

Hazelhurst Arts Centre

Young At Heart

Artist Focus: Christopher Langton



Christopher Langton: *Colonies* exhibited at Hazelhurst Arts Centre in 2021

Hazelhurst

SUTHERLANDSHIRE
ARTS
CENTRE

Developed by Hazelhurst's Public Programs & Education team in collaboration with artist Christopher Langton, 2021

ABOUT THE ARTIST



Christopher Langton was born in Johannesburg in 1954 and lives and works in Melbourne. He is an installation artist who creates giant plastic objects. The artist has exhibited extensively in Australia and overseas. In 2012 he was awarded the inaugural McClelland Achievement Prize.

Christopher Langton exhibited *Colonies* at Hazelhurst Arts Centre 26 June – 28 November 2021

This Installation references science fiction, space colonies, meteorites, and other celestial bodies, as well as microscopic viruses, bacterium, fungi, and infested alien humanoids. The artist tricks us with scale- the incredibly large celestial bodies and microscopic viruses and bacteria, are given the same human scale. Walking through this installation, the viewer experiences an overwhelming sense of being miniaturised, surrounded by giant microbes or as a giant, surveying space colonies or asteroids in space.

The 3D polychrome structures are first designed on 3D modelling software on computer, and then printed with a 3D printer in sections layer by layer. The finished pieces are glued together and painted. Some of the installations are made using a pattern and turned into hybrid polymer, biodegradable plastic inflatables. The works in this exhibition took two years to complete with the 3D printer working continuously, some individual works taking weeks or even months to complete.

View Christopher Langton artist video: [Christopher Langton: Colonies](#)

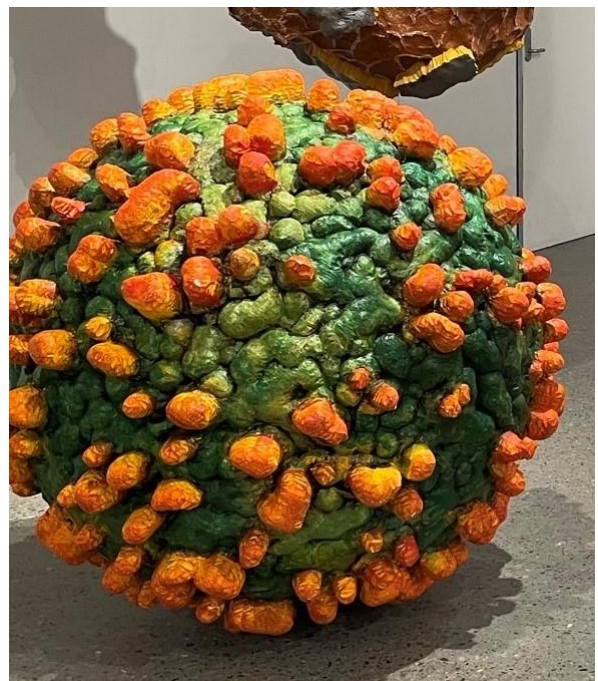
ABOUT THE WORKS

Christopher Langton creates bacteria, fungi, viruses, and other microscopic forms on a huge scale. Below are a few examples of these which would normally only be visible under a microscope.

These germs were made using a pattern and turned into hybrid polymer, biodegradable plastic inflatables.



The works below are 3D structures which were first designed on 3D modelling software on computer, and then printed with a 3D printer in sections layer by layer. The finished pieces are glued together and painted.



Images: Christopher Langton Colonies (detail), Silversalt Photography



Images: Christopher Langton Colonie, Silversalt Photography



Images: Christopher Langton *Colonies* (detail), Silversalt Photography



Images: Christopher Langton Colonies, Silversalt Photography

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Look at one or all the works above and discuss:

- What has the artist done to the size of these germs? Does it change your perception of these objects?
- What do these germs remind you of?
- Describe the colours the artist used?
- Describe the texture, is it rough or smooth?
- How does the artwork make you feel?
- The artist calls his installation *Colonies*. Can you explain how this title relates to these enormous viruses and germs?

ART MAKING

Colourful Microscopic Amoebas

Create bright and happy patterns based on shapes of microscopic amoebas, single celled organisms you can only see under a microscope.



