



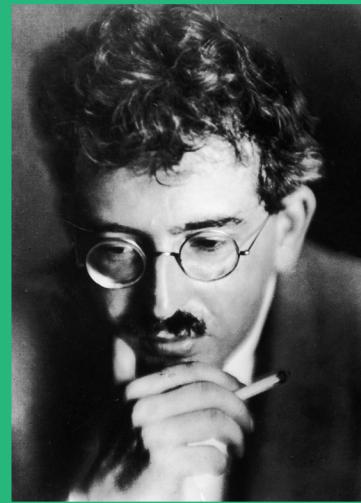
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GALLERY GUIDE

**The Arcades:
Contemporary Art
and Walter Benjamin**

March 17–August 6, 2017

Meet Walter Benjamin

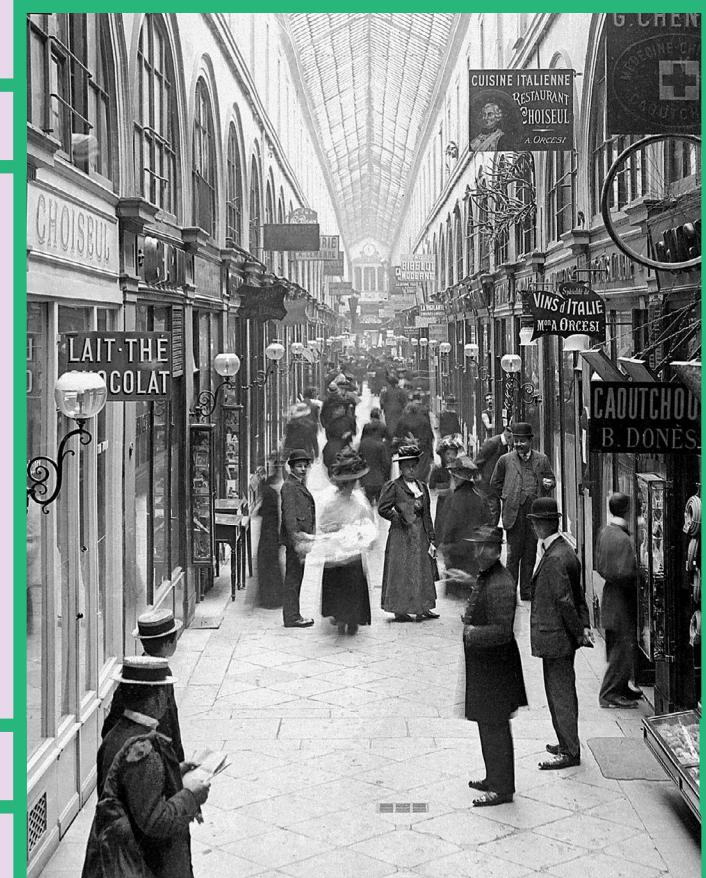


Walter Benjamin (1892 – 1940) was a writer and thinker who examined history in order to understand the culture of his own time. This exhibition is inspired by Benjamin's book called *The Arcades Project* in which he explores ideas related to city life in Paris during the 19th century. The artworks in this exhibition relate to themes in Benjamin's book.

Use the clues inside to find the following works of art and talk about them with your grown-up.

Stop in front of the large image on the wall opposite the elevator on Floor 2.

- This photograph was taken in Paris, France in 1889 in one of the popular indoor shopping malls known as arcades.
- Imagine you could transport yourself into this scene. Talk to your grown-up about what you might hear, smell, and see if you were there.

