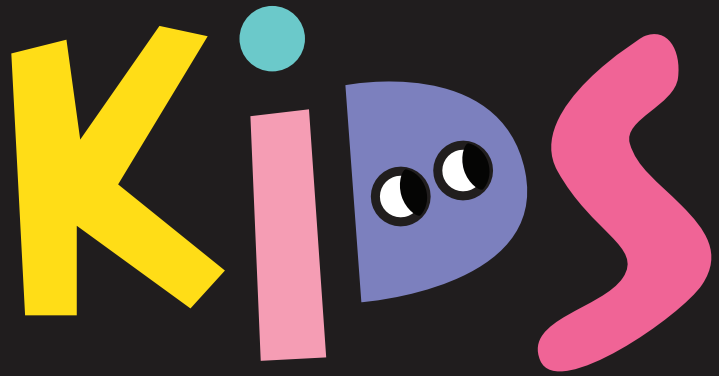


4A KIDS Winter 2020 - this is the second 4A KIDS kit!



[instagram.com/yma_ge](https://www.instagram.com/yma_ge)

Amy Ge is an illustrator and graphic designer who draws a lot of fish in her spare time.

For 4A KIDS, Amy shares how you can use stencils to make a marine-themed scene.



alanahunt.net/

Alana Hunt lives on Miriwoong country in the north-west of Australia and has spent lots of time in South Asia, and more specifically Kashmir. These places shape her artworks and relationships.

For 4A Kids, Alana wants you to make your own special find-a-word.



louisezhang.com

Louise Zhang is a Chinese-Australian artist who makes paintings, sculptures and more. Based in Sydney, Louise is interested in movies, Chinese mythology, animals and plants – and gross stuff.

For 4A Kids, Louise has drawn a very special koi colouring-in page – with hidden symbols to find....

leystevens.com

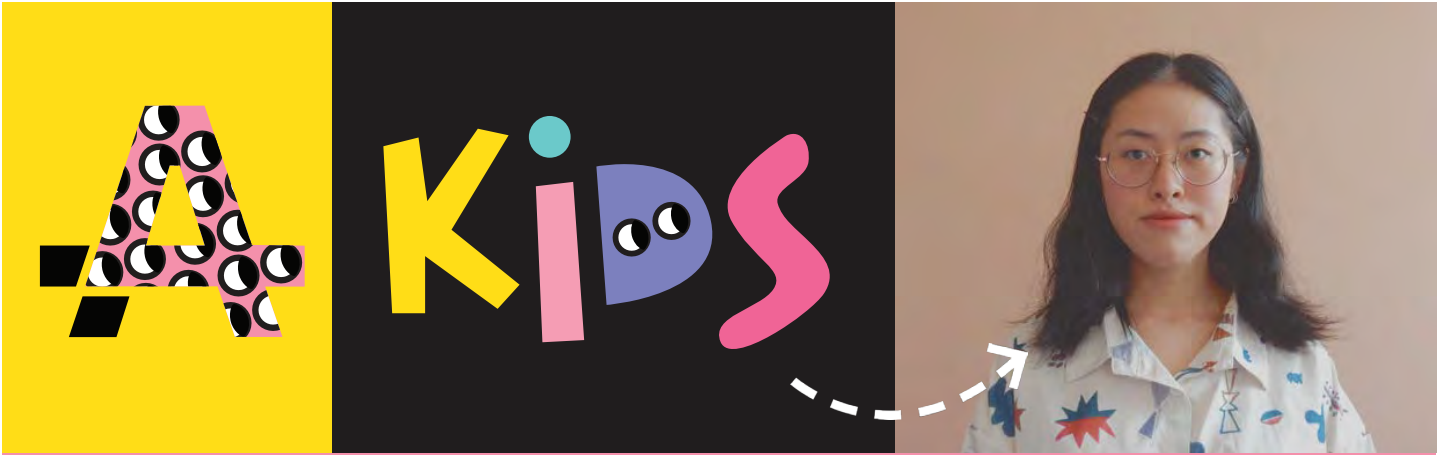
Leyla Stevens is an Australian-Balinese artist and researcher who makes artworks with moving images and photos.

For 4A Kids, Leyla is sharing the language of Semaphore with you!