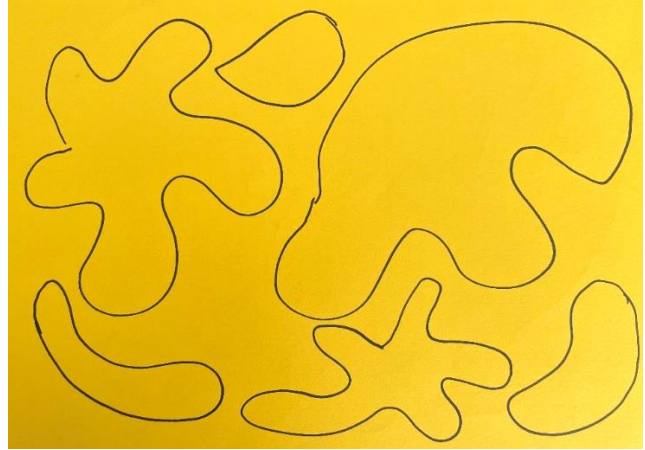
You will need:

- Coloured paper or thin card
- Amoeba templates (see end of kit)
- Scissors and glue stick.
- Optional- adhesive foam shapes (found in craft stores or newsagents)
- Black marker or texta



STEPS

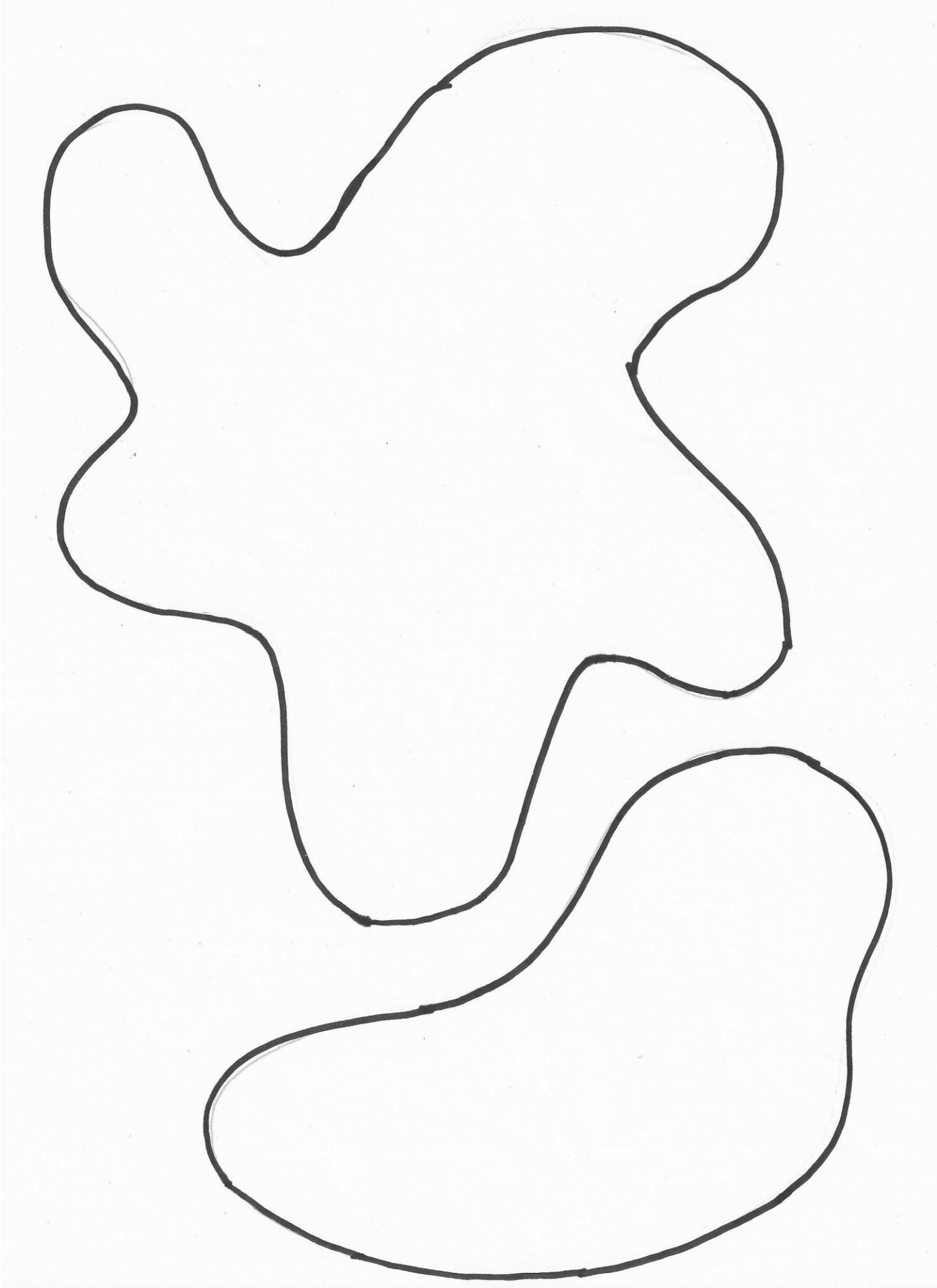
1. Draw curvy organic shapes on to different coloured papers or card. Make large and small shapes or you can use the templates attached below and photocopy onto coloured paper. Cut out the shapes.

