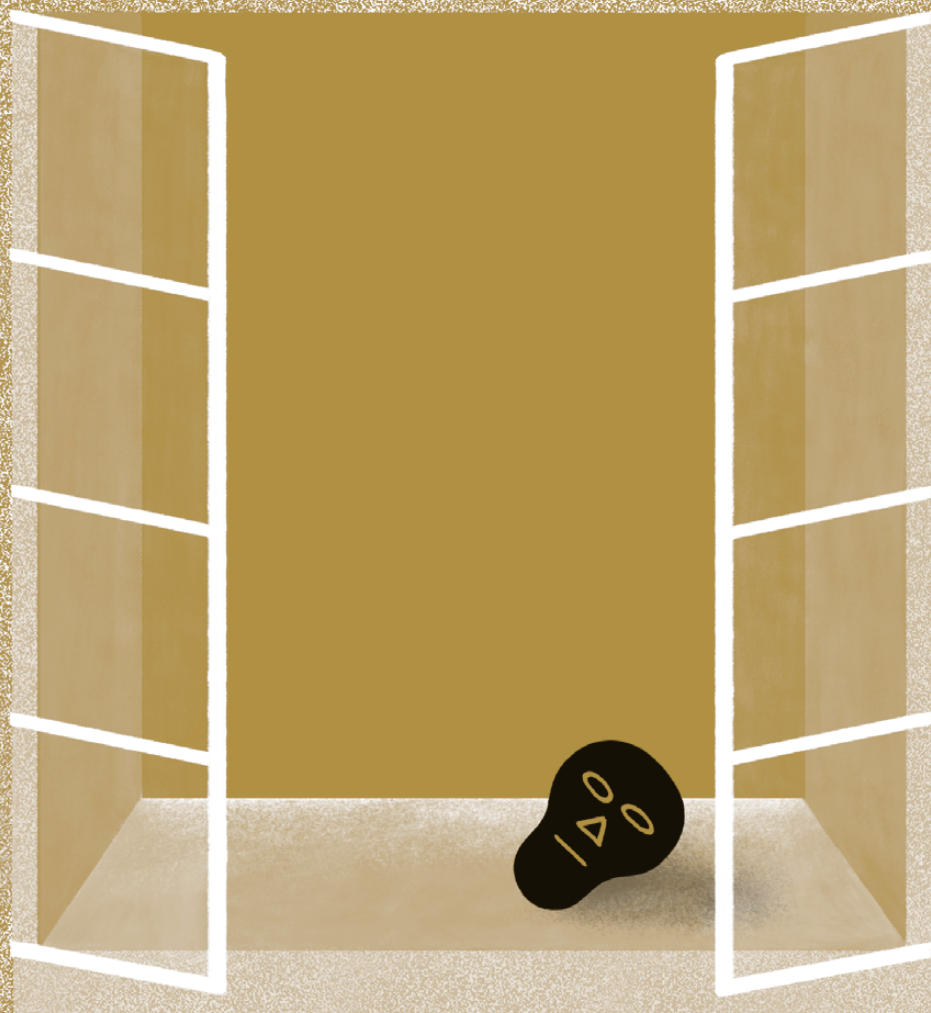


# ICÔNES

activity

guide



Punta della Dogana  
Palazzo Grassi  
**Pinault**  
Collection



# Welcome to Punta della Dogana!

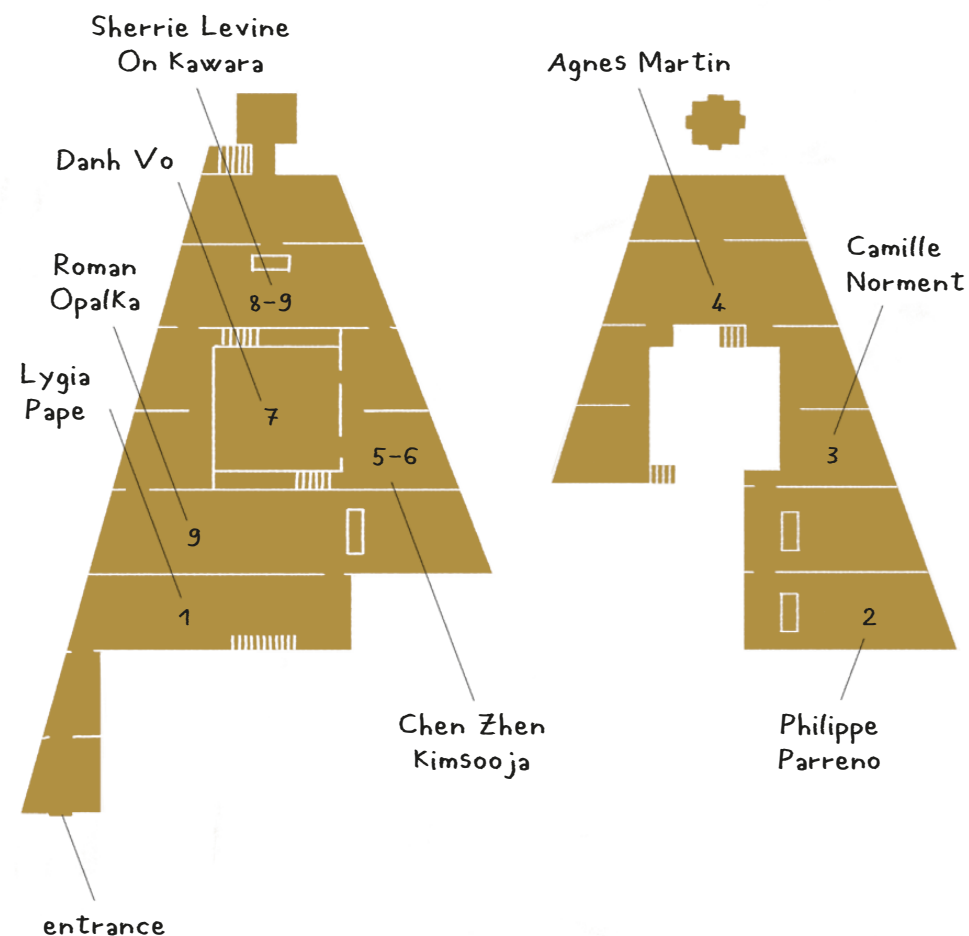
Wander through the rooms and pay  
attention to what attracts you.  
Sit down if you like!

Take your time, look at everything  
carefully, and enjoy the works and  
the atmosphere of Icônes... have fun!

You will find ten activities  
to complete along the visit:  
use the map to find your way.

To complete these exercises,  
you'll need a pencil. If you  
don't have one, ask at the  
ticket desk.

## Ground floor / first floor





# Do you know what an icon is?



An icon is a sacred image of the divine. Originally, icons were painted on wood panels or on metal and they were often embellished with gold, silver, and gems. In holy places such as churches, they were often hidden from view, using gilt screens, a red curtain, or panels made of precious metals that closed over them, signaling their importance.

The works that you will see in the exhibition remind us of the sacred spaces of ancient icons and encourage us to experience the spaces of the Punta della Dogana as if it were a temple. The icons, in fact, are like windows onto our inner world: try to focus on how they make you feel.

There are three colours within the exhibition that you can also see in this Activity Guide: white, black, and gold. Before you begin, think of an object, a word, and a feeling or emotion inspired by these colours and record them here.

