



Art Detectives

Anish Kapoor

Main Galleries

26 September – 11 December 2009

A guide for younger visitors to the exhibition

www.royalacademy.org.uk/education/artdetectives

**Hand this in at the Reception desk to see your
pictures and stories on the website**



You will need a pen/pencil to write and draw

Remember not to touch anything in the exhibition as fingers leave marks!

The sculptor Anish Kapoor RA was born in 1954 in Mumbai, India, and moved to study in London in the 1970s. It was not long before galleries in London and around the world began to exhibit his work. He has won many prizes and was made a member of the Royal Academy, called a 'Royal Academician', in 1999.

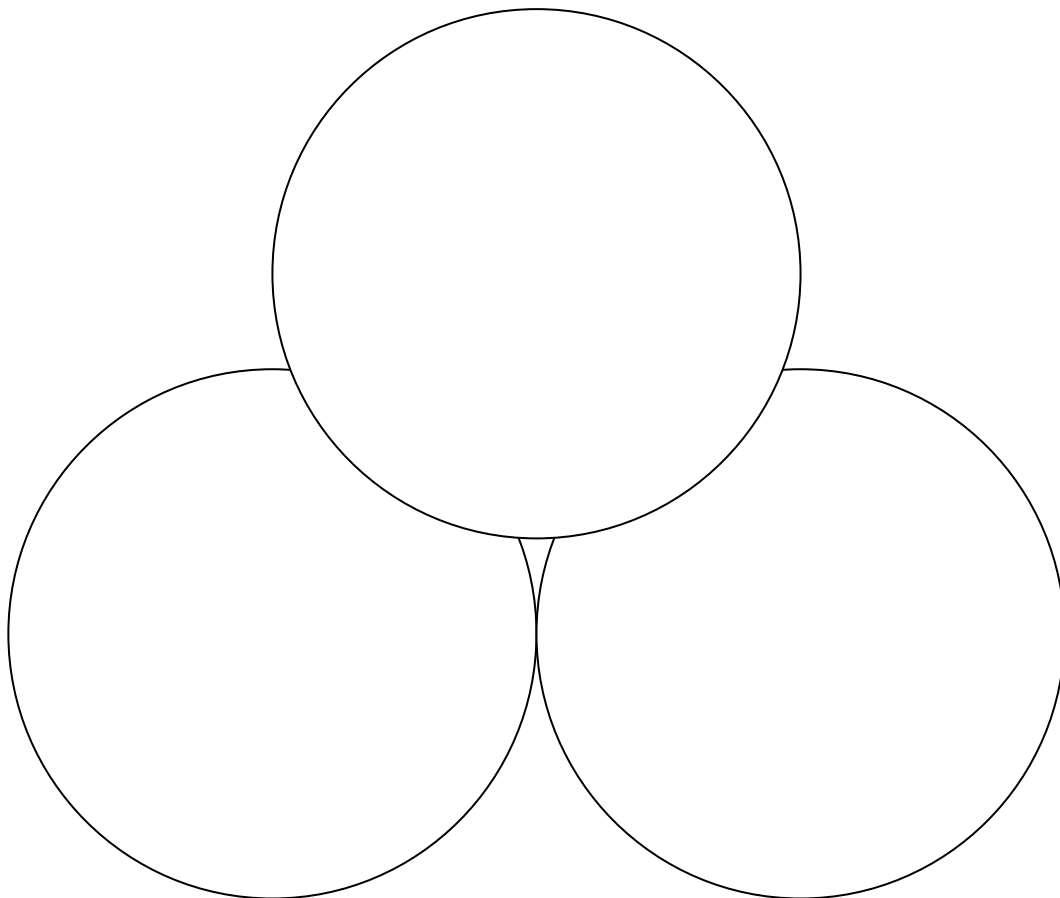
Royal Academy Courtyard

Tall Tree and the Eye, 2009

Kapoor often creates very large sculptures. When he puts his sculptures out-of-doors, he chooses where to place them very carefully. This is because what surrounds the sculpture – countryside, buildings, the sky – will make us think different things about the sculpture.