4A KIDS is a 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art project connecting kids with contemporary Asian and Asian Australian contemporary art, culture and ideas. All activities are commissioned from artists and each 4A KIDS kit has activities for kids ranging from 5-17 (and beyond!) Want more? Visit 4a.com.au

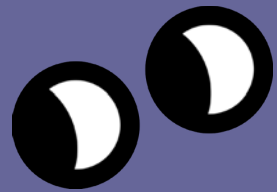
All artworks and images in 4A KIDS are featured courtesy of the artists, with additional imagery provided under creative commons. 4A KIDS is for educational use only and is a free product produced by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art. Visit 4a.com.au to find more 4A KIDS, art and stories. Louise Zhang's profile picture is by Zan Wimberley.



Make a Marine Scene with Amy Ge

Shapes are anything that you can put an outline around – circles, squares, apples, cats, trees – they all have a shape!

When you outline something and make a shape, there's going to be to be space inside it. We call this **positive space**!
All the space around or between that shape is **negative space**.



See this star? If you can see a shape, it's positive space!



See all this blank space around the star? This is all negative space.



Is that kinda
hard to get?
Let's try this!

Make a Marine Scene

with Amy Ge

Hold your hand in front of your face, and look at it.

You can see the shape of your hand pretty clearly – all your fingers and your palm.

Hold it open, and trace the outline of your hand with your eyes.



Now let's try something trickier!

Look through at the spaces between your fingers. Look at the huge space around your hand. What shape is this empty space? What colours are there? Are there other objects or living creatures you can see? This whole space around the shape of your hand – that's negative space!

Slowly move your fingers around, and make a fist. Look at how the negative space changes. Did it get bigger? Smaller? Easier to see? Harder?

Getting good at recognising negative space actually trains our eyes to see shapes more clearly and accurately. That's because the moment you put an outline around negative space and you know what shape it looks like – it becomes positive space!



Let's make!

Make a Marine Scene

with Amy Ge

STENCILS

Stencils are a great way to block out different shapes in an artwork. You can make stencils to focus on either the positive space, or the negative space in your work.



Make sure your space is lined with newspaper or a paint-proof sheet so it doesn't get too messy!

What you'll need

Paper
Pencil

If you have it, thin cardboard, like from an empty cereal box or tissue box.

Paints - acrylic or poster paint will work best

A big paintbrush or a sponge
Scissors

Blu-tack or not-very-sticky tape like masking tape

Coloured markers or pencils for decorating

A print out of one of the stencils I've included here

Since you can use a stencil more than once, you can play with all sorts of patterns, layers, colours and techniques.

Make a Marine Scene

with Amy Ge

STEP 1

Draw an outline of the shape you want to stencil using your pencil onto the thin cardboard.

Don't add any detail onto the stencil.

Alternatively, you can print out the stencils included, and glue them onto the thin cardboard.



STEP 2

Cut out the stencils with your scissors. Ask a grown-up for help if you need it.

STEP 3

Once you have your stencil, gently stick it on the paper using blu-tack or masking tape (roll it double-sided).

Try and make the stencil as flat against the paper as possible, without pressing on the tape or blu-tack - you'll need to peel it off later!

Almost there!



Make a Marine Scene

with Amy Ge

STEP 4

Load up your paintbrush or sponge with paint, and then paint all the negative space on the paper!

When painting around the edges of the stencils, you can hold it down to try and make sure the edges are crisp.

TIP!

This is where you can have fun and be creative! Whether you paint patterns, mix colours, splatter paint on or carefully add detail, it'll all look great.