Gold

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Black

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White

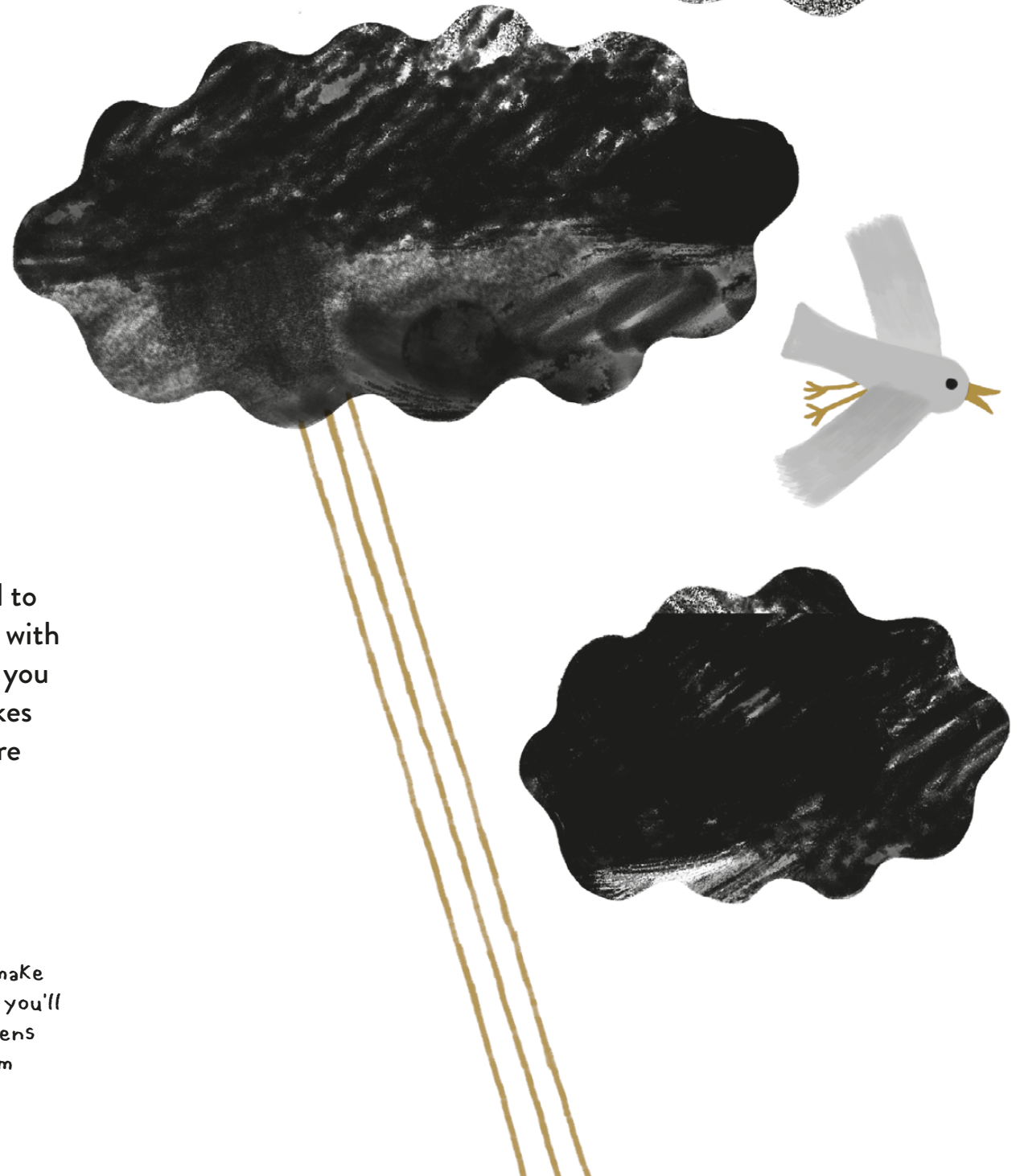
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1 – TTÉIA 1, Lygia Pape

## Wonder

Sometimes, to make a work of art, you don't need to know how to draw. Some works are actually made with very few elements: for example, in the next room you will see only gold thread. What would you say makes this work so special? Here's a hint: without it, there would be darkness.

Did you get it? Now try to make a drawing of it: on this page, you'll find some clouds. What happens when the sun comes out from behind the clouds?





