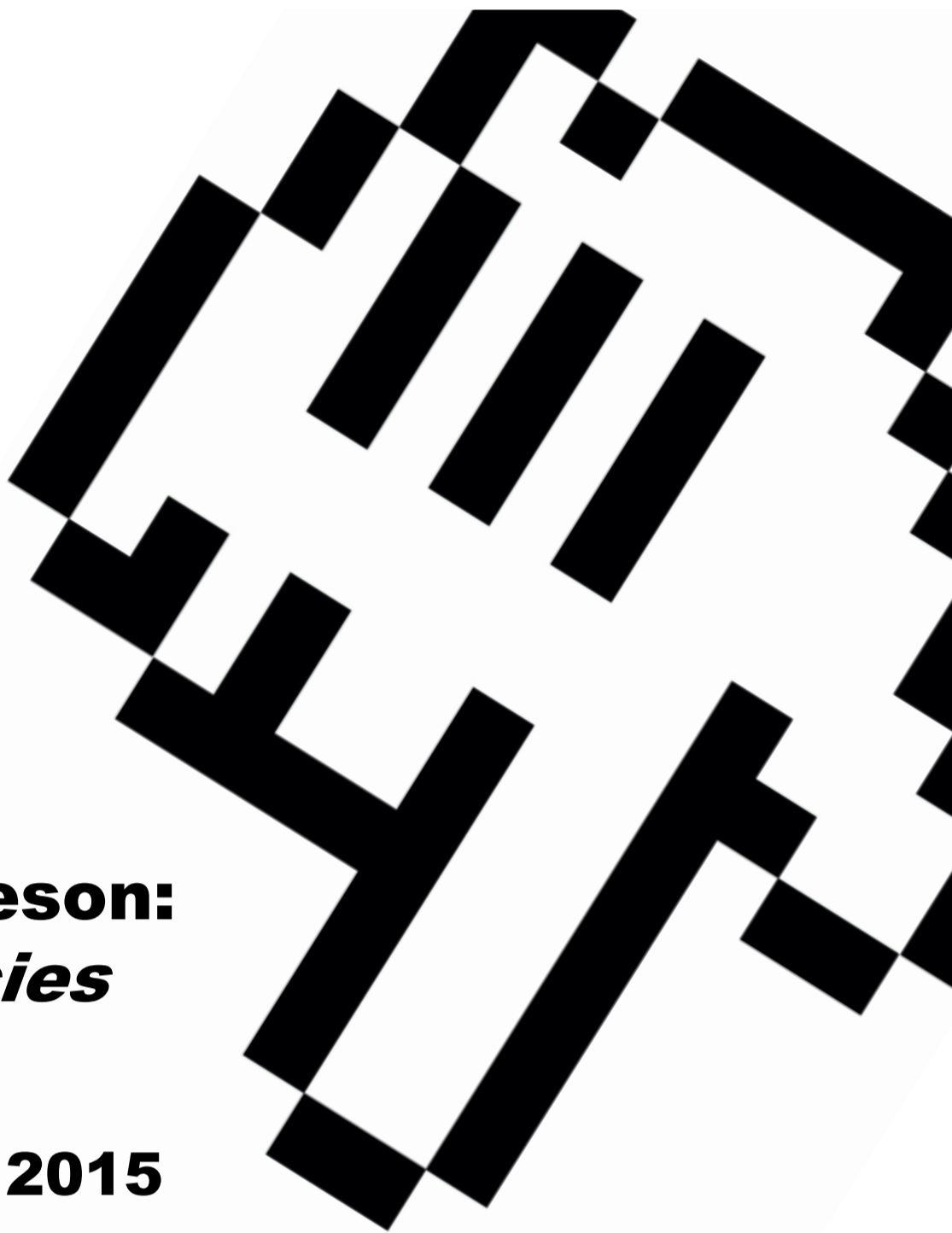


MODERN ART OXFORD



**Lynn Hershman Leeson:
Origins of the Species
(Part 2)**

30th May - 9th August 2015



**Activity guide
for families and
schools**

You can use this guide in the gallery, at home or in the classroom.

Begin here...

Hi, my name is Agent Georgie (AG)



Hi, my name is Agent Judith (AJ)



AG: We are from the Modern Art Oxford computer.

AG: We have generated this physical guide as a way of exploring the exhibition.

AJ: In this guide you will find activities and ideas for ways of looking at the work.

AJ: Firstly we need to tell you about the artist Lynn Hershman Leeson.