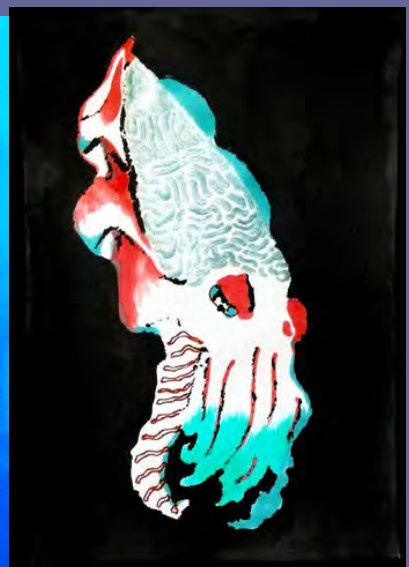
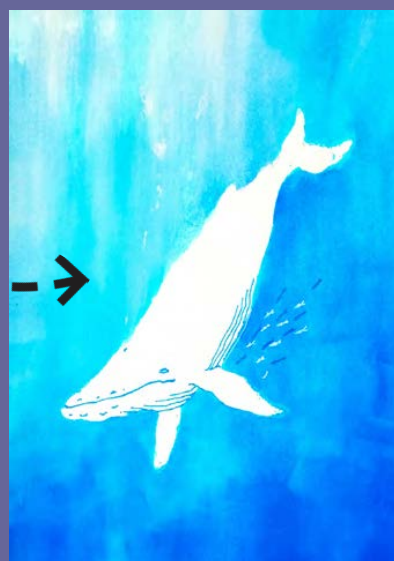


STEP 5

Once the stencil and the negative space has completely dried, carefully peel off the stencil.



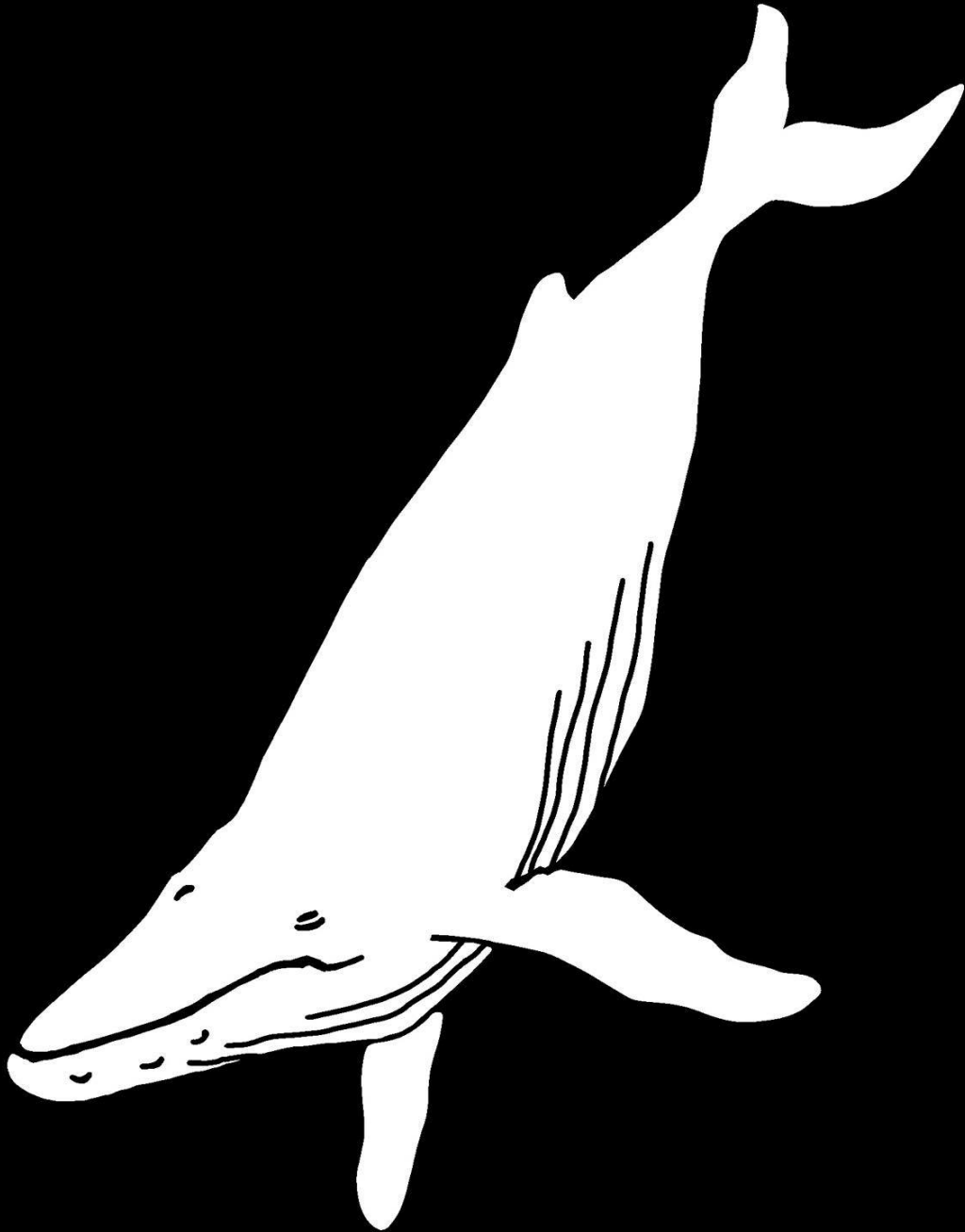
Add whatever detail that's left before you finish your artwork!