## Unease

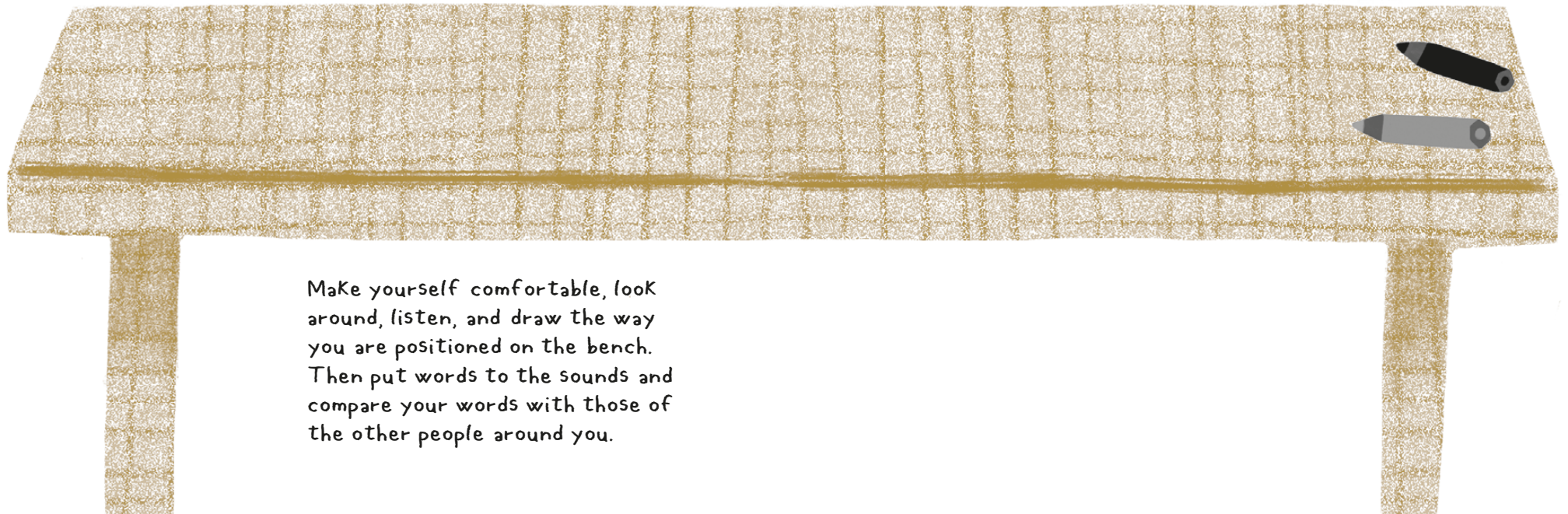
Some works are expressions of the artist's imagination and emotions. These works by Philippe Parreno, for example, recall the *Pinturas Negras*, or Black Paintings, by Francisco Goya, a Spanish artist who lived between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. When he went deaf, he started to paint the walls of his house with disturbing images in dark, gloomy colours: as if he were haunted by ghosts!

Now, immerse yourself in the darkness. Listen to the sounds, watch the video, and move your pencil on the paper, inspired by what you hear and how you feel. Don't worry about the result. Whatever it is, it will represent your own small ghosts: try to befriend them.



# Calm

This work asks us to listen, and to listen to ourselves. Listening can happen in many ways, it doesn't only involve our voices and our ears. Lie down on the benches and try to listen to the voices echoing in the space with your whole body: now you're also part of the artwork!



Make yourself comfortable, look around, listen, and draw the way you are positioned on the bench. Then put words to the sounds and compare your words with those of the other people around you.





## Joy

The works of Agnes Martin are like visual meditations. Each of her works represents a positive emotion. Use lines to connect the dots freely and think about joy: what form does it take?



