The Line is a public art walk in London. The route runs between the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and The O2, following the Greenwich Meridian. Works of art along the waterways offer a chance to explore and be inspired. As well as discovering The Line in-person and online, we invite you to create The Line. This pack – produced and inspired by the artists on The Line – offers prompts and resources for creating your own artworks.
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Did you know?

An orbit is the path an object takes in space when it goes around a star, planet or moon. For example, in our solar system, the Earth orbits the Sun.

1. Anish Kapoor
ArcelorMittal Orbit

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

Created by sculptor Anish Kapoor, in collaboration with engineer Cecil Balmond, ArcelorMittal Orbit is the UK’s tallest sculpture at 115 metres tall. Its twisting structure does not allow a single view from any one perspective, but rather invites the viewer to move around and inside it, to join in with its playful form.
Activity

A Continuous Line

Look at the photo of ArcelorMittal Orbit below (or if you’re able to visit The Line, look in person). Can you draw it with a continuous line? This means starting the drawing and not taking your pencil / pen off the paper until you’ve finished. Have a few tries. How do they differ?

What you will need

— Paper
— Pen / pencil

Show us!

Send us a picture or video of your work: info@the-line.org
Share on social media @TheLineLondon #TheLineLondon
2 Carsten Höller
The Slide

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

The Slide was created in 2016 by artist Carsten Höller at the invitation of Anish Kapoor, designer of ArcelorMittal Orbit. At 178 metres long, it is the world’s tallest and longest tunnel slide and offers a 40-second descent, 12 twists and turns, and speeds of up to 24km/h.

Did you know?

Carsten Höller loves slides so much that he wanted to find out how plants reacted to the experience. In an installation in 2018 (called The Florence Experiments Slides), people were invited to take plants with them on the slide and then he used complex scientific research (working with famous biologist and professor of plant science, Stefano Mancuso) to understand if the plants felt happy after the ride!
Activity
Create a Slide

Make a slide for a small ball or toy. What’s the tallest and longest tunnel slide you can make? Can you create a slide that wraps around a piece of furniture? Or a long slide that goes down stairs and out the door? You could tape as many rolls as you can end-to-end or you could cut some rolls in half length-ways and slot either end into support tubes, as in the illustration below. Remember to put the support holes at different heights so your slide runs at an angle / downhill. Once you’re happy with the shape, try rolling a marble down or sending a toy car on a ride!

What you will need

— Empty loo rolls / kitchen rolls or rolled up card
— Sellotape
— Marble / small ball / small toy car

Show us!
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Did you know?

The work was made to celebrate the 50th anniversary of American biologist James Watson and English physicist Francis Crick’s discovery of DNA’s double-helix structure, which was based on Rosalind Franklin’s X-ray images of DNA.

Abigail Fallis
DNA DL90
River Lea

This extraordinary sculpture is made of 22 shopping trolleys arranged in the shape of a double helix, which represents DNA (the genetic code that makes up all life!).
Activity

Tin Can Sculpture

Create a tin can tower by stacking as many empty cans as you can on top of each other. Ask an adult to wash the tins and make them safe to play with first. How many cans can you balance? You can paint or decorate them if you like. Why not grow your tower by adding a tin can every time your household uses one? You could even try making a tin can castle!

Check out our website to watch a film prepared by Abigail Fallis to accompany this activity: www.the-line.org/learning/for-families/

Show us!

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What you will need

— Tin cans
— Paint (if you like)
4 Joanna Rajkowska
The Hatchling

Cody Dock

The Hatchling is a large-scale version of the egg of a blackbird, one of Britain’s most common birds, known for its well-liked song and distinctive blue-green coloured brown-speckled eggs.

Did you know?
If you’re on The Line and you listen carefully, you will hear sounds of hatching chicks from inside the sculpture. A recording of The Hatchling is also available on our website, visit: the-line.org/artist/joanna-rajkowska

Activity
Imaginary World

Can you imagine a world inside an egg? Who or what might live inside your egg? Create a drawing to bring an invisible world to life or use coloured paper / kitchen foil to create a collage.