You will have passed the work, *Tall Tree and the Eye*, in the courtyard on your way into the Royal Academy. It is 15 metres high and made of polished, stainless steel balls. They appear to balance almost magically on top of one another.

You would have seen yourself and the space around you reflected many times in the sculpture. It captures the changing colours of the sky and invites us to look up. *As a test of your memory, see if you can remember three things that were reflected in the balls when you walked past and draw them in the circles below.*



Clue: think of people, buildings, statues, weather...

Gallery One

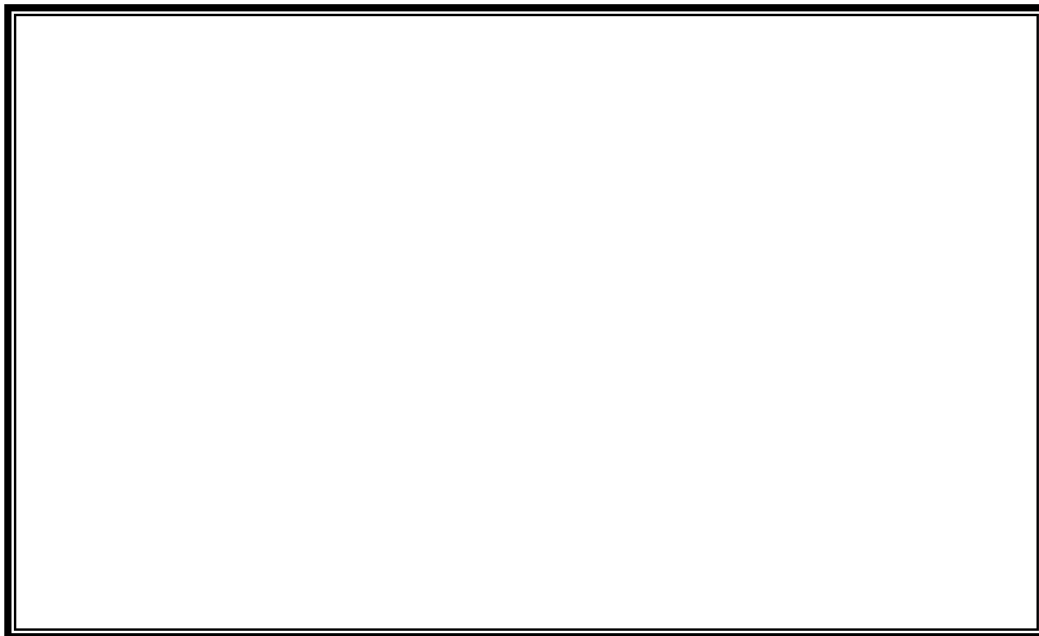


Find: *1000 Names*, 1972–85

These works are covered in pigment, which is a powdery substance that artists use to make paint. Pigments can be mixed and watered down to create many dyes and paints. Here, though, Kapoor has not mixed them with anything, so the colours are still bright and lively. What do you think is underneath the pigment? Do these sculptures look strong or weak?

Do you think that the pigments have been made from things found in nature (plants, minerals, animals etc.) or from man-made chemicals?

Draw your favourite pigment piece.