## Tranquility

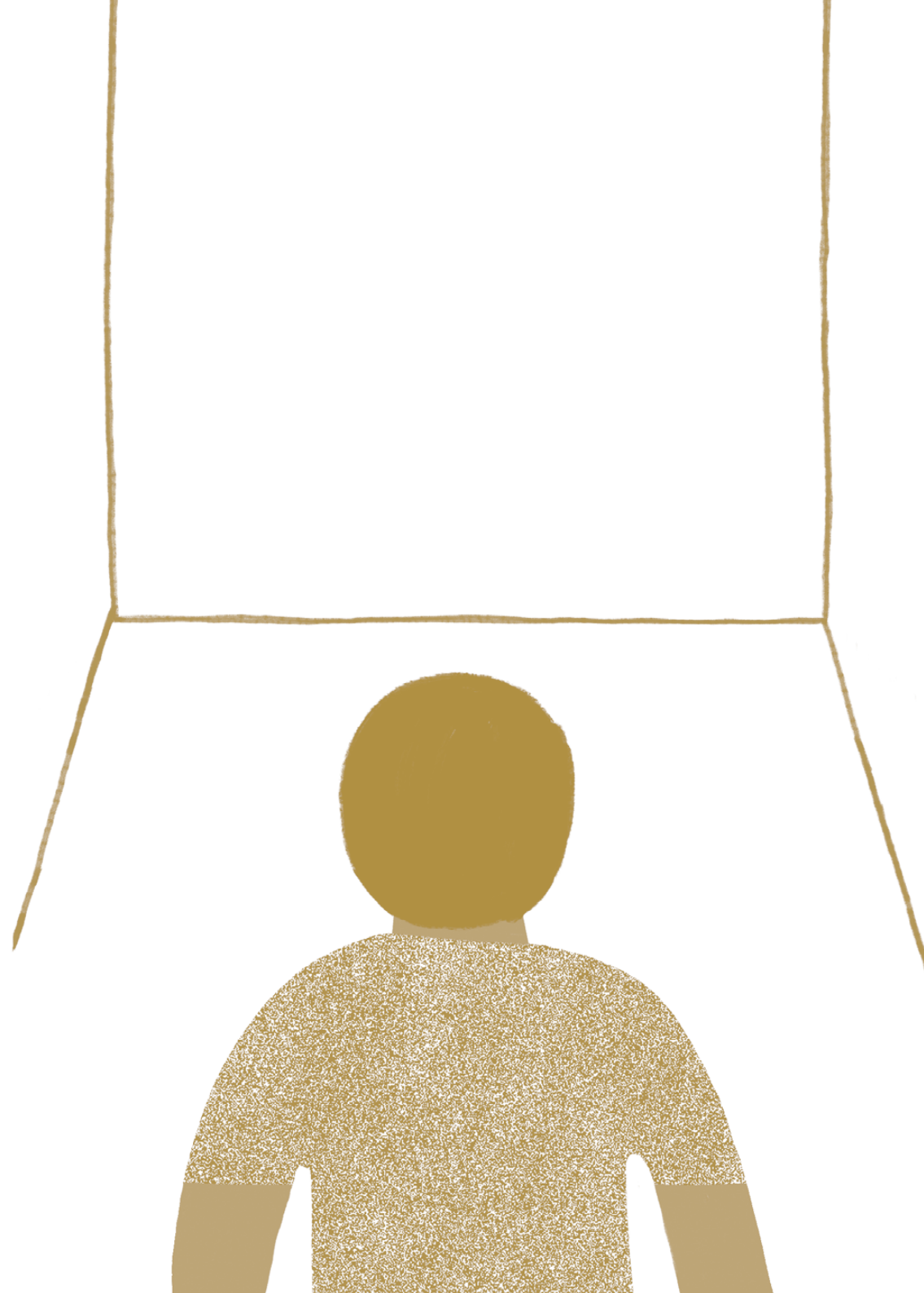
What makes you feel at home? “Home” can be a place, a person, or even something else: draw your ideal home here, above this chair, representing it however you like. Home could be anywhere.



