

AGSA Education

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Art Gallery of South Australia

Open daily, 10am–5pm

First Friday of the month, 10am–9pm

Closed 25 December

Free entry & wifi

AGSA Kurna yartangka yuwanthi.

AGSA stands on Kurna land.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



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Education programs at AGSA are supported by the Government of South Australia through the Department for Education.

image front cover Dušan Marek, born Bitouchov, Czechoslovakia 1926, died Adelaide 1993, *Perpetuum mobile*, 1948, on board the SS *Charlton Sovereign*, oil on board, 121.7 x 91.2 cm; South Australian Government Grant 1972, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide.

ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Attention families – this information is for you!

You are the captain of your crew and will be in charge of exploring *Dušan and Voitre Marek: Surrealists at sea*.

Try your hand at these activities that will engage art lovers of all ages with works of art while they look, imagine and draw some surreal scenes!

You will need:

- Lead pencils
- Sketchbooks

Make sure you collect a pencil and sketchbook from the Studio before you enter the exhibition space.

image Dušan Marek, born Bítouchov, Czechoslovakia 1926, died Adelaide 1993, *Analysis of substance*, 1952, Kings Cross, Sydney, oil on canvas 36.5 x 88.2 cm; Purchased with the assistance of James Agapitos OAM and Ray Wilson OAM 2007, National Gallery of Australia, © Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Getting started

Dive into *Surrealists at sea* and make your way to Gallery 25 (the first Gallery space as you come down the stairs).

Warming up the brain (5 min)

Look at the work *My Gibraltar* for one minute.

Now spend one-minute thinking/writing some words in response to this work of art (like a word association game).

Play a round-robin with your friends and family sharing one word from their list. Continue to share a different word, how many times can you get around the circle before you run out of words.

At home

Collate the words from your round-robin game and use them as a starting point to write a short surreal story.

Early years or primary children

Children may simply share one word out loud while in a circle.

Middle or secondary children

Individually, children are encouraged to write down their responses.

Warming up the drawing hand (5 min)

These are quick exercises that you – the captain will direct:

1. Draw your favourite animal using the hand you write with (1 minute)
2. Draw your favourite animal using the hand you never write with (1 minute)
3. Draw your favourite place or food standing on one leg (1 minute)
4. Draw the work of art in front of you only using straight lines (or using circles or triangles) (1 minute)
5. Draw a continuous line drawing of another work of art without taking your pencil off the page (1 minute)

Blind drawings (10 min)

Draw the person in front of you without taking your pencil off the page.

Halfway through drawing, instruct your crew to turn their paper upside down or on its side and continue drawing.

Exquisite Corpse (5 min)

Exquisite Corpse is a game surrealist that artists played and one that is still popular today. Participants take turns in drawing a section of a body on paper, folding the drawing to hide their contribution, before passing it on to another person to draw the next section. Sometimes the results are funny, odd and grotesque with two different faces joined together or elongated limbs contorted into unusual positions!

Find examples in the exhibition where Dušan and Voitre Marek have drawn or painted distorted surreal figures.

Tip: Look out for *My Gibraltar* or *Victim of the world* by Voitre Marek.

Using the concertina sketchbook try your hand at your own exquisite corpse. Draw a section of a body or animal or even machine, turn your drawing over to conceal what you have drawn and pass it on to the person next to you.

You could take inspiration from some of the themes in the exhibition.

At home

Try some more exquisite corps with writing, poetry or collage.

Collecting objects (10 min)

As a group make a list of the objects you can see in the works of art by the Marek brothers. For example, clocks, boats, water etc.

Captain to lead! Using the list your crew has come up with, call out one of the words. Draw this object from memory. After one minute, call out a different word. Your crew will stop drawing the previous object and begin drawing the new one. Continue this method, repeat words and vary the time between each prompt. Your crew may join their objects together in some way so that it becomes one drawing.