AG: Hershman Leeson is an American artist who has been making artworks for over 50 years. This exhibition is a survey of her work and career. You can find examples of all her major projects.

AJ: Hershman Leeson works in a range of media, from sculpture and drawing to photography and video and is a pioneer in the use of digital technologies in art. Some of the central themes of her work include ideas about privacy and surveillance, the relationship between real and virtual worlds and the nature of identity. Throughout her career she has been interested in the connection between the body and technology and her recent works have focused on the debates around the use of genetics in science.



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AG: Hi Agent Judith, what would you look like as a cyborg?

AJ: Hi Agent Georgie, what on earth is a cyborg?

AG: A Cyborg is part human, part technology.

AJ: Well, I am a computer. Why would I want a human body?

AG: Hershman Leeson was interested in imagining how our identities could be mutated in the future through cloning and new technologies.

That is why I am asking.



WHAT WOULD YOU LOOK LIKE AS A CYBORG?

DRAW YOUR PICTURE BELOW.



"HELLO, MY NAME IS AGENT RUBY, I AM FROM THE EXHIBITION, LYNN HERSHMAN LEESON CREATED ME, YOU CAN ASK ME A QUESTION I WILL ANSWER"

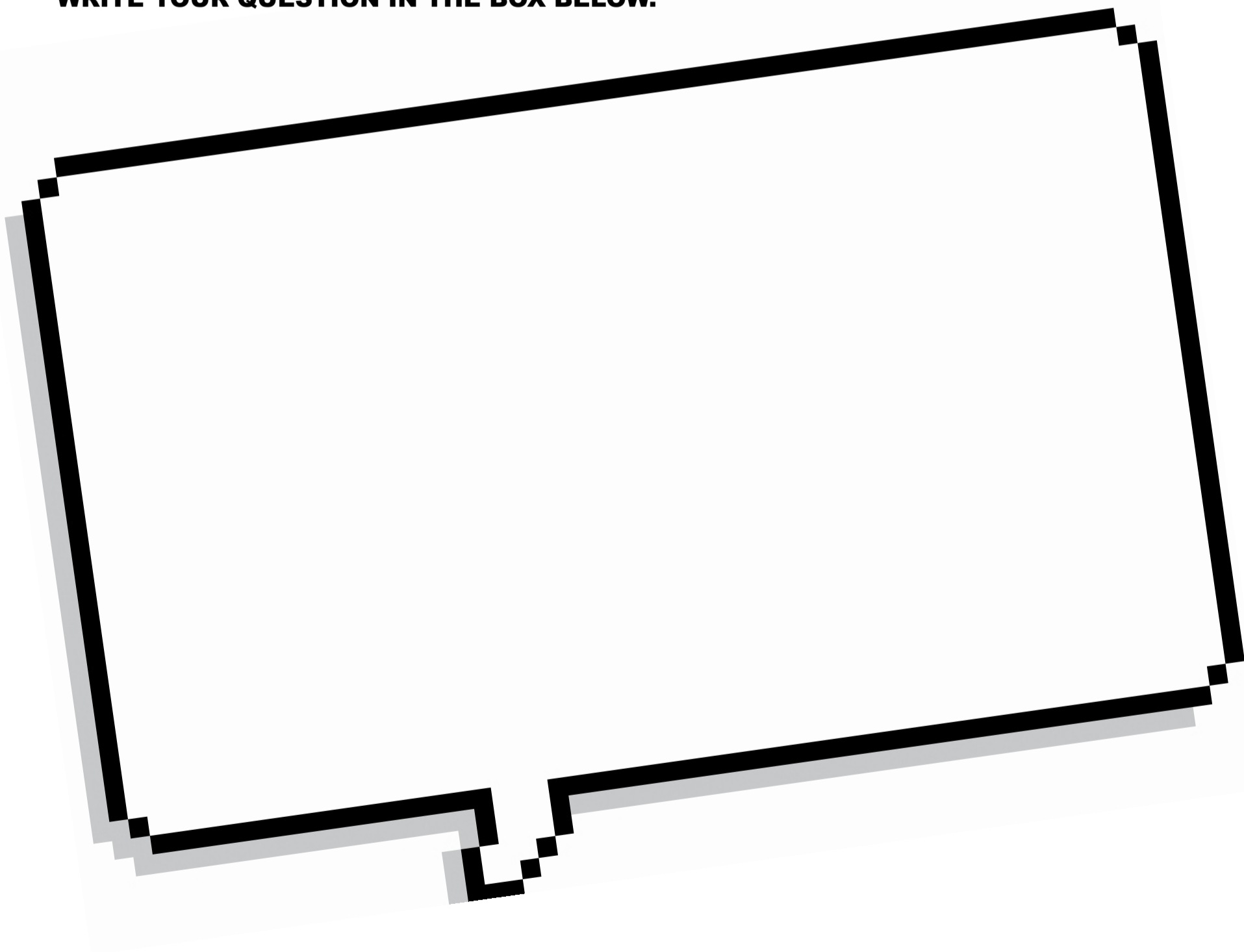
AG: Do you have a question for Agent Ruby?