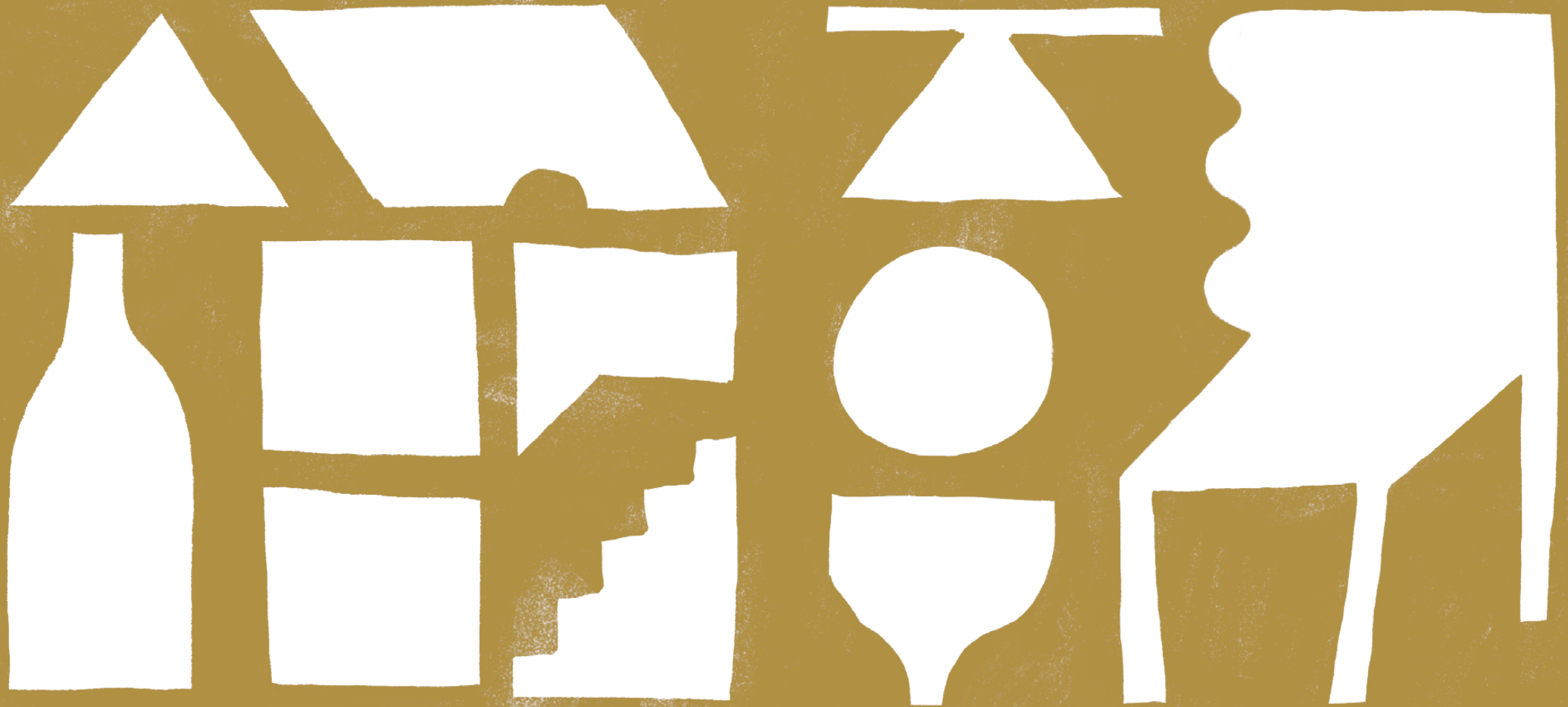
# Solitude

*A Needle Woman* is a video that was shot in four cities: Shanghai, Tokyo, Delhi, and New York. The artist stays still in the middle of a crowd: even if it's quiet and everything seems unreal, a thread connects the world and makes us understand the importance of relationships and our communication with others.

The reactions of the passersby in each city are very different. Try to identify with Kimsooja, putting yourself in her place. Stay still in a room of the museum and see what happens. Then draw the situation that is created around you.