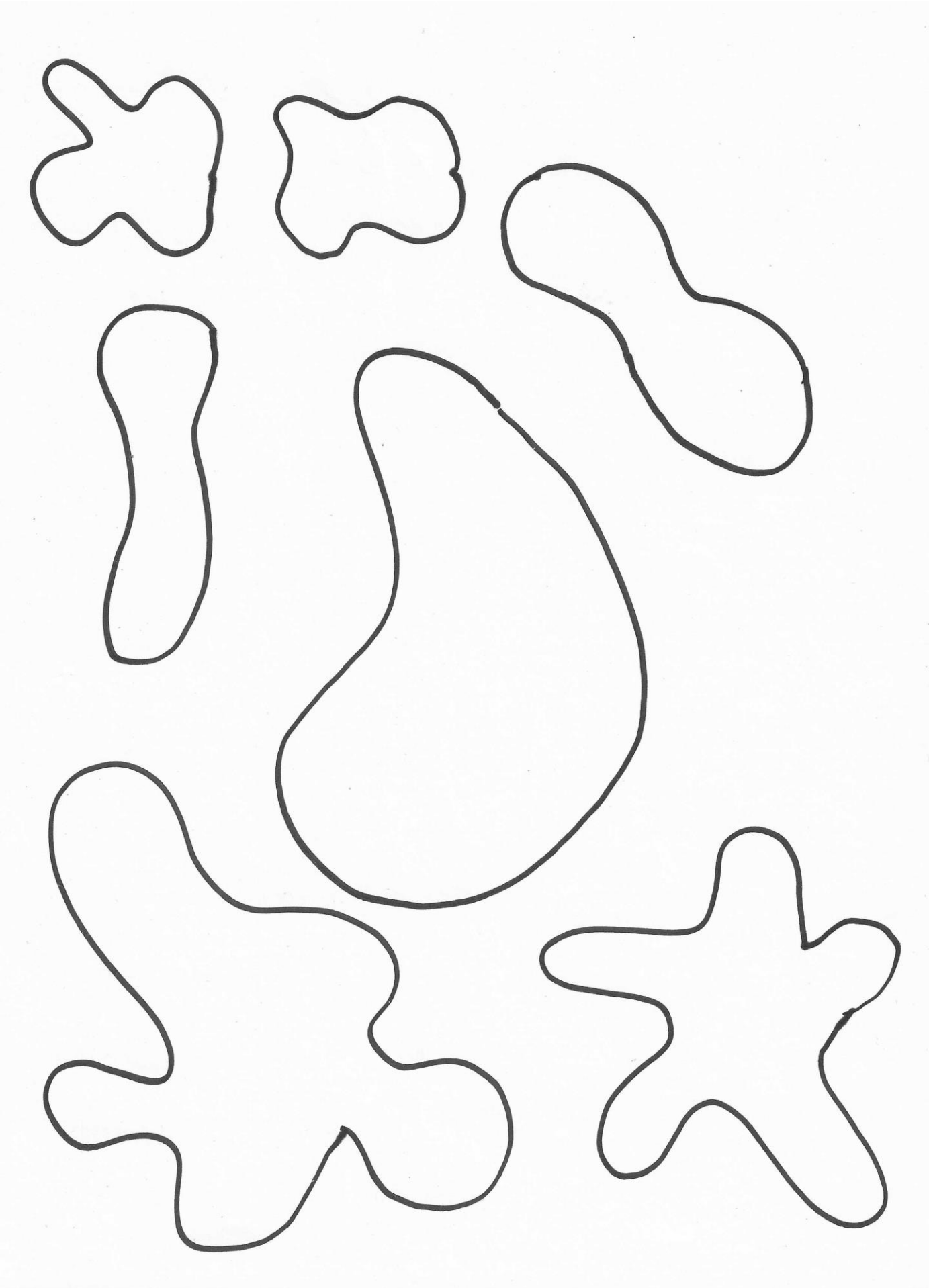


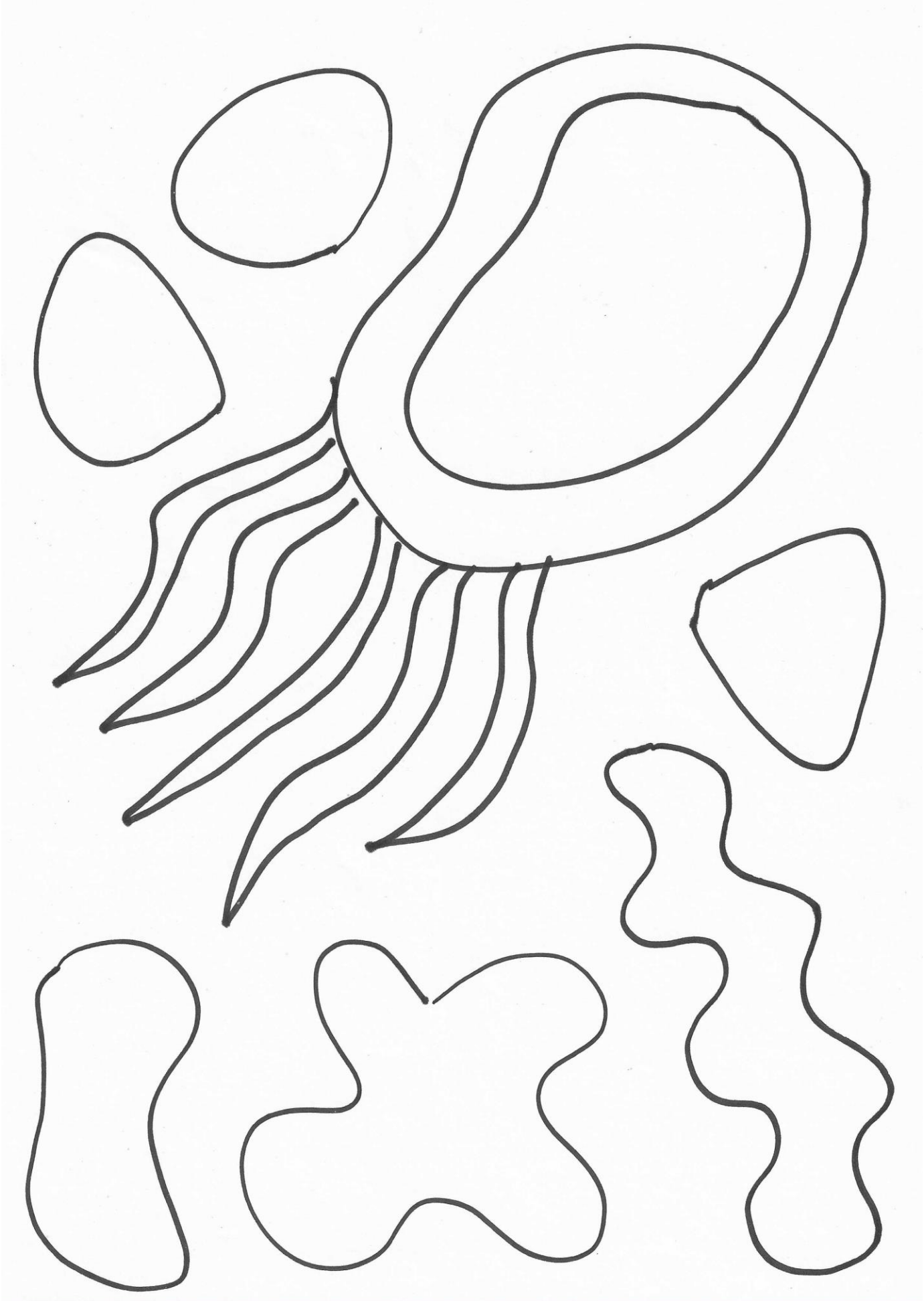
2. Glue 2 or more smaller pieces using different colours, on a large shape. Stick on foam shapes and add patterns, lines, and detail with the black marker.



3. Create 5 or more amoebas and glue them down on white or black paper.







REFLECTION



Display and view

- What worked well?
- Did you like the process of making the artwork?
- What do you like most about these works?