A IS FOR ALIEN
Looking at the artworks in the gallery, find an alien body; that is a body that is alien, or very different, from your own.

How is this body different from yours?

How important are these differences and why?

Now, find an alien body; that is the body of an alien, or extra-terrestrial. Look carefully at the artworks in the gallery; there are a lot of strange things, which could definitely be aliens.

Look closely at this alien.

How is their body different from yours?

How do they move?

How do they communicate?

What do you think they are like?

Are they a boy, or a girl, or both, or neither?

Draw a picture of what would happen if this alien came alive and started moving around the gallery.

Now, in pairs, have a conversation about the alien(s) you’ve drawn. If an alien arrived from outer space, we might not know if they were a boy or a girl, or even think about asking. When you’re talking, imagine that the alien is not a boy or a girl (though they may be both), so when you are talking you are not allowed to use the words ‘she’, ‘he’, ‘her’, ‘him’, etc. Rather try using ‘they’ or ‘it’ or words that might sound alien to you, like ‘ze’ or ‘zir’.

How does this change the way you think and talk about your alien?

Sometimes things that seem strange, or alien, become really normal and easy if you practice them. Practice using words like ‘they’, ‘ze’ or ‘zir’ (or your own made up words) to talk about each other and the bodies in artworks.

Play a game where you are not allowed to use the words ‘she’, ‘her’, ‘he’, ‘him’, ‘boy’, ‘girl’, ‘man’, ‘woman’ etc. for the rest of your visit to the gallery.

What would the world be like if we didn’t divide everyone in it into only two categories that are meant to be super different; boys and girls? What would the world be like if you could choose to be a girl or a boy or both or neither, depending on how you feel about your body? How would you think differently about people? How would you feel differently about yourself?

Make this world.