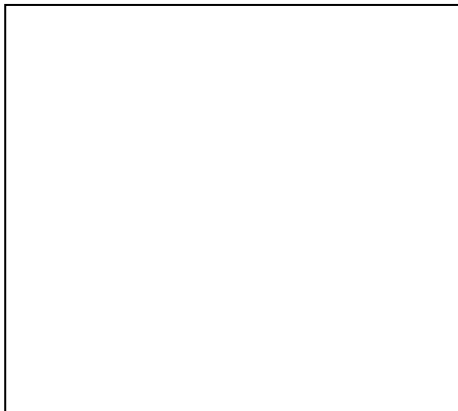
Walk back out of this room. Turn left and turn left again to find the 5 black objects.

5. Stand **directly in front** of this artwork (don't stand too close) – can you see something sitting on the black curved background? Now **stand slightly to one side** – can you see what it is now? Write what this thing is below:

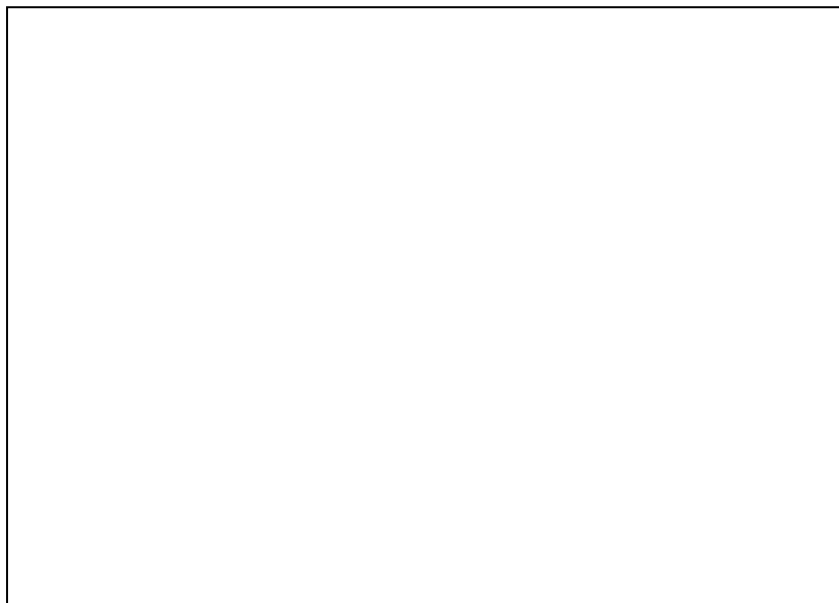
V _ _ _

Why can't you see the objects when you stand in front of them?

Stand or sit so you can see the objects, and draw the outlines of your **2 favourite** shaped objects in the boxes below:



Now **redraw** these two objects in the box below but this time **overlap** the outlines. **Repeat the shapes** and keep overlapping until you have a **pattern**. Now colour the overlapping bits to show the new shapes you have made.



★ The work is called *Untitled-Vase Shape #1-5*. Find the label on the wall to see that all the vase shapes are taken from paintings by famous artists. Look up Odilon Redon or Henri Matisse or Hugo van der Goes on the internet or in art books at home. Can you find the paintings the vases are from?

6. Walk down to the next set of photographs *Untitled* on the left hand wall.

These photographs are of artworks made by Jacky Redgate of objects or scenes she dreamt of when she was sick as a child.

Choose one photo. Describe below all the things you can see in the photograph:

Write the first sentence of a story featuring one of the scenes in the photos:

Last night I dreamt about _____

Use your sentence above as the starting point for a cartoon sequence based on the photograph. You can continue the cartoon at home by adding more boxes.

Now walk into the exhibition at the other end of Level 4.

1967: Selected works from the MCA Collection

This exhibition has been chosen by Jacky Redgate. She picked works from the MCA Collection – more than 5000 artworks owned or looked after by the Museum. It must have been very hard to choose! Turn into the space on your left with lots of artworks in it.