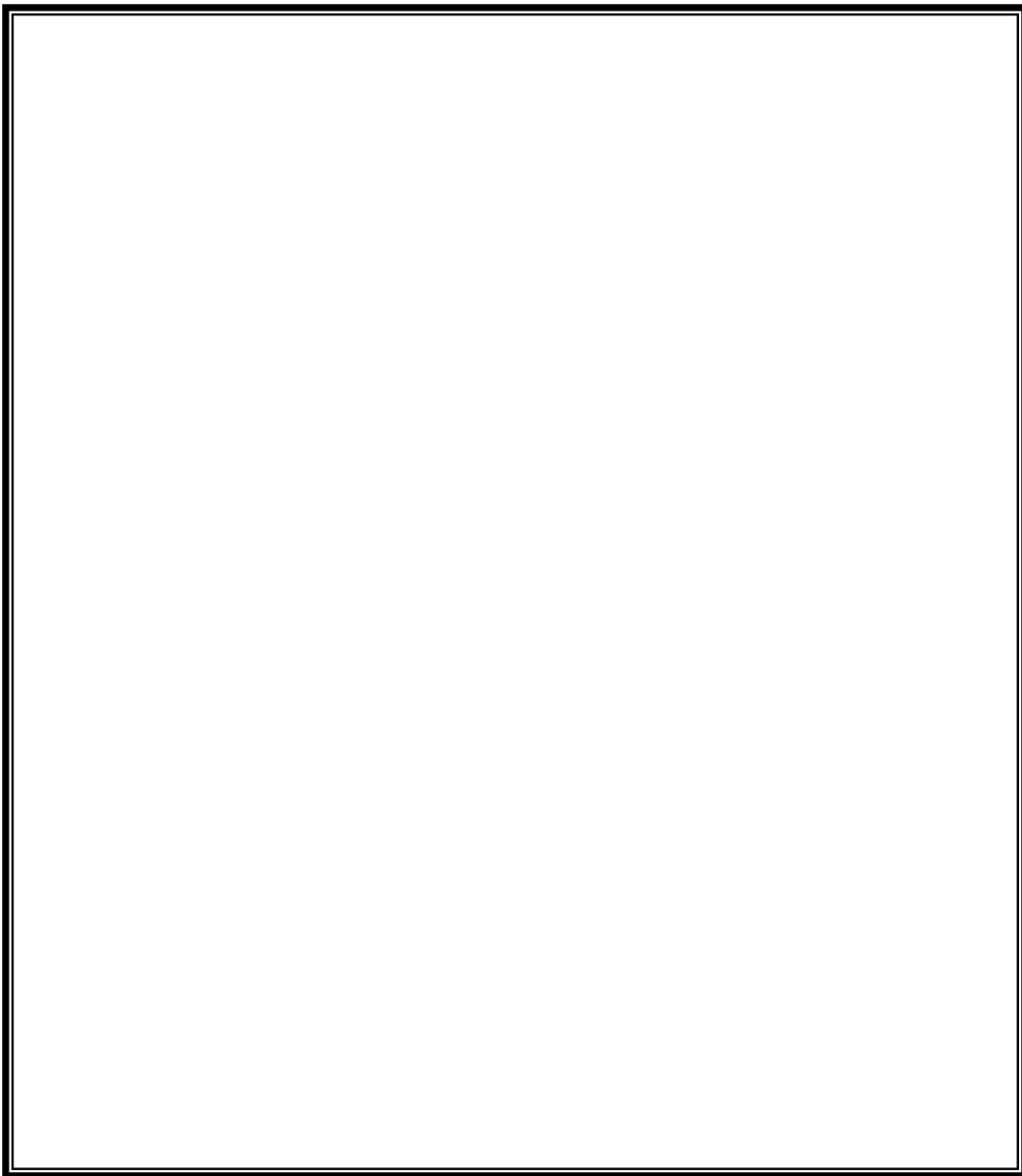
As the title *1000 Names* suggests, these sculptures could be called many things and each visitor to the exhibition will think some different about them. What title would you give the one you have just drawn?



Find Number 21: *When I am Pregnant*, 1992

This sculpture is very smooth and painted white to match the colour of the gallery walls. It might have taken you a little while to spot the work when you first walked in! How do you imagine the other side of the sculpture looks and feels?

Draw what you think might be inside the bump.



Your name: _____ Age: _____

Gallery Two



Find Number 10: *Yellow*, 1999

As you stand in front of this work you might imagine yourself enjoying the rays of the sun on a hot summer's day. It seems to hover on the wall and invites anyone walking past to stop for a moment and enjoy its warm yellow glow. How does this sculpture make you feel when you look at it? Circle the words that you think of:

SAD WARM CHEERFUL RELAXED LONELY COLD

HAPPY EXCITED WORRIED ENERGETIC SLEEPY

What is your favorite colour? Imagine if the work was this colour – how would it make you feel then?

