

ONLINE STUDIO

AGE 12-18

Architecture and the Body
with artists

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Architecture and the Body 02: The Body as Labyrinth

with artists
Anna Brass and Paul Patrick Fenner

In this session we think about labyrinths. A labyrinth a complex structure made up of passageways that loop and turn... just like the inside of your body. For the first drawing we will look at the tangles of wires and cables we all have in our homes. In the second drawing we will imagine the human body as an architectural labyrinth.

Two drawing tasks: the first is **15 minutes**,
the second is **30 – 60 minutes**

Materials

Each drawing task has possible combinations of materials to use, but these are just suggestions – you can use whatever you like.

For this session we've suggested:

- charcoal, graphite, ink, biro and felt tips
- sketchbook, squared paper, big loose sheets of paper



Head of Christ, 1927, England, c1230 – 70, Sainsbury Centre

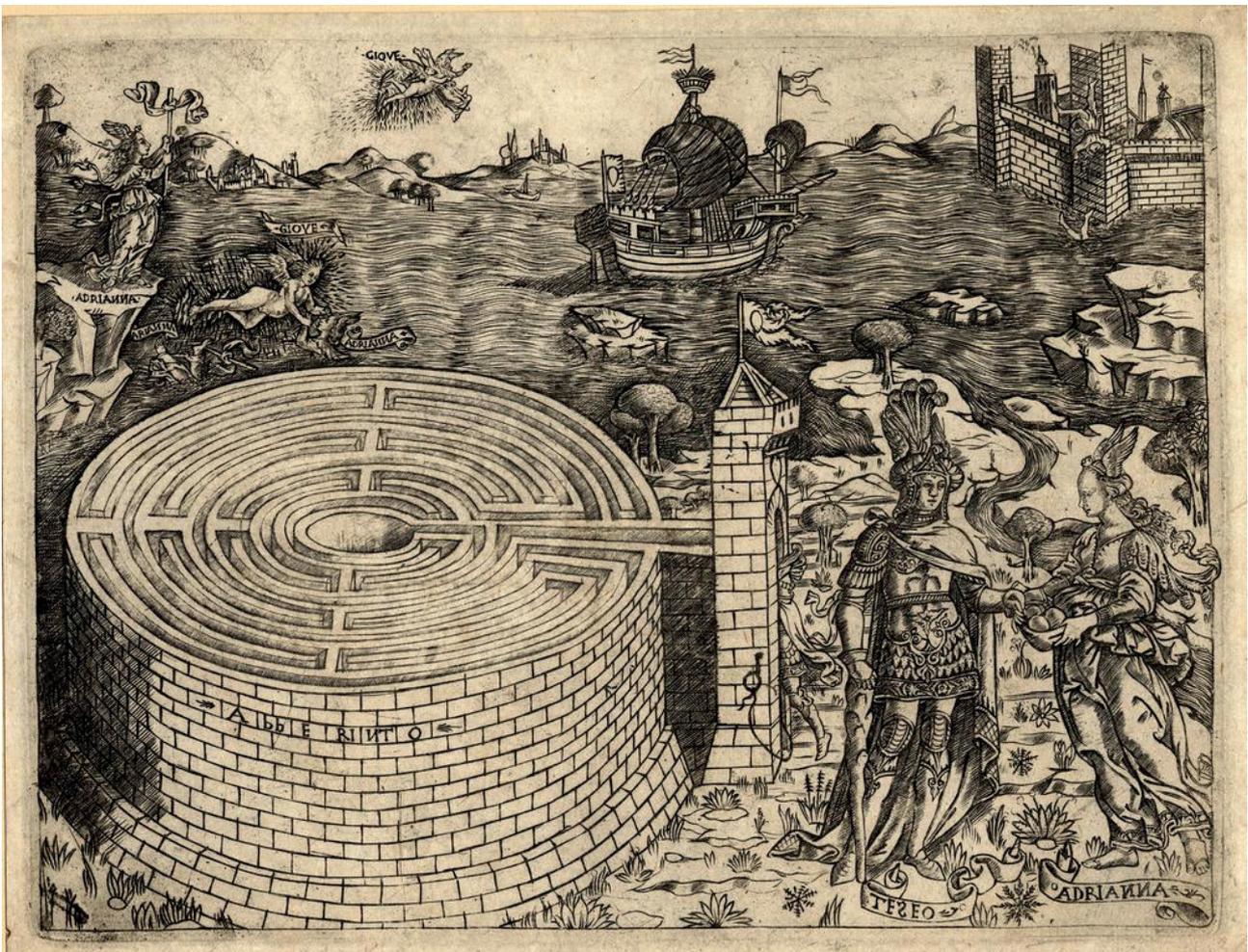
Drawing 1:
Drawing a 'cable salad': a tangle of wires and cables
15 minutes

You can use anything you like, but these combinations of materials might work well:

Charcoal, graphite, or ink in a sketchbook
or
biro or felt tips (or both) on squared paper

Drawing Instructions:

1. Find a spaghetti-like jumble of wires and cables in your home. If you live in a very tidy household, then throw some together to make your own 'cable salad'. You could include laptop cables, extension cables and phone chargers, as well as anything else you might have lying around.
2. Draw your cable salad. Try and follow the loops and twists of the wires from one end to the other. Concentrate on the interesting shapes and forms of the plugs.



The Cretan Labyrinth with the story of Theseus and Ariadne, 1927, c1460 – 70, The British Museum

Drawing 2:

Drawing the inside of the body as a labyrinth made of buildings, tunnels and pipes. 30 – 60 minutes

Possible combinations of materials:

charcoal or graphite on a big sheet of paper
or
acrylic paint or ink on paper

Drawing instructions:

1. Imagine the inside of a human body with its skeleton, organs, nerves and blood vessels. You are going to turn this body into a labyrinth made up of architectural elements. It could be the inside of a complex building with pipes, rooms, passageways and lift-shafts, or it could be a labyrinthine city.
2. Look at the video for images on screen that spark your interest. Think about how intestines and blood vessels could become road networks, flumes or subterranean pipes. Start drawing, and let your mind wander, connecting things up as you go.
3. You can keep going back to the images from the video for ideas. You might also find useful things to draw from around your home.
4. A labyrinth is a deliberately confusing and disorienting structure. Your drawing doesn't have to 'make sense'.

Questions:

Could your drawings be developed into something three dimensional?

Could these body-labyrinths become sculptures?

Could you make a labyrinth head out of clay or cardboard?

Could you make a cable salad out of plasticine?

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