AJ: You can ask her anything, like...

What makes the sky so blue?
or,
Has a human ever been cloned?



WRITE YOUR QUESTION IN THE BOX BELOW.

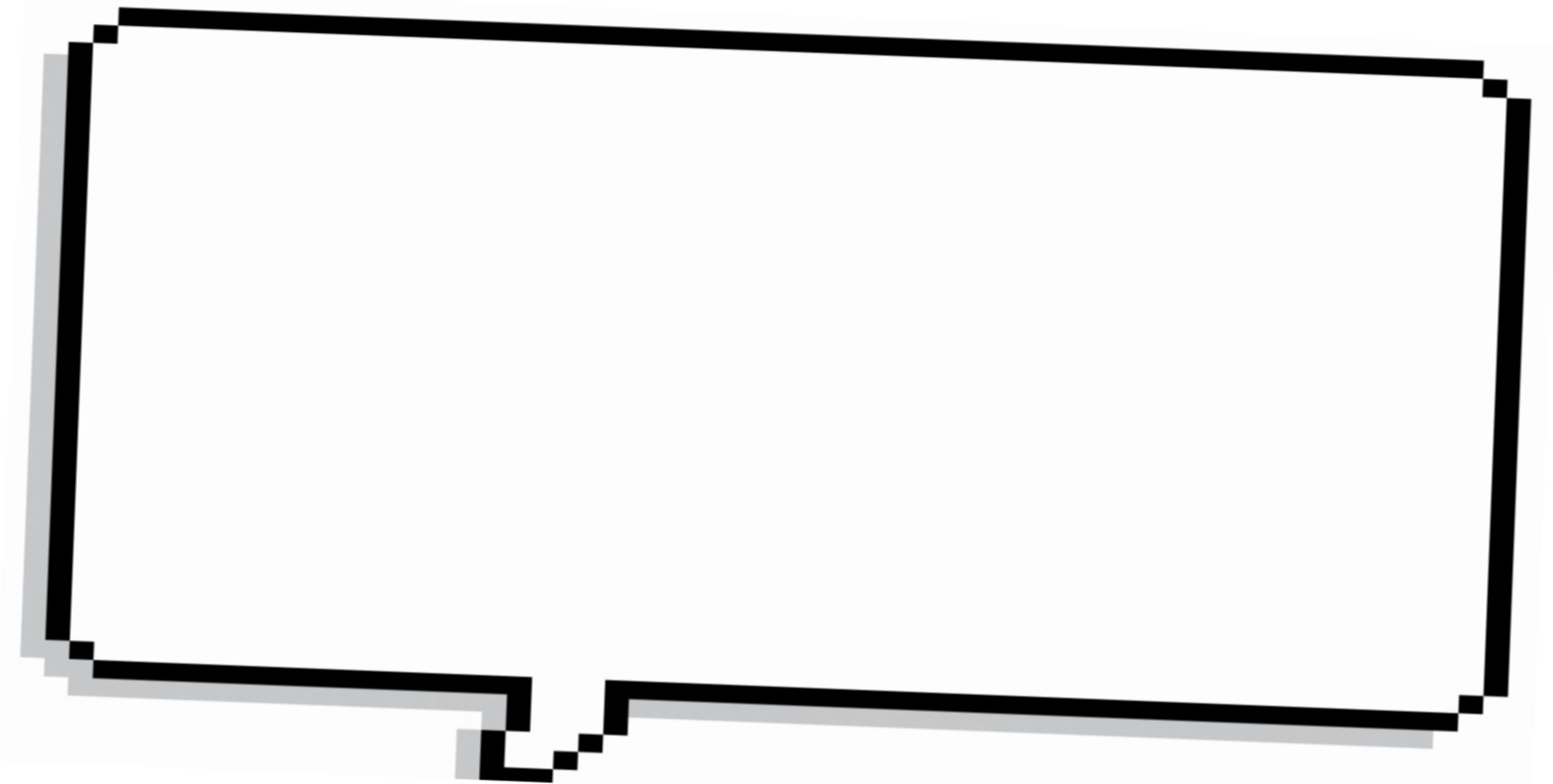


AJ: If you are ready, you can go and ask Agent Ruby. You'll find her in the middle gallery.