Kapoor uses lots of primary colours – red, yellow and blue – in his work. When he was growing up in India he would have witnessed Holi, or the Festival of Colour. This is a popular Hindu festival held every March that involves people celebrating by throwing coloured powder at one another.

If you mix these primary colours, what colours do you create?

Red + Blue = _____

Yellow + Blue = _____

Red + Yellow = _____

What colours do you associate with your country? Why is this?

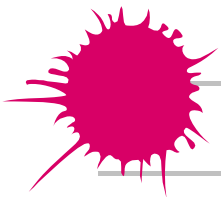
Large Weston Room



Find Number 18: *Shooting into the Corner*, 2008–09

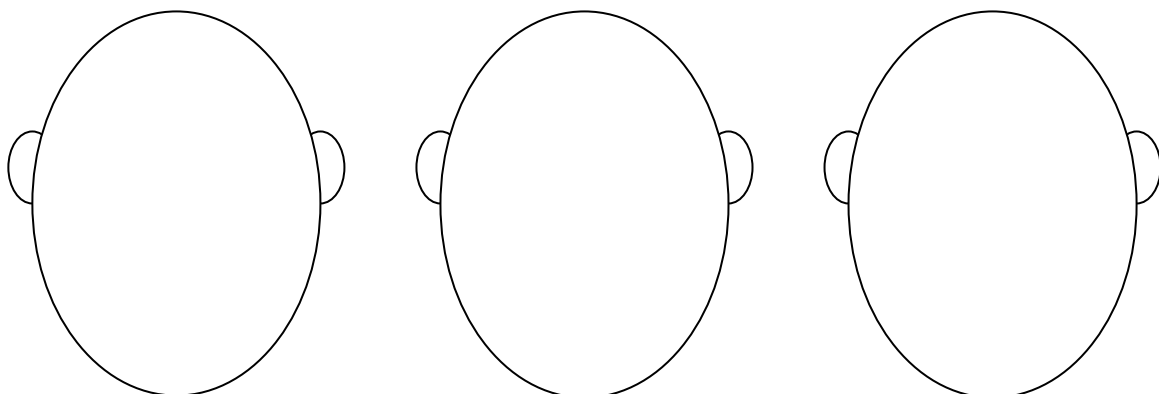
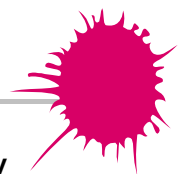
This cannon fires red-wax shells into the corner of the room at a very fast speed. The red wax actually travels at 80 kilometres per hour! The cannon is fired at regular intervals so if you wait around you will be able to see the wax splat against the wall. The build-up of wax causes the red colour to darken. *You will see quite a lot of this red wax around the exhibition. What does this colour make you think of?*

You may find it strange having a cannon in an art gallery as it is a type of weapon connected with war and fighting. *But is this cannon destroying or making something? Is it dangerous?*



Kapoor is interested in how our senses experience sculpture. Which of our five senses – sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste – does this work appeal to?

This work is quite noisy and will certainly take a few visitors by surprise. *Look around you and draw people's expressions as they see the cannon fire. You can draw your own reaction too!*