7. From the list below, circle the things you can see which the artworks in this room have **in common** with the artworks you saw in Jacky's exhibition:

circles triangles repeated patterns frogs
black and white apples stripes dots

★ All the artworks in this exhibition were chosen either because they were made in 1967 or were collected in 1967. It was also the year Jacky came to Australia with her family from England. Look up this date on the internet - what things happened in history in this year?

Turn to the right and walk carefully to the wall at the end of the space. Make sure you do not walk near the work on the floor!

8. Stand in front of the **painting with the black dots** on it. This is by famous British painter **Bridget Riley**. You may have seen her exhibition at the MCA at the beginning of the year. Look at the painting for a while – what can you see? Is it just **black dots on a white surface**? Is the painting surface still or does it look like it's moving? Describe what you can see:

This is called an optical effect.

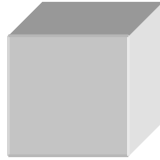
9. Look at the artwork next to it on the right. This looks like it is just white. Or is it? **Look carefully at the shadows under the cubes – can you see other colours?** (It may help if you stand slightly to one side). Write what you can see:

This time the colours are not an optical effect but are actually painted onto the bottom sides of the little cubes.

Are all the boxes facing the same way? _____

10. The gallery lights cast shadows from the cubes onto the painting surface. The shadows become a part of the artwork.

Use shading around the boxes below to make them look like three-dimensional cubes. Shade in dark, medium and light around different sides of the boxes to make them look like they face in different directions. We have done the first one for you:



Walk out and turn to the last room on this floor. Read the instructions before you go into the room because it is dark. Then write your answers when you come out of the room.

Walk in slowly and wait for your eyes to adjust. Look around the room.

11. What things did **all** the artworks in the room have in common? Circle the correct answers below:

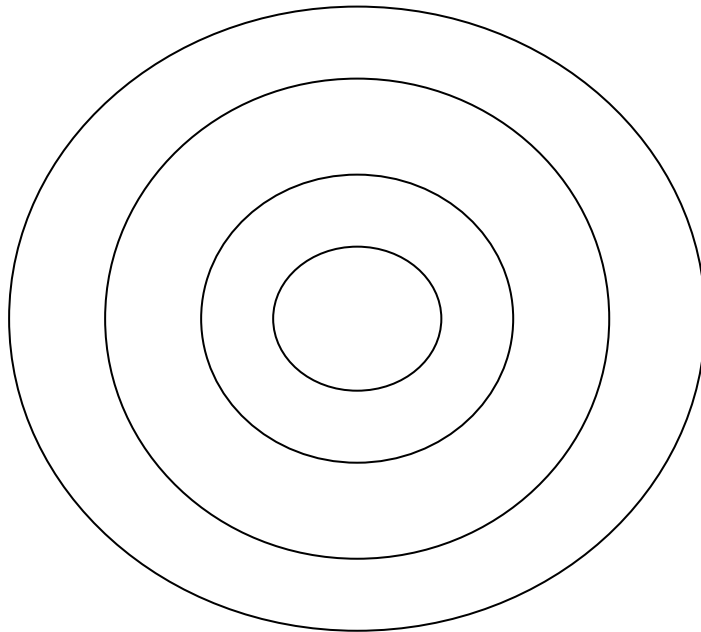
darkness flashing lights colour movement size circles sound

These types of artworks are called **kinetic** - meaning they **move**.

Write down the title and artist of your favourite work in the room from the label, then describe what happened in it:

★ Two of the works look like targets. At home, make your own target artwork by collecting different sized circular objects like jars or lids, and drawing around them. Experiment with using different colours - you could also use colour cellophane to get interesting effects.

★ If you can't find circular objects, use this template of a target to colour in at home:



12. Invent **your own kinetic artwork** using light, geometric shapes and movement. Think about the size and colour of your artwork, and what kind of effect you would like the audience to get from it. Write down your idea and do a sketch of your artwork in the box below:

Walk over to the lifts and go back down to Level 1.

