

ONLINE STUDIO

AGE 12-18

Architecture and the Body
with artists

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Architecture and the Body

04: Body / Building

with artists
Anna Brass and Paul Patrick Fenner

In this session we think about the effect lockdown has had on us, imagining our bodies fusing with a building, merging into our homes.

We do one drawing showing three stages of metamorphosis: ourselves before lockdown, during lockdown (starting to fuse with our home), and after lockdown (part body, part building).

One drawing task: 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.

- ink, charcoal, graphite and acrylic paint
- in a sketchbook, on coloured paper or on big sheets of paper



Conch Shell, Guatemala, 300 – 900 AD, Sainsbury Centre

Drawing: 30 - 60 minutes

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

If you decide to work on a single image:

ink on a big sheet of paper

or

charcoal on coloured paper

and for those who decide to make three separate images:

ink, graphite or acrylic paint on a large sheet of paper folded into three

or

felt tip, charcoal or graphite across three pages in a sketchbook

Drawing Instructions:

1. You are going to draw the three stages of your transformation into a building: you before you change, then as you begin to turn into a building, and finally as a human-building hybrid.
2. You could make your drawing as a kind of cartoon strip, or as three separate drawings.
3. For the first stage, look down at your body and start by drawing arms, legs and torso. Then use a mirror to add the head.
4. Next, using the first drawing as a model, begin to transform yourself into a building. Perhaps your arms are turning into columns, or there are roof tiles on your head. Maybe your eyes have become windows. It's up to you to decide which bits to transform.
5. The final stage: you have merged into your home. Which bit is body and which bit is building?

Questions:

Can you continue the narrative that you've started in your metamorphosis sequence?

What would be the fourth stage - would your building-body get up and move around the city?

In what other ways has your experience of lockdown changed you, and how could you make an image of this?



The Archeologists by Giorgio de Chirico, 1927, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome

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