Gallery Three

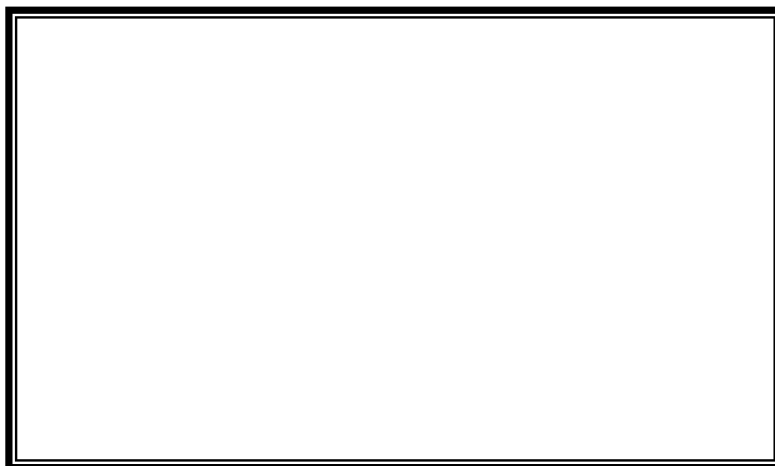


Find Number 14: *Vertigo*, 2008

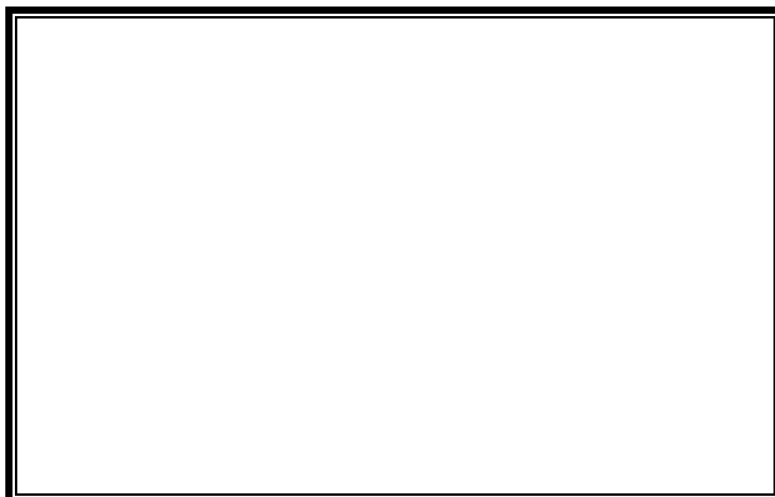
This sculpture may also give you a surprise – it flips your reflection upside down! You might have had a similar experience visiting a hall of mirrors at a fairground. It is made of stainless steel that has been polished to give it a smooth, perfect surface. Describe what happens to your reflection as you walk around the work.

Draw your reflection as it appears in the sculpture on both sides:

Side 1



Side 2



What happens if you make a sound in the centre of the sculpture?
Does your voice sound louder or quieter?

Gallery Four



Find Number 11: *Svayambh*, 2007

The title of this work is very hard to say. It is Sanskrit (one of the world's oldest languages) for 'self-made'. This suggests that the work of art has in fact made itself without the artist. The train-like sculpture moves through the galleries very slowly and quietly along rails. Like the cannon balls you saw earlier, it is made of red Vaseline, paint and wax.

How many galleries does this work actually take up? Do you think it is unusual for one sculpture to take up so much space?

Trains have different meanings for different people and places. In London, there are lots of underground trains. You may have used them to get here today. How is Kapoor's train different from a train we travel on?

Trains have been a popular subject for poets and writers, as well as artists, ever since the steam trains of the Victorian age. Poets have been fascinated by their power and movement. Try to write your own poem about Kapoor's sculpture.

Wohl Central Hall



Find Number 19: *Hive*, 2009

This sculpture was made especially for the Royal Academy. It appears to bend and turn inside out before our eyes. It is a very big work and takes up most of the gallery. How do you think the artist managed to get it into the gallery?

If you look up you will see some much older sculptures – busts (heads) of artists. How is Kapoor's sculpture different to these earlier works?

Does the surface of this sculpture make it look older or newer than the other works in this exhibition? Why?

Lots of Kapoor's sculptures look like they would have been very difficult to make. If you could build a sculpture out of anything to fit in this space, what would it look like? Sketch a quick design.