Erwin Wurm: Glue your brain

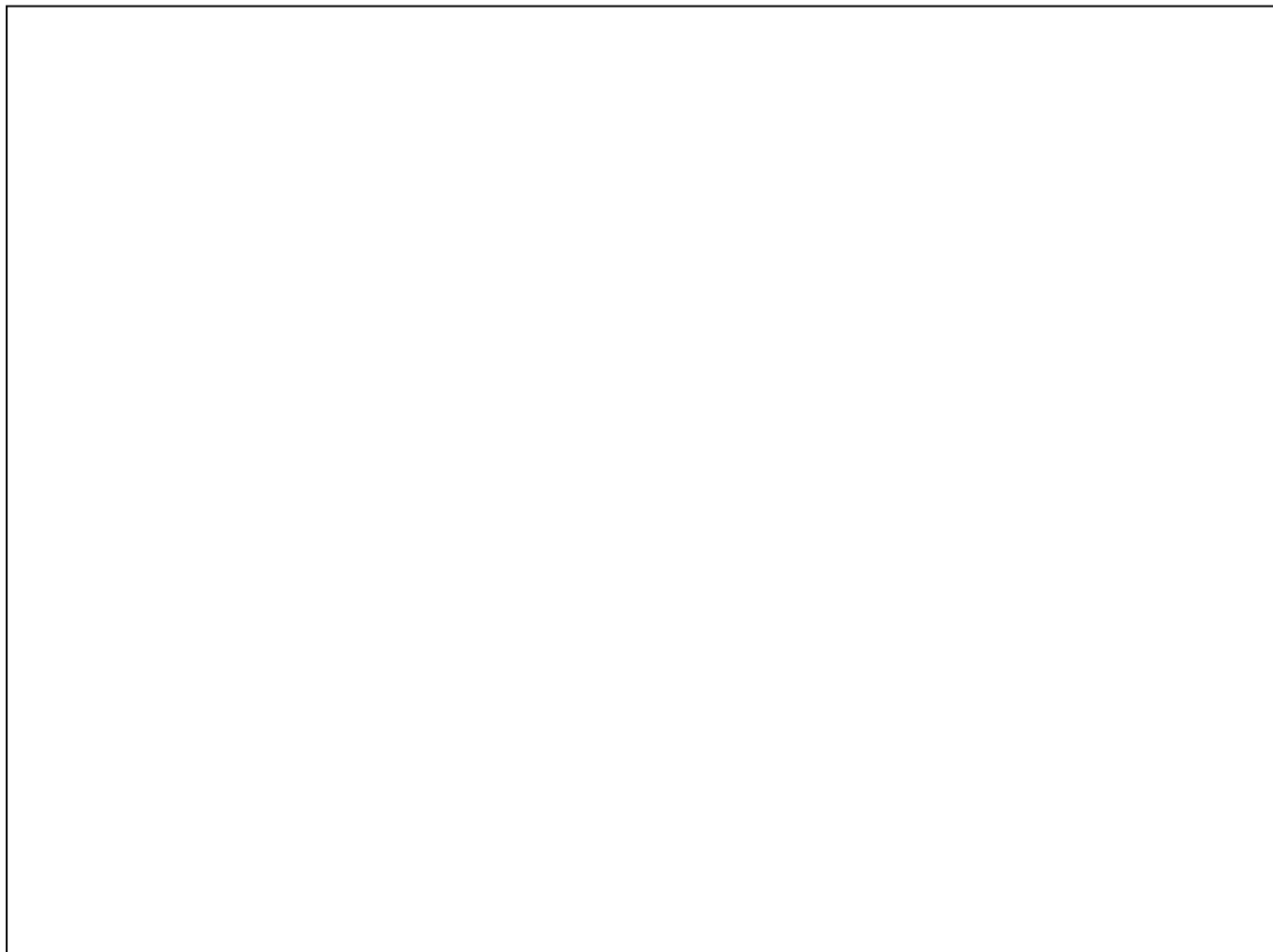
This exhibition is by an Austrian artist. His name is said like this :
Erwin Vurm.

