

Children's Art Commission

Eva Rothschild: Boys and Sculpture

Every year the Gallery commissions an artist to make a new work of art for children. The London-based Irish sculptor **Eva Rothschild** has made a film which shows what happens when young boys are let loose in a gallery.

Boys and Sculpture shows a group of boys aged 6–12 entering a gallery of Rothschild's abstract sculptures. Slowly and tentatively the boys begin by looking, then touching. They proceed to totally dismantle the exhibition, reveling in the joys of uninhibited play. Sculptures are broken into sticks and balls, transformed into swords, body armour or shelter, and some of the children start to make their own sculptures from the debris.

Through the film, Rothschild investigates the particularly physical interaction boys have with their surroundings and with making things. She draws attention to how sculpture in modern and contemporary art has been a largely male preserve, and to society's tendency to be anxious about groups of unsupervised boys in general. The film is informed by the artist's experiences of teaching at art schools and of watching her own children at play.

For the making of the film, Rothschild presented students and teachers at two local schools with her idea, and a group of 11 boys were invited to participate. On the day of filming, the artist briefed the group with some basic rules. Once these were established, she watched and filmed as events unfolded.

Eva Rothschild (born 1971) is known for her conceptual sculptures that use shape, colour, crafts techniques and scale - ranging from domestic sized objects to an epic zigzag which traversed a whole gallery.

Take part in a series of events this summer including building huge sculptures, fun film-making courses, and a *Gallery as Playground* Family Day.

For more information on the making of the film, view the short documentary film by Renee Vaughan Sutherland. To find out more about events, pick up a guide or visit whitechapelgallery.org/education.

With thanks to Renee Vaughan Sutherland, the Chisenhale Gallery, and staff and students from Wellington and Chisenhale Primary Schools.