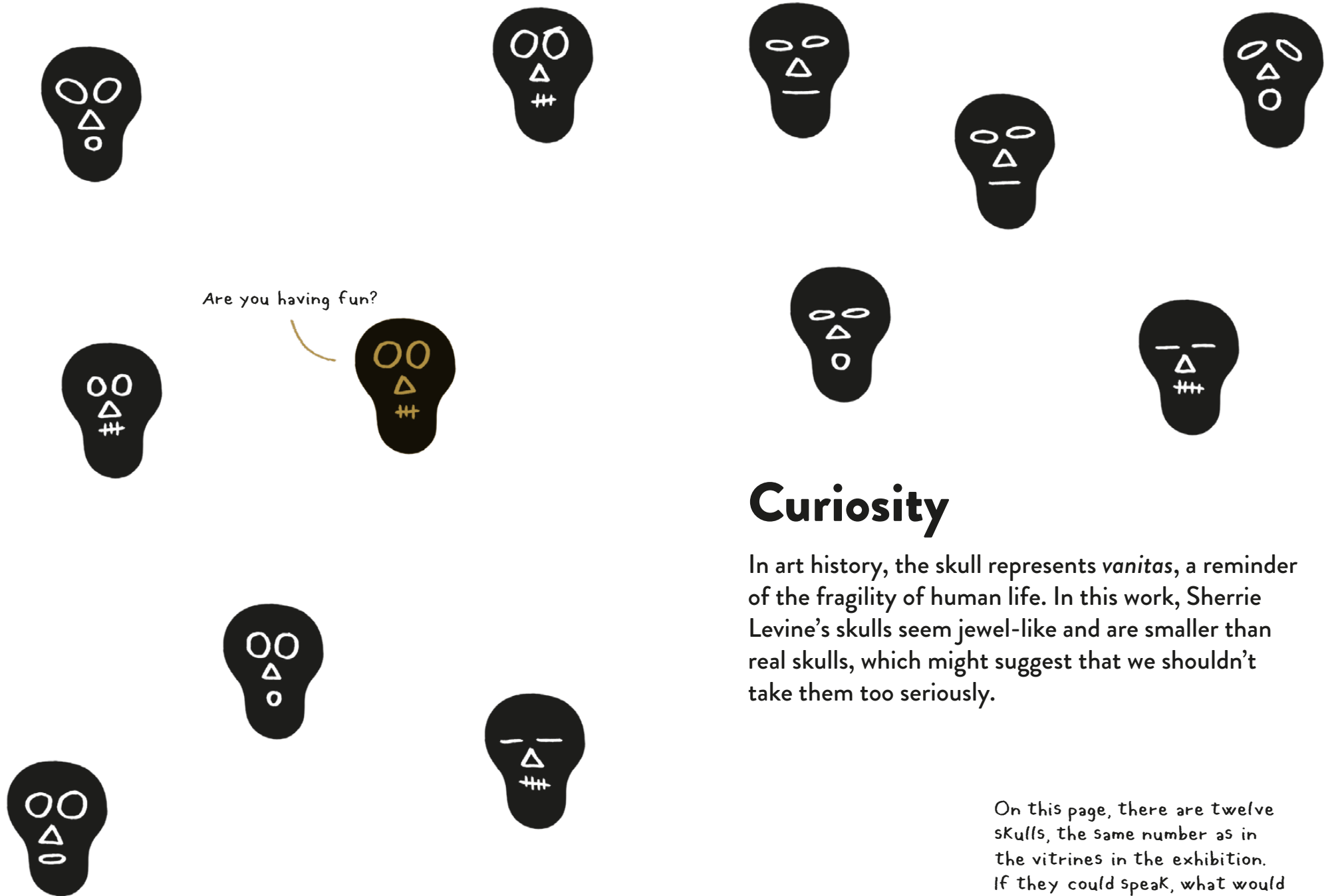




## Nostalgia

This work is about time and what it leaves behind: things that once existed exist no longer. The sun has made the fabrics fade, leaving these ghostly traces. The original appearance of the fabric is preserved wherever it was covered by objects, and we see their silhouettes.

Get creative and try to imagine the details of the objects that left these marks. Surprise yourself and make them come alive again.



## Curiosity

In art history, the skull represents *vanitas*, a reminder of the fragility of human life. In this work, Sherrie Levine's skulls seem jewel-like and are smaller than real skulls, which might suggest that we shouldn't take them too seriously.

On this page, there are twelve skulls, the same number as in the vitrines in the exhibition. If they could speak, what would they be saying?