★ Look up the country of Austria on a globe or a map.

13. Walk into the first room. Walk CAREFULLY towards the car – this work is called *Fat convertible*. Stay at least one metre back and please don't touch – it is very fragile.

Yes, there is a real car (a **Porsche**) underneath all that padding!
What things can you see which give clues about this? Eg: **steering wheel**.

Sit on the floor on the side of the car nearest the stairs. Make sure you aren't in the way of other visitors. Draw the **side view of the car** in the box below:

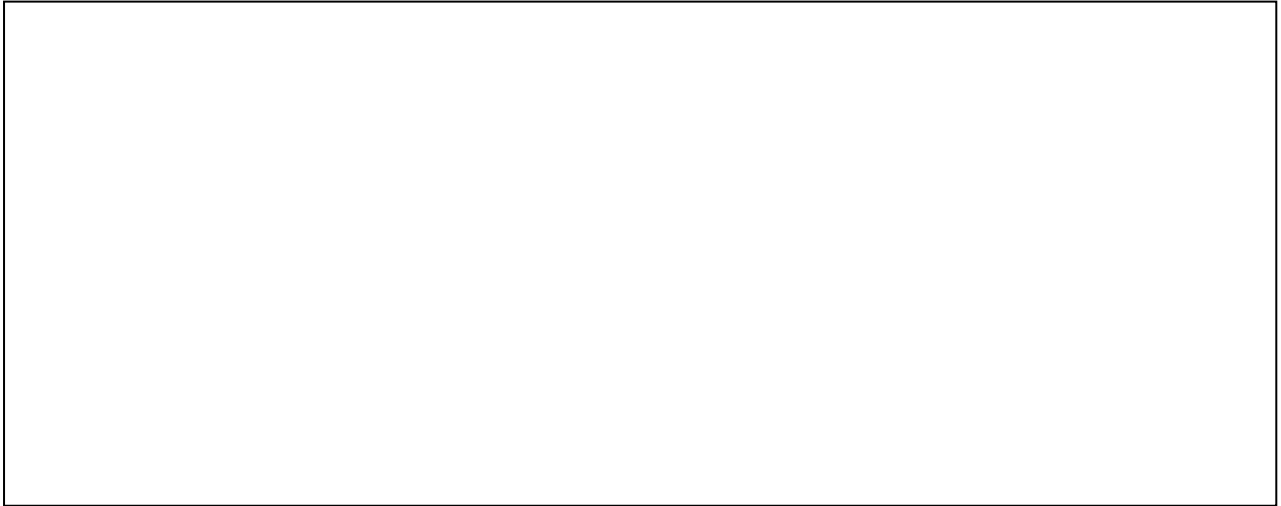


**14. Walk carefully past the car and into the small room on the left.
Look around the room.**

What has the artist used to make these artworks? _____

Do you think this is a normal or strange material to use? Why?

Walk to the end wall. Draw the soft sculptures on the wall in the box below. Make sure you draw all the folds and the patterns as well!



From the word list below, circle the words which best describe this sculpture:

furry cold warm hard heavy cute flat

friendly scary funny soft folded

**Look on the wall to the left of the sculpture. Can you see small drawings?
The artist drew these onto the wall to help people make their own version of
this artwork! Copy the drawing instructions into the box.**



★ *Take your most loved jumper and do your own Erwin Wurm pieces at home*
When you get home follow the instructions! You could use drawing pins to put your jumper sculpture onto a noticeboard, or pin it to some cardboard first then hang it on the wall.

15. Walk back out of this room and past the room with the car. Walk up the stairs. The artworks in the space in front of you are all interactive. You can become an artwork!

If you want to do any of these artworks read the instructions drawn on the base first. You can ask the MCA Visitor Service Officer in the space for help if you need to. Or you can watch visitors doing the artworks instead!

Either take part in the sculpture using tennis balls or watch someone else do it. What parts of the body touch the tennis balls?