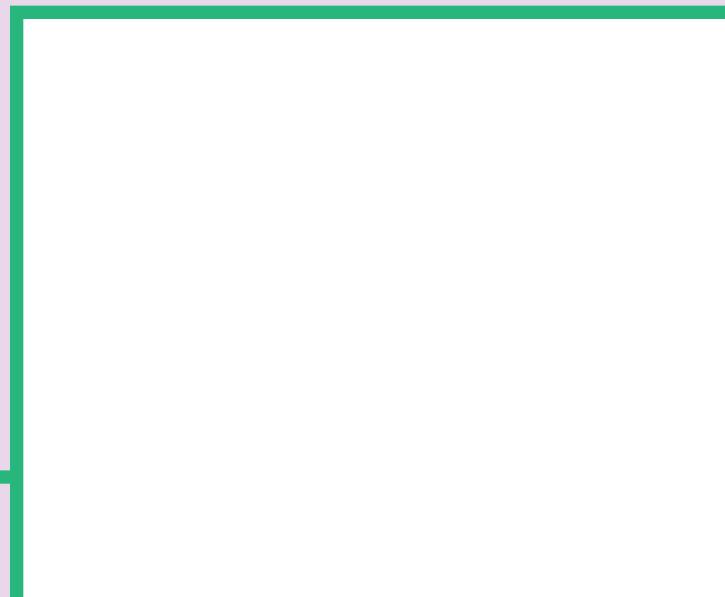


Enter the exhibition to the left and make a right through the double doors into the first gallery.

Find the colorful sculptures of buildings on the wall.

- **Pick one and describe what you see.**
- **The artist Nicholas Buffon is inspired by everyday life in cities today and created sculptures based on places around New York City.**
- **Do you have a favorite building? What is it and why?**

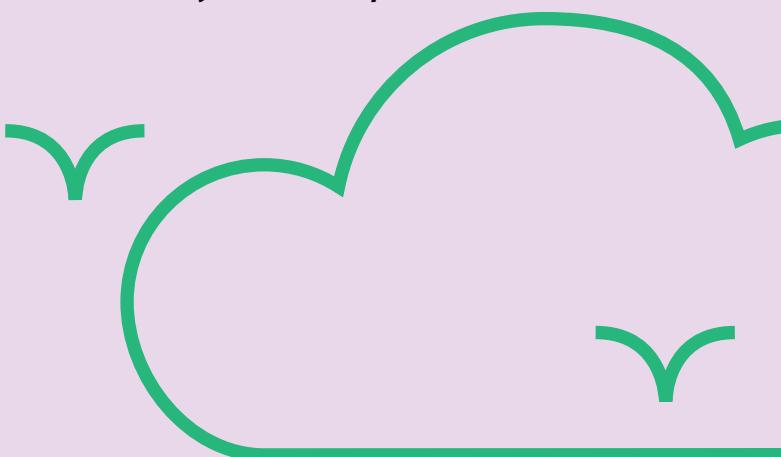
Use the space below to sketch a detail of your favorite building or a detail of one of these sculptures.



As you walk through the next gallery, stop in front of a work of art that catches your eye and talk about what you see.

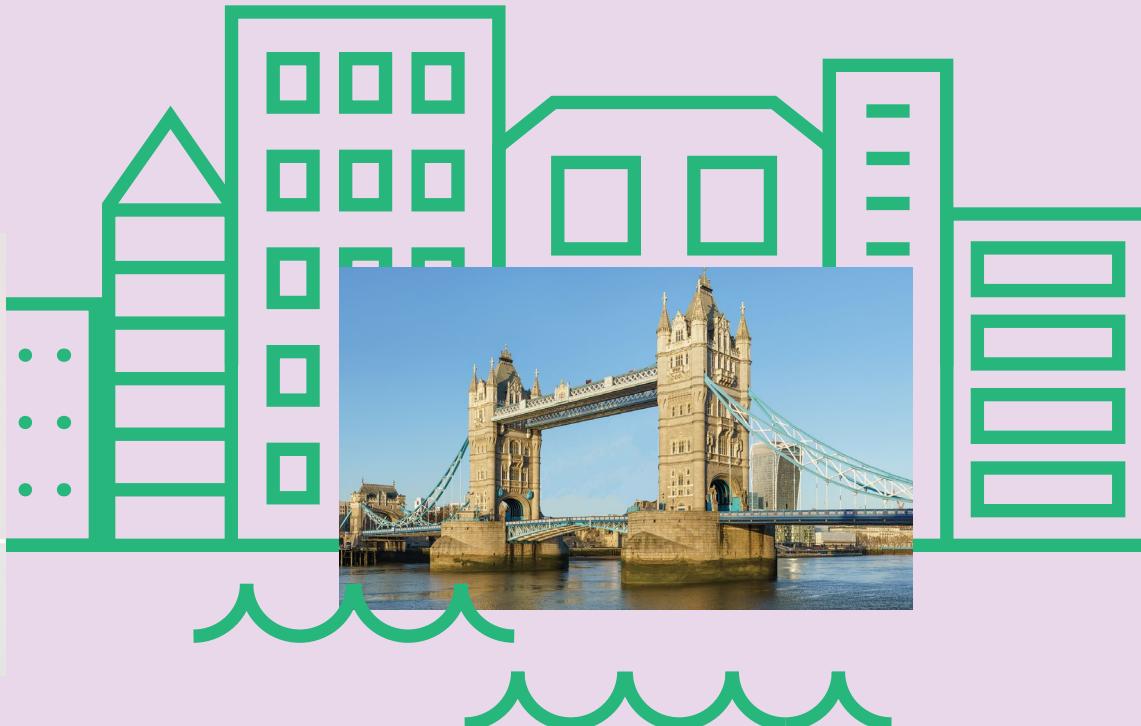
Continue into the large gallery and find the drawing made on cardboard.