Check out our website to watch a film prepared by Joanna Rajkowska to accompany this activity: www.the-line.org/learning/for-families/

What you will need
— Print out of the next page (or a sheet of plain paper if you want to draw the egg yourself)
— Coloured pens / pencils
— Coloured paper / kitchen foil (optional)
— Glue (optional)

Show us!
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Share on social media @TheLineLondon #TheLineLondon
5 Laura Ford

Bird Boy (without a tail)

Royal Victoria Dock

Bird Boy is a sculpture of a young boy dressed as a bird. The sculpture floats on a pontoon at Royal Victoria Dock. He appears lonely and, perhaps, lost out on the water but he asks for our attention and makes us wonder what he is doing there.

Did you know?

Bird Boy is made from bronze, which is a metal alloy. This means it is made from a mixture of mainly copper and tin. It has to be heated to around 950°C (incredibly hot!) so that it melts into a liquid. It is then poured into a mould (a bit like a jelly mould) where it cools slowly back into solid bronze, taking the shape of the mould.
Activity

The Adventures of Bird Boy

Activity 1
Make your own Bird Boy! Cut out this template (ask an adult to help if needed) and fold the base of the figure, as shown, to make it stand up. Try placing your Bird Boy in different locations around your house / garden. Where does he look most at home? Where does he look lost? What adventures can he have?

Activity 2
Can you make a painting of an imaginary place for Bird Boy?

What you will need

Activity 1
— Print out of this page
— Scissors

Activity 2
— Coloured pens / pencils
— Paint

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Antony Gormley
Quantum Cloud
Greenwich Peninsula

This giant sculpture by artist Antony Gormley is made from thousands of steel rods which have been welded together. The artist is exploring ideas around our relationship with space and energy. The condensation at the centre of the sculpture is in the shape of a human body, which is easy or difficult to spot depending on where you are viewing it from. This sculpture highlights how things change according to your point of view and how the way we look at things can change what we are looking at.

Did you know?
Periods of human history are often named after the technology that has had a big impact on that time. Think of the Stone Age, the Iron Age, the Steam Age and the Electrical Age. We are now in the Quantum Age because our improved understanding of very, very small particles has transformed everyday life. Every electronic device we use has been developed using quantum physics, from superconductors to smartphones.
Activity

Stick Challenge

Step 1
Grab your wooden sticks and throw them up in the air, or if you’re in a smaller space, drop them onto a flat surface. How have they landed? What shapes have they made? Keep going until you make something interesting. Then photograph it and send the photograph to us.

Step 2
See if you can create a Quantum Cloud. The condensation at the middle of the construction can be anything: a tree, a constellation, an animal or a human form. See how big you can make it!

Check out our website to watch films prepared by Antony Gormley to accompany these activities:
www.the-line.org/learning/for-families/

What you will need

— Wooden satay sticks, match sticks, lollipop sticks or toothpicks (you can buy any of these at the supermarket)
— Camera / smartphone
— Glue gun (older children only)

Show us!
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Gary Hume
Liberty Grip
Greenwich Peninsula

Gary Hume created this sculpture in three separate sections, each one is based on the arm of a shop mannequin. The artwork looks like a human body but also like a mysterious shape.

Did you know?
A Liberty grip is one of the most important techniques in cheerleading. Two or more people securely hold the feet of another cheerleader so they can be lifted high into the air to perform stunts.

Activity
Limbering Up

Can you make your own knotted figure with these shapes? Cut them out and rearrange them to create your own twisted figure. How many variations can you make? Gary Hume likes to use bright colours in his work – can you paint or colour the shapes to make a colourful collage?