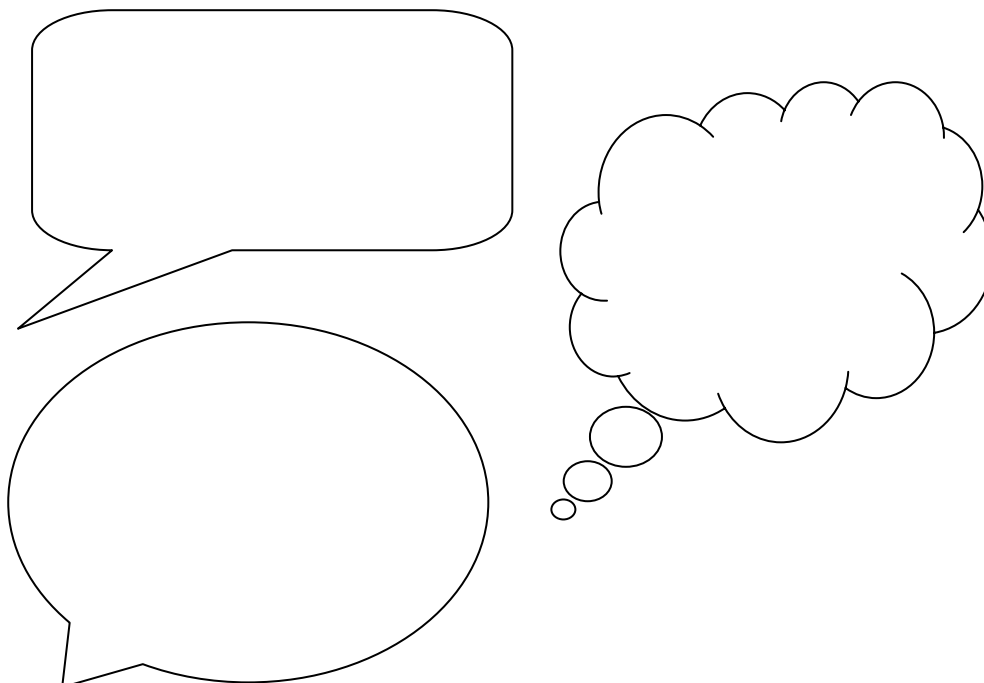
Write a list of some of the objects used in this room to make the artworks:

tennis balls _____

★ At home, find some of these objects and combine them to invent a new interactive sculpture. Draw instructions for your family to do the artworks!

Extra Erwin Wurm activity:

In the back of the room with the tennis ball sculpture are photographs of people doing all kinds of Erwin Wurm interactive artworks. Pick your three favourite photos. Write what the people in the photos could be thinking in the thought bubbles below:



We hope you enjoyed this worksheet and the exhibitions *Jacky Redgate: Life of the System 1980 – 2005*, *1967: Selected works from the MCA Collection*, and *Erwin Wurm: Glue your brain*.

For further information visit the MCA website at www.mca.com.au

Produced by the MCA Education Department.
Written by Justine McLisky
Museum of Contemporary Art 2005.

Don't forget to return your clipboard and pencil to the MCA Front Desk!

In association with the exhibitions:
Jacky Redgate: Life of the System 1980 – 2005
28 November 2005 – 5 March 2006

1967: Selected works from the MCA Collection
28 November 2005 – 23 April 2006
MCA Gallery Level 4

Erwin Wurm: Glue your brain
28 November 2005 – 12 February 2006
MCA Galleries Level 1 and 2



Free admission - thanks Telstra!

■ MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART ■

Sydney Australia www.mca.com.au

Museum of Contemporary Art
Circular Quay West, The Rocks, Sydney
Open 7 days 10am – 5pm
www.mca.com.au



The Museum of Contemporary Art gratefully acknowledges the ongoing funding and support of the New South Wales Government and 'Key Organisation' grant funding from the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. The MCA was established by the University of Sydney through the JW Power Bequest, with the assistance of the New South Wales Government.