Thanks for learning with me + 4A KIDS! Amy Ge

Make a Marine Scene

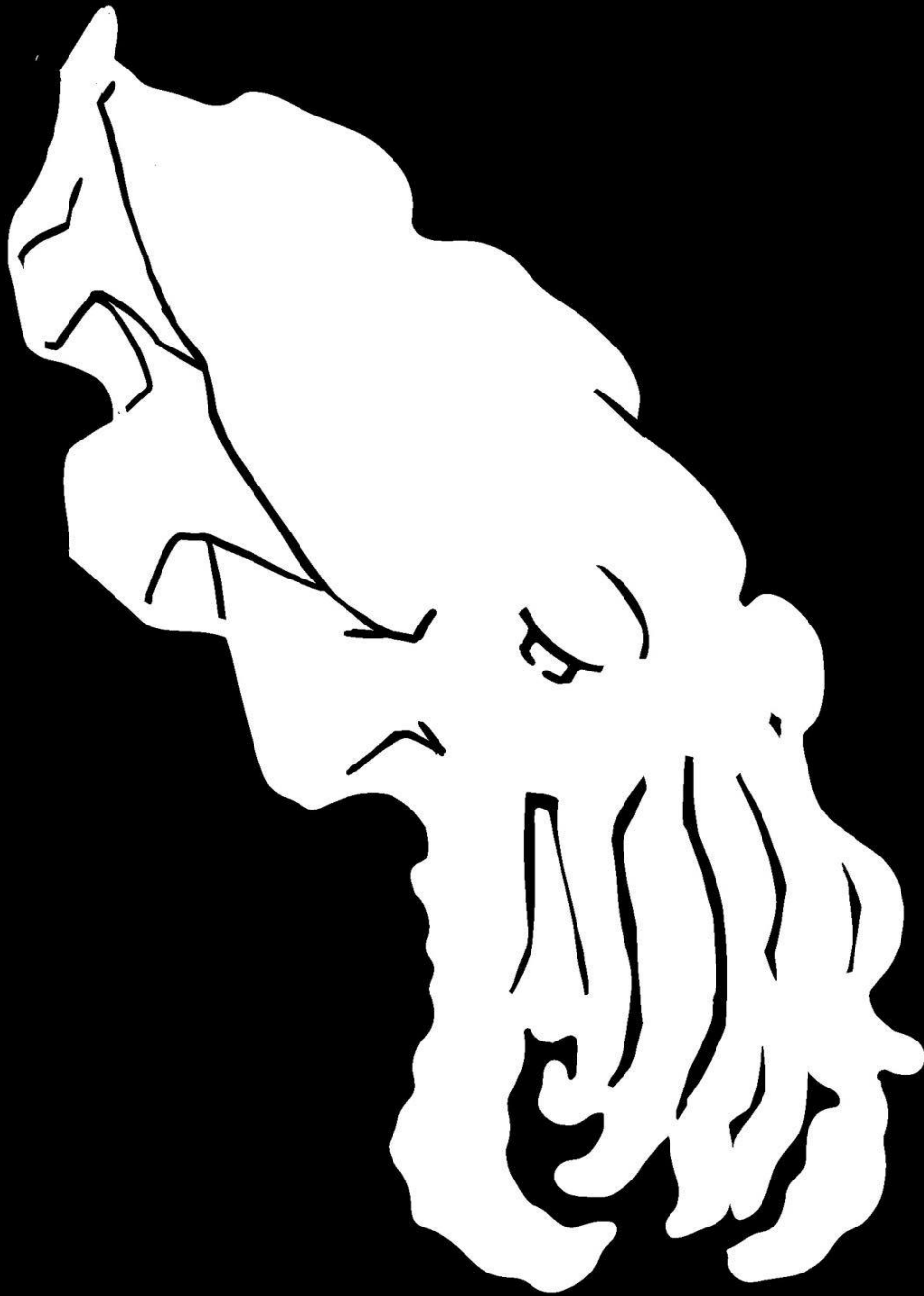
with Amy Ge



Stencil Template

Make a Marine Scene

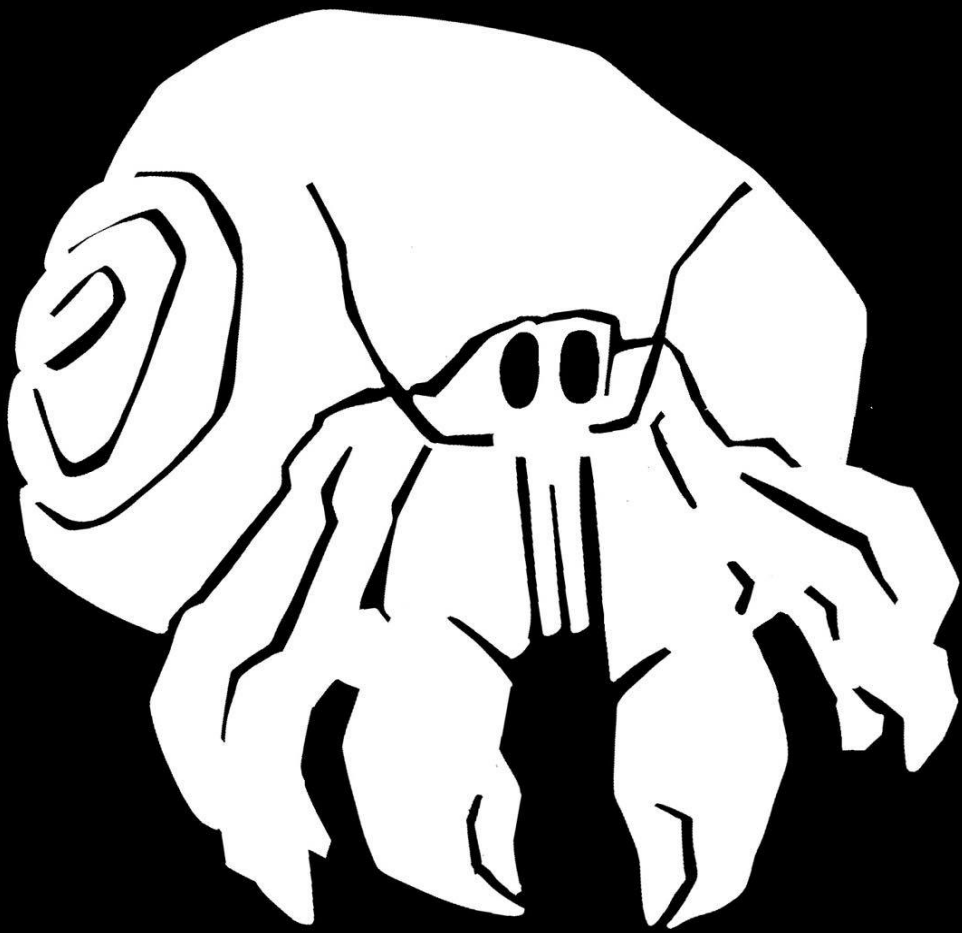