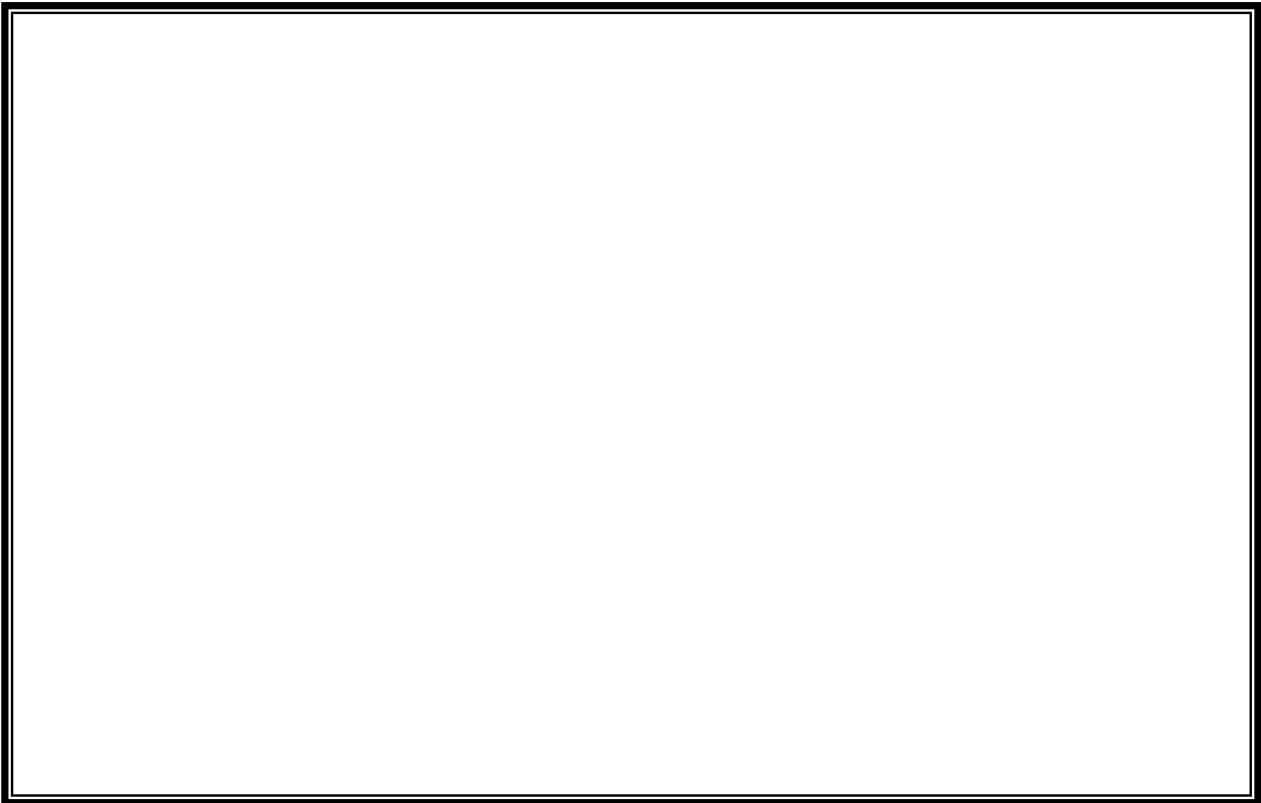
Lecture Room



Find Number 20: *Greyman Cries, Shaman Dies, Billowing Smoke, Beauty Evoked*, 2008–09

What do these shapes remind you of? Have you ever seen shapes like this in the natural world?

Draw what you think might have caused these – an animal? a machine? a human?



Kapoor actually used a computer to create these forms. But the materials he used would not keep the shape of his design, and so they fell apart. The artist has chosen to position the works closely together making them look a bit like crumbling buildings or ruins. You may have visited ruins in Britain or whilst on holiday abroad. Do these sculptures make you think of any particular place?

Imagine that you are a famous explorer. Write a short story about stumbling across these strange ruins on your travels.