- **Look closely at the various people in this image. What might they be doing?**
- **This image is based on one made in 1891 by the artist Walter Crane in celebration of workers around the world. Can you find the artist with his paint brushes and palette (a surface for mixing paint) on the left?**
- **Andrea Bowers recreated the image to honor people who do all types of work today.**
- **Talk to your grown-up about different kinds of jobs that are familiar to you. What kind of job would you like to have?**



Turn around to find the bridge in this room.

- **What is this bridge made of?**
- **This is a model of the Tower Bridge in London, England (at right). How is the model similar to the picture? How is it different?**



- **The real Tower Bridge was made with a variety of materials including steel, cement, and stone. What found materials might you use to build a bridge at home?**
- **Try making a bridge with your grown-up using your bodies.**

Go to the left of this gallery and find the large photograph of the woman in a patterned blouse.

- **What do you notice about this photograph?**
- **The artist, Cindy Sherman, is pictured here. However, she uses make-up, costumes, and props to change her appearance.**



- Try to pose like the woman in this photograph. How does it feel to act like someone else?
- Invent a character to photograph. What would you include in the picture? What clothes would they wear? What objects would you place around them? Where would the photograph take place?

Move into the next gallery and stop at the mirrors in the hallway.

- **What do you see when you look at each mirror?**
- **How is this different than other mirrors you typically look into?**
- **Snap a photo of yourself looking in this mirror.**

Explore the last gallery and find a favorite work of art. Stop in front of it and talk to your grown-up about what you see.

At Home

- **Create a sculpture inspired by your favorite book.**
- **Pick something from the book that interests you. It could be a place, a character, or an object.**
- **Gather and reuse materials such as cardboard, paper towel rolls, or plastic bottles and use tape to combine them into a structure inspired by a theme in your book.**
- **Add details to your sculpture using colored markers.**

Thank you for visiting the Jewish Museum – we hope you enjoyed the exhibition!

For information on Family Programs at the Jewish Museum, visit TheJewishMuseum.org/Families or sign up for our eNews at TheJewishMuseum.org/eNews.

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**Council on
the Arts**



Cover: James Welling, *Morgan Great Hall* (detail), 2014. Inkjet print. Artwork © James Welling, courtesy of Regen Projects, Los Angeles | **Page 2:** Walter Benjamin, c. 1925, photographed by Germaine Krull. Photograph © Estate of Germaine Krull, Museum Folkwang, Essen, image provided by IMAGNO / Austrian Archives, Vienna | **Page 3:** Passage Choiseul, Paris, France, between c. 1910. Image provided by LL / Roger-Viollet / The Image Works. | **Page 5:** Nicholas Buffon, *Odessa*, 2016, foam, glue, paper, paint. Courtesy of the artist and Callicoon Fine Arts, New York | **Page 7:** Andrea Bowers, *"The Triumph of Labor"* (details), 2016, marker on cardboard. Gallery Inventory #BOW449. Photograph by Robert Wedemeyer, image courtesy of the artist and Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects | **Page 8:** Chris Burden, *Tower of London Bridge*, 2003. © Chris Burden, image courtesy of the Chris Burden Estate and Gagosian Gallery | **Page 9:** Panorama of Tower Bridge from Shad Thames, © User: Colin / Wikimedia Commons. | **Page 10:** Cindy Sherman, *Untitled #474*, 2008, chromogenic print. Collection of Cynthia and Abe Steinberger. © Cindy Sherman, image provided by Metro Pictures, New York.



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