with Amy Ge



Stencil Template

Make a Marine Scene

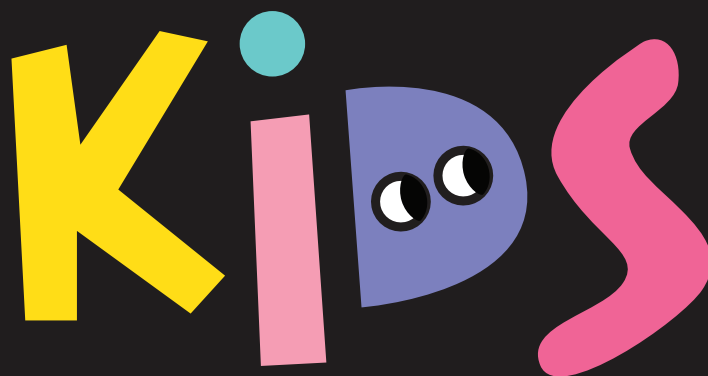
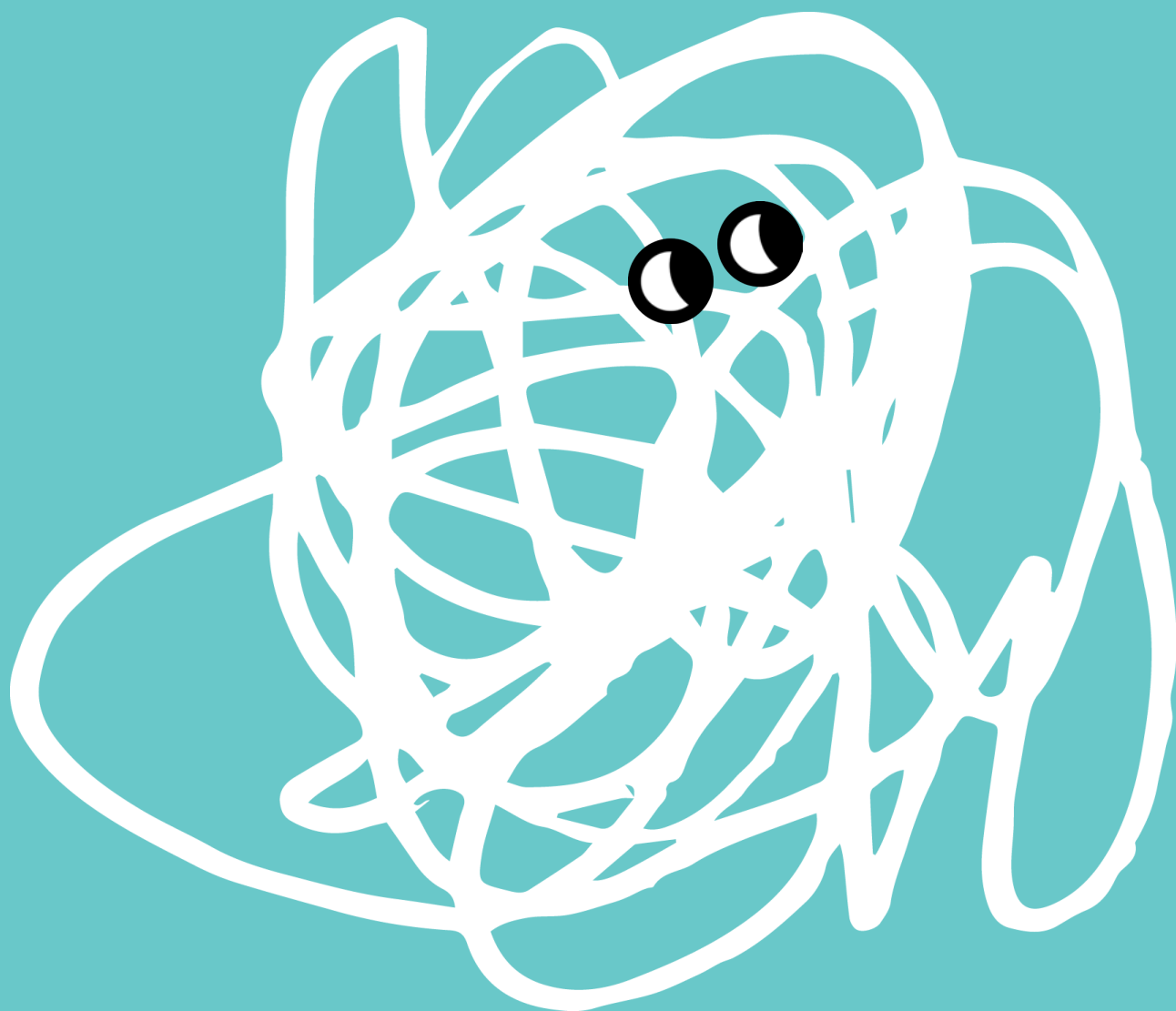
with Amy Ge



Stencil Template

4A Kids is a project by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art.
In 2020, 4A Kids is supported by the City of Sydney.

SUPPORTED BY
CITY OF SYDNEY 



Thanks for having fun with 4A KIDS - see you next time
4a.com.au