Gallery Nine

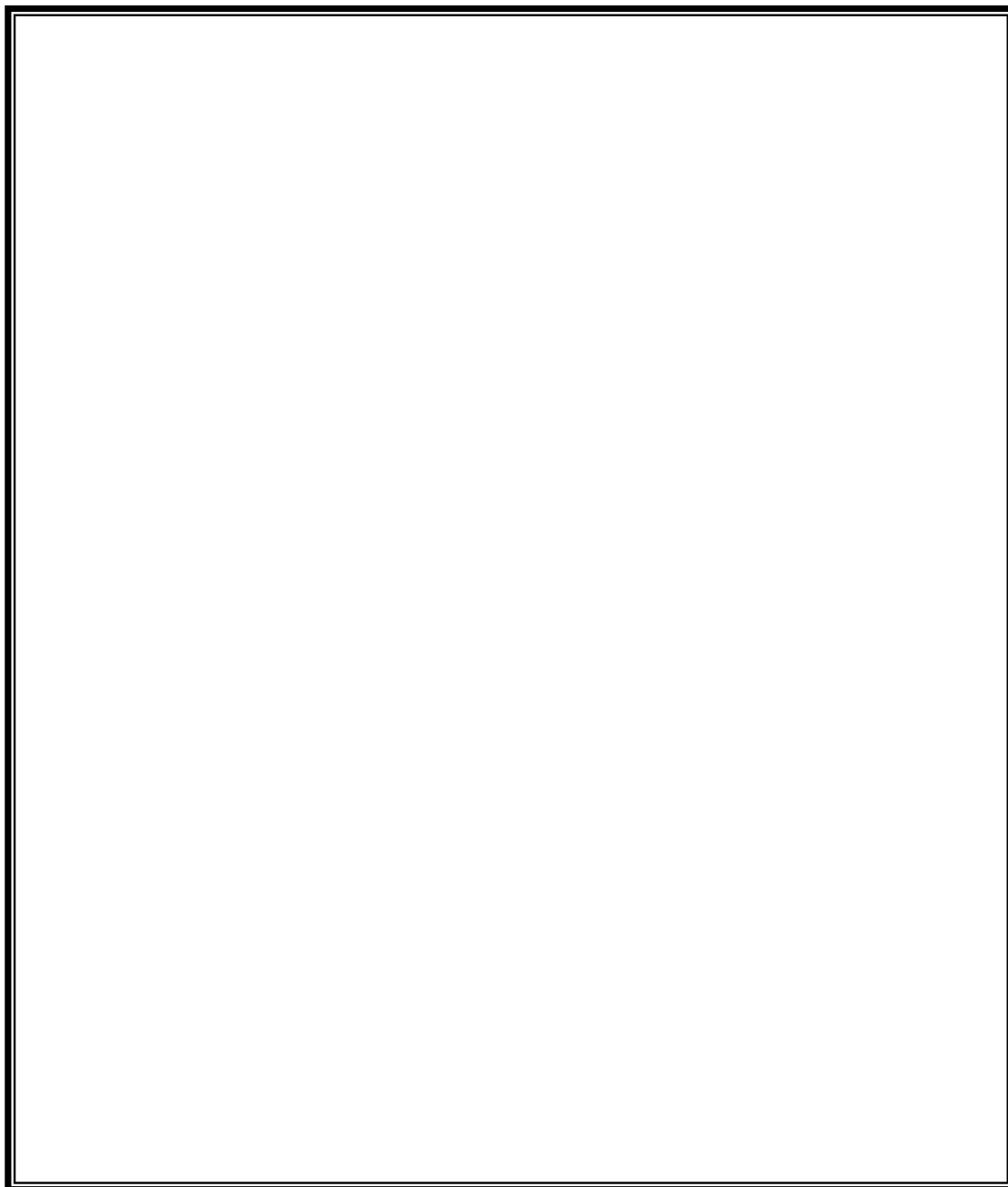


Find Number 17: *Slug*, 2009

This work is quite different from the sculptures that you will have seen so far. It is made from a resin used in plastics. With its giant red funnel, it looks a bit like a strange wind instrument. Imagine if you could blow through its massive tube. What type of sound do you think it would make?

Kapoor has chosen to call the piece 'Slug'. Why do you think he has called it this? Do you think it could be any other animal?

What is your favourite animal? Draw your own sculpture based on this animal.



Name _____ Age _____

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Written and designed by Helena Bonett, Francesca Herrick, Jessica Croll-Knight,
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