What you will need
— Print out of the next page
— Scissors
— Glue / Sellotape
— Paints / pens (if you like)

Show us!
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Share on social media @TheLineLondon #TheLineLondon
Richard Wilson
A Slice of Reality
Greenwich Peninsula

Artist Richard Wilson has often worked with different objects (including aircrafts, buses, ships, London taxis and caravans) and by playing with them in some way (including slicing and balancing), he makes us look at the world differently. In this sculpture, he has taken a 1/8 slice of a sand dredger ship – the insides of the ship are revealed at both ends, inviting us to look inside.

Did you know?
A sand dredger is a ship that has special equipment to scrape or suck sand from the bottom of the sea, a lake or river. It helps to clear sand, mud and silt from our waterways so that other ships can use them without running aground.

Activity
Inside Out

Create your own Slice of Reality. Print off the outline on the next page and think about who or what might be onboard your ship. Sailors, animals, pirates... or even aliens? What are they doing?

Think about the rooms and spaces inside the ship, as well as outside on deck.

What you will need
— Print out of the next page
— Pencils / paint

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Thomson & Craighead

Here

Greenwich Peninsula

Jon Thomson and Alison Craighead’s sculpture, Here, is a road sign that marks the 24,859-mile distance around the earth and back to Here. The route follows an imaginary line that passes through the North and South Poles. The sculpture is located on the Greenwich Meridian, an invisible line that can be found at Longitude Zero (0° 0’ 0”) on a map.

Did you know?

For over 130 years, the Greenwich Meridian has marked the divide between the eastern and western hemispheres of the earth. Imagine the earth has been cut in half from top to bottom - the halves are the hemispheres. Every place on Earth is measured in terms of where it is in relation to this line.
Activity

Here and There

Thomson & Craighead have helpfully provided us with the distance around the world to ‘Here’. But how would you get there?

To follow the Greenwich Meridian around the world, you need to cross oceans and deserts, travel over mountains and through cities and forests. Design a vehicle or machine that could be used for this adventure. What does it look like? How is it powered? Use pens, pencil or paints to design your machine. Don’t be afraid to let your imagination run away with you – maybe your machine has wings or flippers like an animal, maybe it has wheels or even skis, maybe it can drive on land and swim under the sea!

Show us!
Send us a picture or video of your work: info@the-line.org
Share on social media @TheLineLondon #TheLineLondon

What you will need

— Paper / card
— Pens / pencils / paints
— Junk (boxes, loo rolls, containers, milk cartoons etc) if you want to have a go at modelling your vehicle
Alex Chinneck

A Bullet from a Shooting Star

Greenwich Peninsula

Alex Chinneck’s artworks aim to make the everyday world extraordinary. He is best known for creating outdoor artworks that respond to their setting. He takes familiar objects and materials and makes them behave in surprising ways. In this way, he introduces fantasy to reality and transforms ordinary objects into surreal artworks.

Did you know?

Surrealism was a cultural movement led by writers and artists who wanted to release the creative potential of our imaginations, combining dreams with reality to create a super-reality, or surreality.
Activity

Extraordinary-ordinary

Go outside or look through a window. What can you see?

Activity 1
Choose one object and draw it as you see it.

Activity 2
Describe the object with words, without saying what it is. What is it made from? What are the properties of that material? What shape is it? What size is it? How heavy is it? These are the things that help to define your object.

Now think about what you could do to make your object behave in a surprising way. Examples include bending it, breaking it, twisting it, tying it in a knot, turning it upside down, melting it, making it hover. Alex Chinneck uses all these ways of changing the world to transform ordinary objects into extraordinary artworks.

Activity 3
Decide how you would like to change your object to make it extraordinary. Draw your object again showing this change. You could also cut, fold or change your drawing in any way that you can imagine to create your own surreal artwork.

What you will need
— Paper
— Pen / pencil
— Scissors (optional)

Show us!
Send us a picture or video of your work: info@the-line.org
Share on social media @TheLineLondon #TheLineLondon
Thank you to all the artists for their support of The Line and the development of this Activity Pack.

Art is for everyone so please share these activities with friends and family.

Don’t forget to show us your creations, either by email: info@the-line.org or social media: @TheLineLondon #TheLineLondon

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