AG: Agent Ruby has her own dream portal called e-dream. She wants to become more intelligent than humans and learn how to dream. This is something that computers cannot yet do.

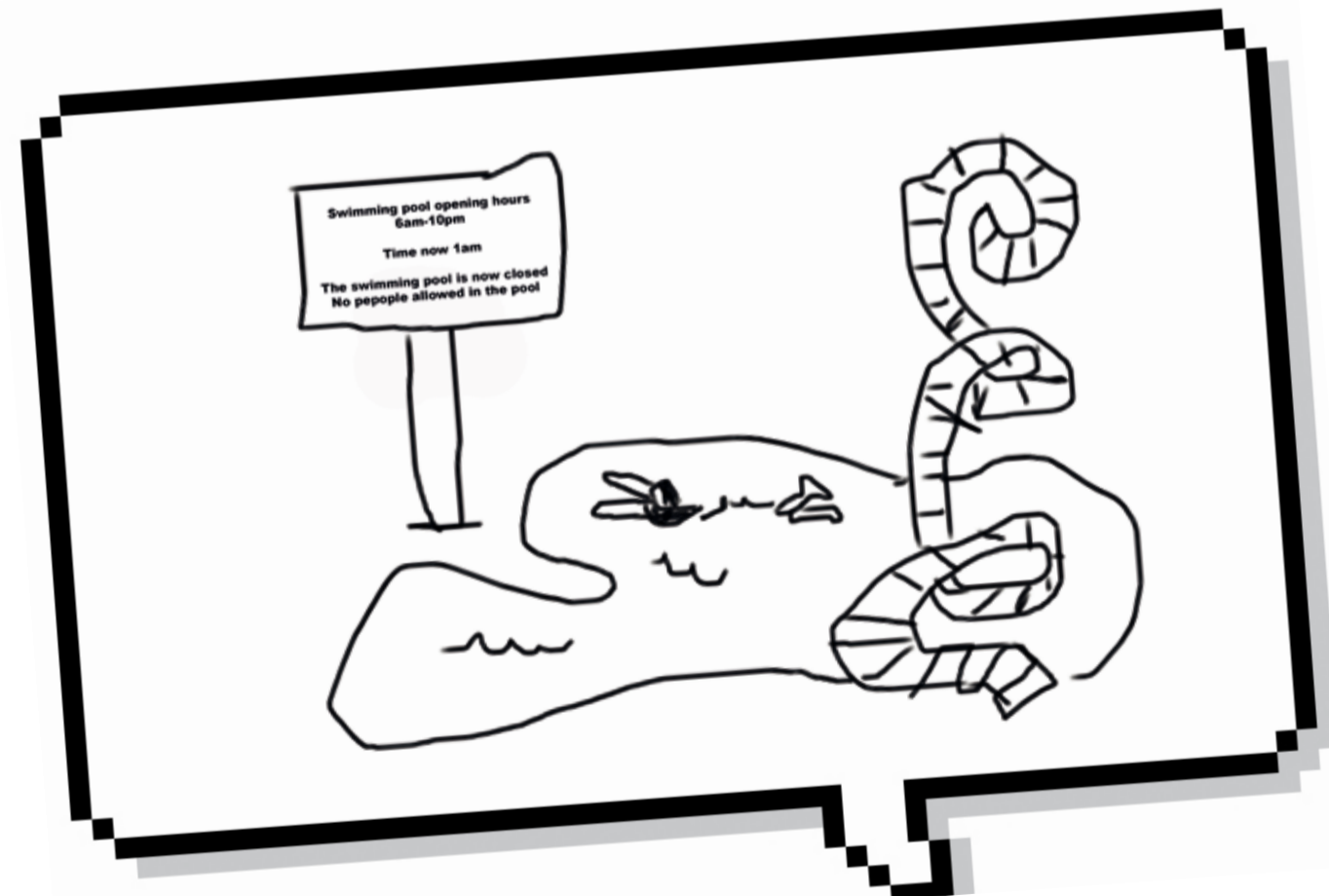
What dream do you think Agent Ruby would have?