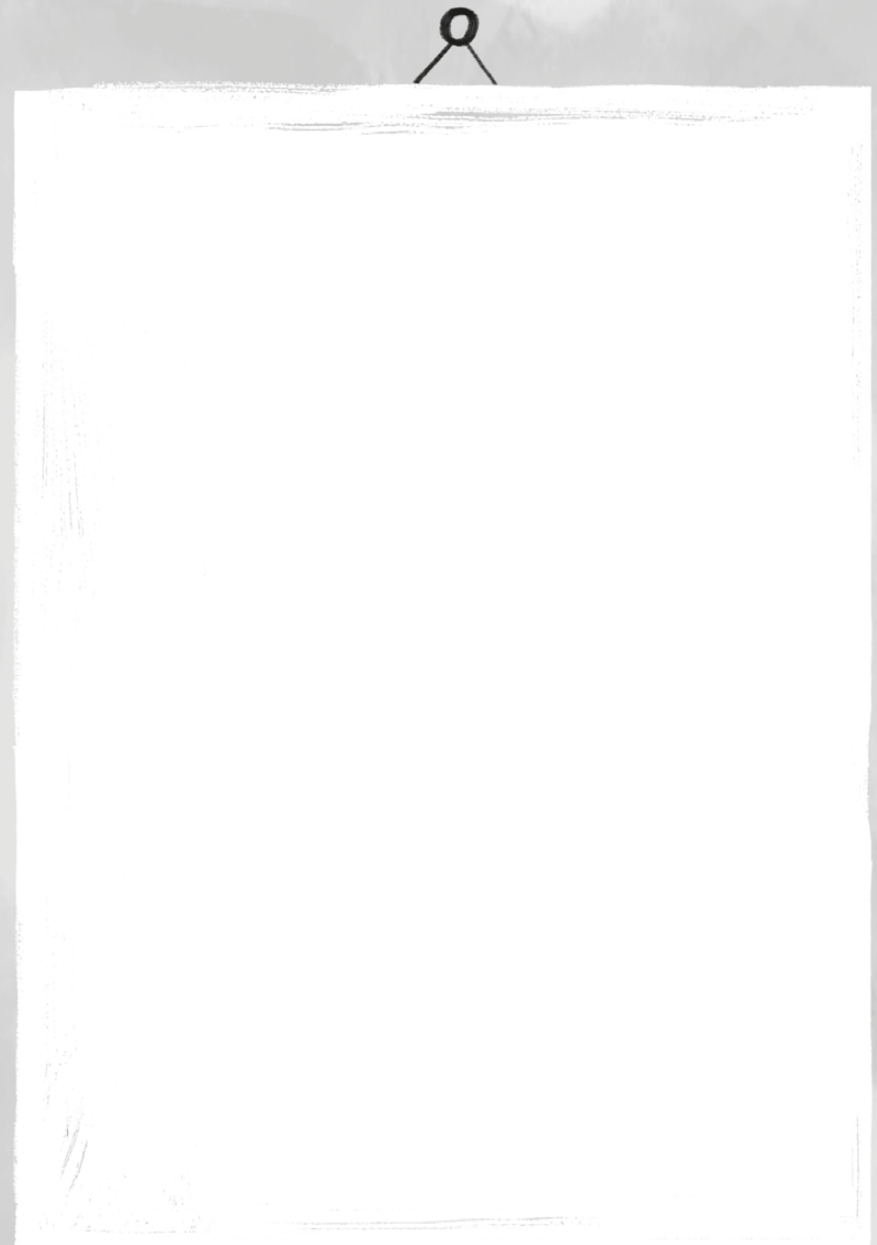


# Waiting

Now let's compare two artists. These works relate to one another because they both address the theme of "time". On Kawara and Roman Opalka tried to stop time in different ways: Kawara recorded the date on which he made each work and Opalka painted a series of numbers that became progressively lighter with each canvas he made and then photographed himself when he completed each one.



Is it possible to stop time? In a drawing it is! Take a photo and then make a drawing here of your "current self," of you in this very moment. Write the date you came to the museum, like On Kawara did.



# The Shape of Emotion

This is the end of the exhibition and by now we have come to understand that an artwork is not only made up of images, but includes other things as well: emotions, vestiges, thoughts, and time itself. An icon is just a way for us to access a different dimension, one that is within every one of us. Artists look inside and find it, each in their own way.

What emotions and thoughts did this exhibition bring out in you? Try to describe how you felt. Then give this feeling a shape or form: if it was an object, what would it be? What colour would it be? Maybe you can even give it a name. What would you call it?

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A project by the education  
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– Punta della Dogana

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