For Looking

This is a version of a paper resource ‘For Looking’ devised by Effie Coe in collaboration with Tate Modern Learning.

The initial concepts that fed this design began with conversations concerning different ways we look, how we can record this process of looking and what responses we might have to what we see.

This resource can act as a guide during your visit to Tate Modern and be particularly useful as a starting point for an initial visit. Simple instructions will lead users around the building and ask individuals to explore a range of different spaces and their uses.

Whilst navigating, your group will use a variety of techniques and generate a range of both drawn and written material. Group members could work both independently and with others. The final task asks individuals to plot the material they have gathered on to a map and create a personalised interpretation tool.

In addition before you come to the gallery you could explore making ‘Looking Devices’ with your group. These could be as simple as rolling up a sheet of paper to make a pair of binoculars. Bring these with you when you visit the gallery.
Find somewhere you can stand to see the Turbine hall clearly. This is the single, largest gallery space in the whole of Tate Modern. Observe the different kinds of people who use this area and how they move around the space using the plan below.

Track, mark, follow, count and spy

This space changes throughout the year depending on whether or not work is being displayed – how you see it today may be very different to how you see it when you visit next time. What changes would you make to this space?
If you haven’t yet visited one of the gallery spaces move into one of them now. Have a good look around and choose an area to work in. Use the words listed below.

Highlight, delete, doodle, discuss, write

natural observed temporary imagined line
colour spread found balance warm splatter
movement texture energetic scribble speed
layer structure irrational conflict form sacred
remembered unfamiliar window chance cold
figure artificial emotional scale home made
gesture fractured lyrical modern found wall

Compare your words with someone else. Are any the same?
Make these shapes with your own hands, look through. How can this affect the way you see? Draw a section, a piece of work you are particularly interested in or a detail of the building.

Try and think of other ways to look
Having spent some time working in the different gallery and non-gallery spaces of the building you might want to look outside. You could do this by looking out of a window. Can you make any links between outside and inside?

Trace, draw or write in the space
Hopefully you will have now spent time in a range of different spaces within Tate Modern.

Plot your experience on the map