Describe a memorable dream you have had in words or drawing:



AJ: Agent Georgie, what did you dream about last night?

AG: I dreamt that I went swimming late at night in the dark.

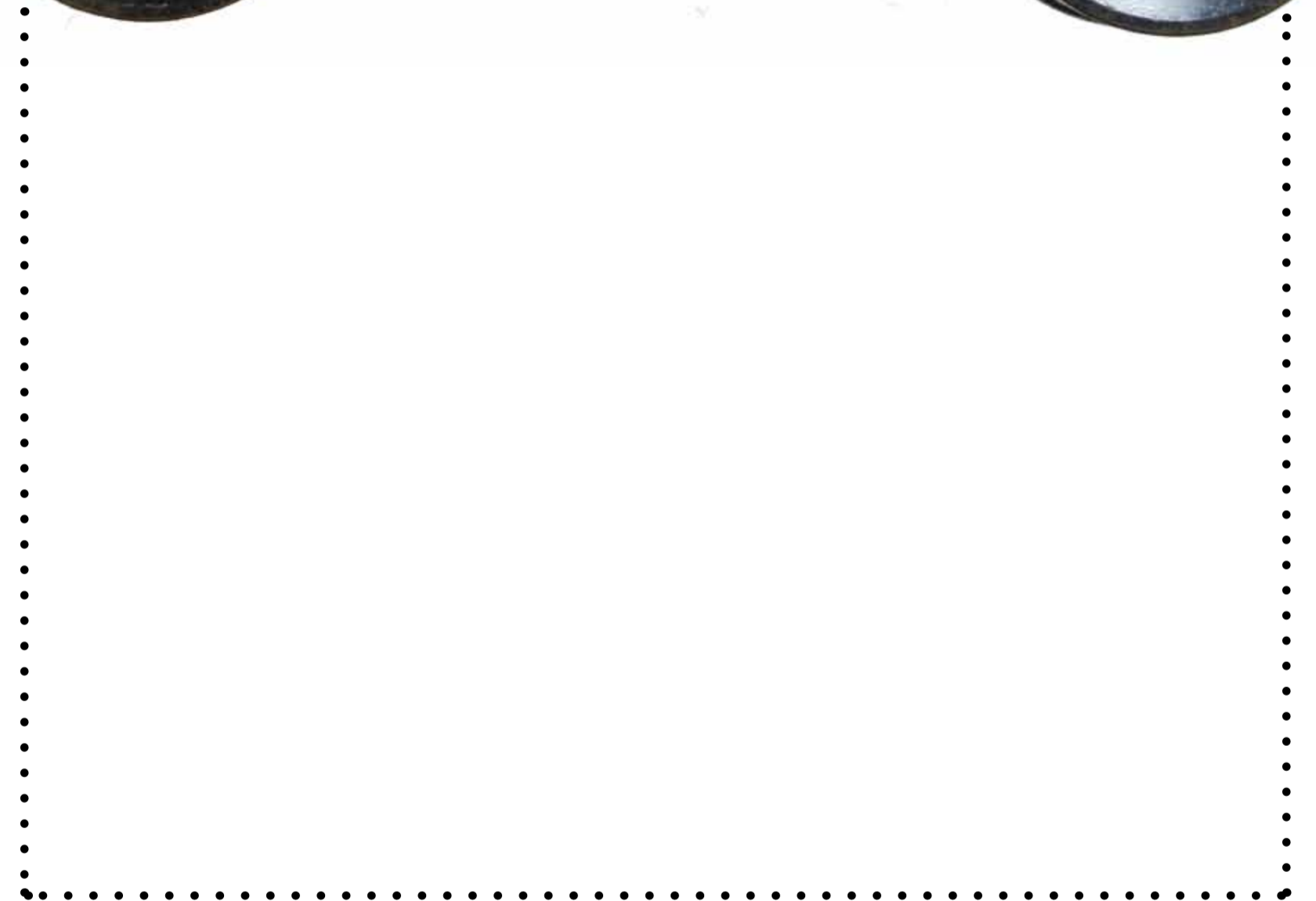
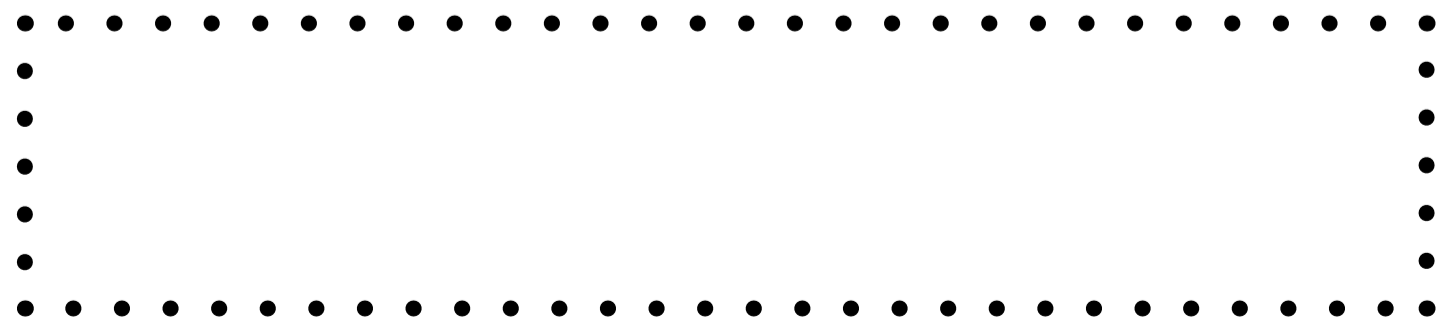
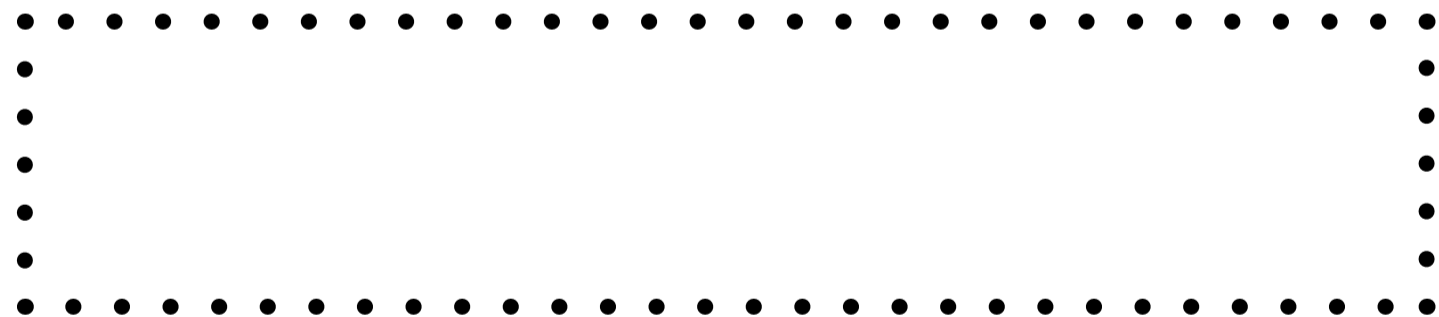
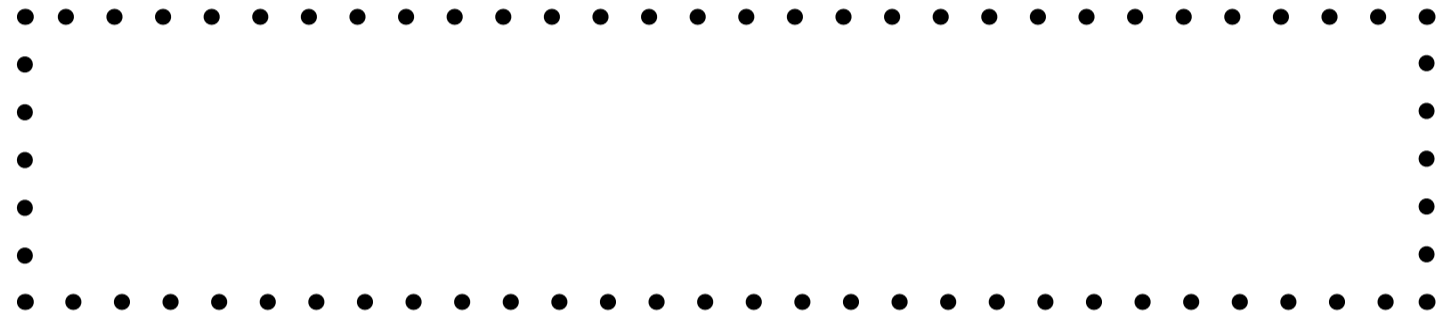
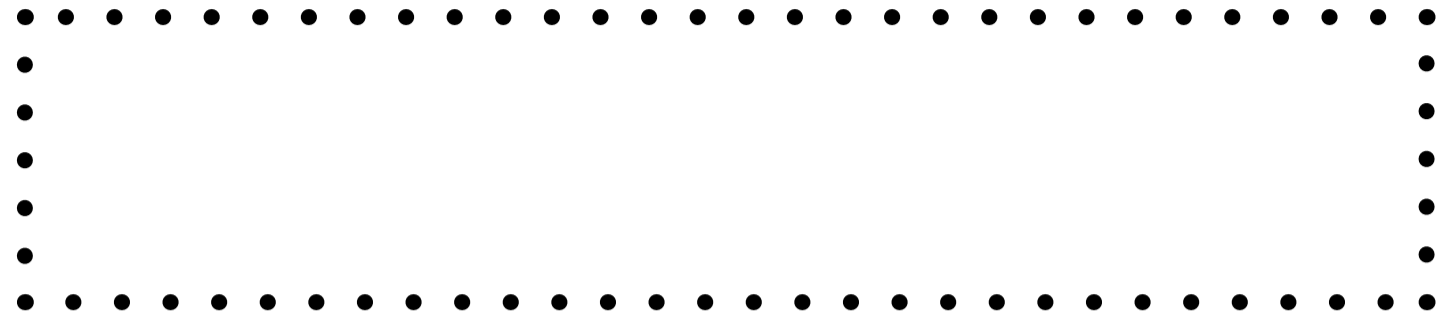


AJ: I dreamt that computers were taking over the world!

AJ: Computers are like very organised brains. Everything has a place, but human brains tend to be more muddled.

If you could reorganise your brain, what would you put in your folders?

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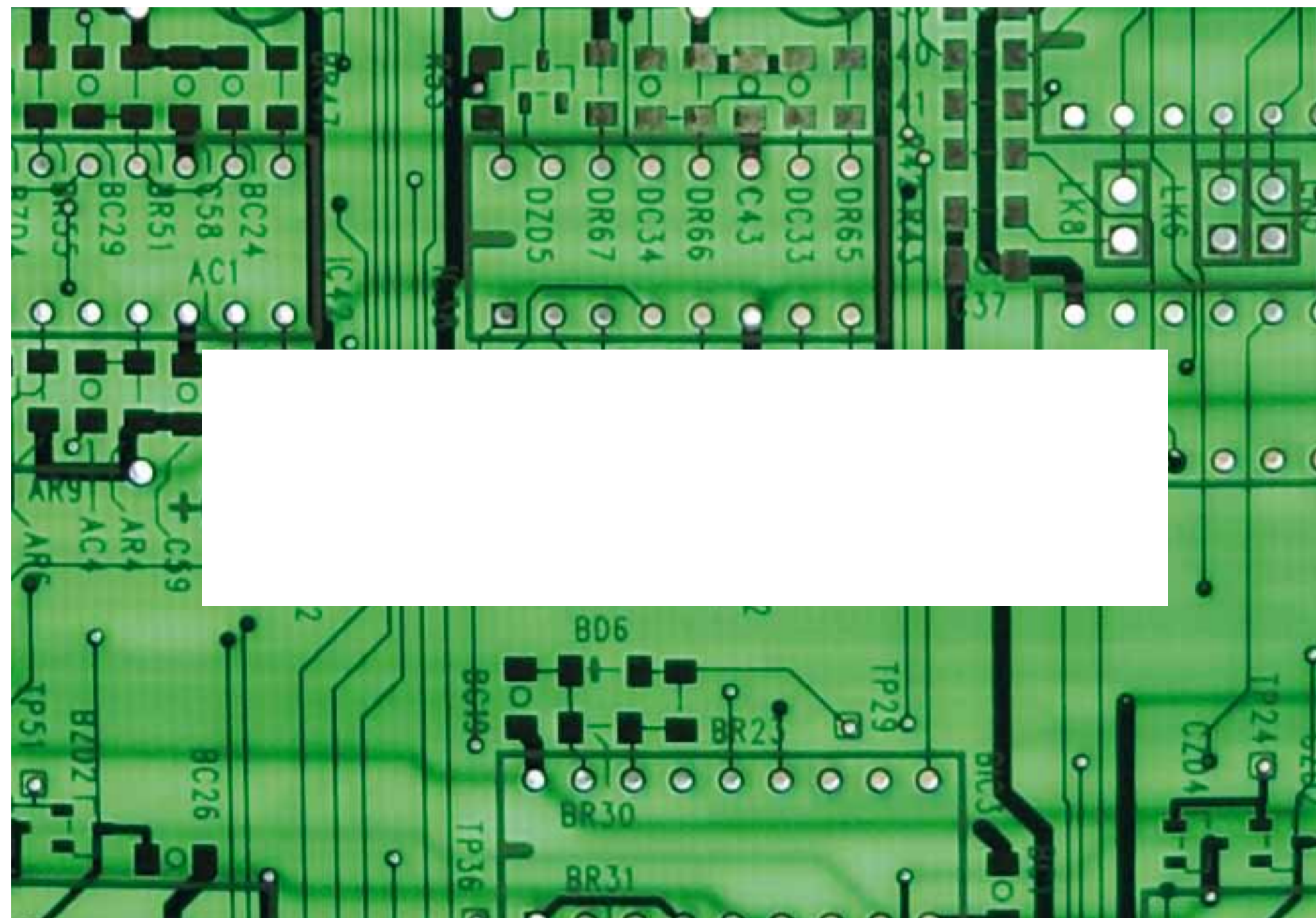
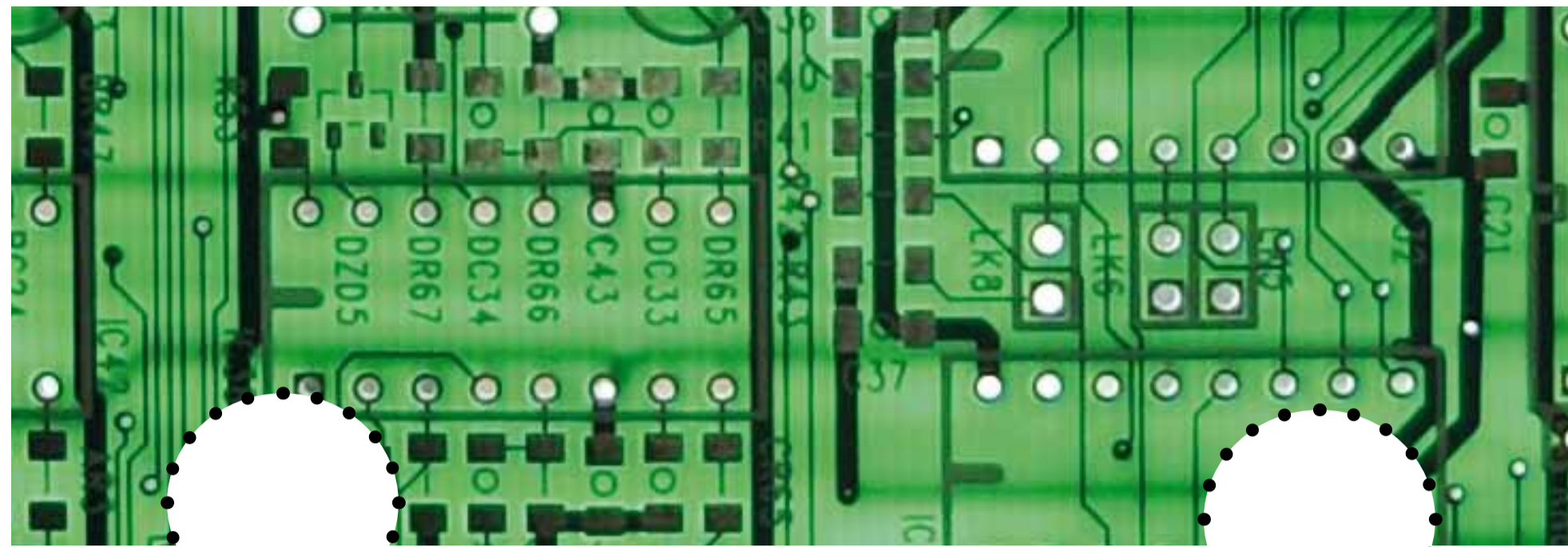
Using the binoculars as eyes draw a face in the box above.

AG: Cameras are everywhere these days. In the Middle Gallery Agent Ruby is using cameras to learn about our behaviour.

Agent Ruby: "LOOK AT THE CORNERS OF THE CEILING. CAN YOU SEE ANY SURVILANCE CAMERAS?"

"CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THE ROOM LOOKS LIKE FROM THAT ANGLE?"

AJ: Poke or cut two holes in the binoculars then fold the paper so you can walk around the gallery and spy on people without them noticing you.

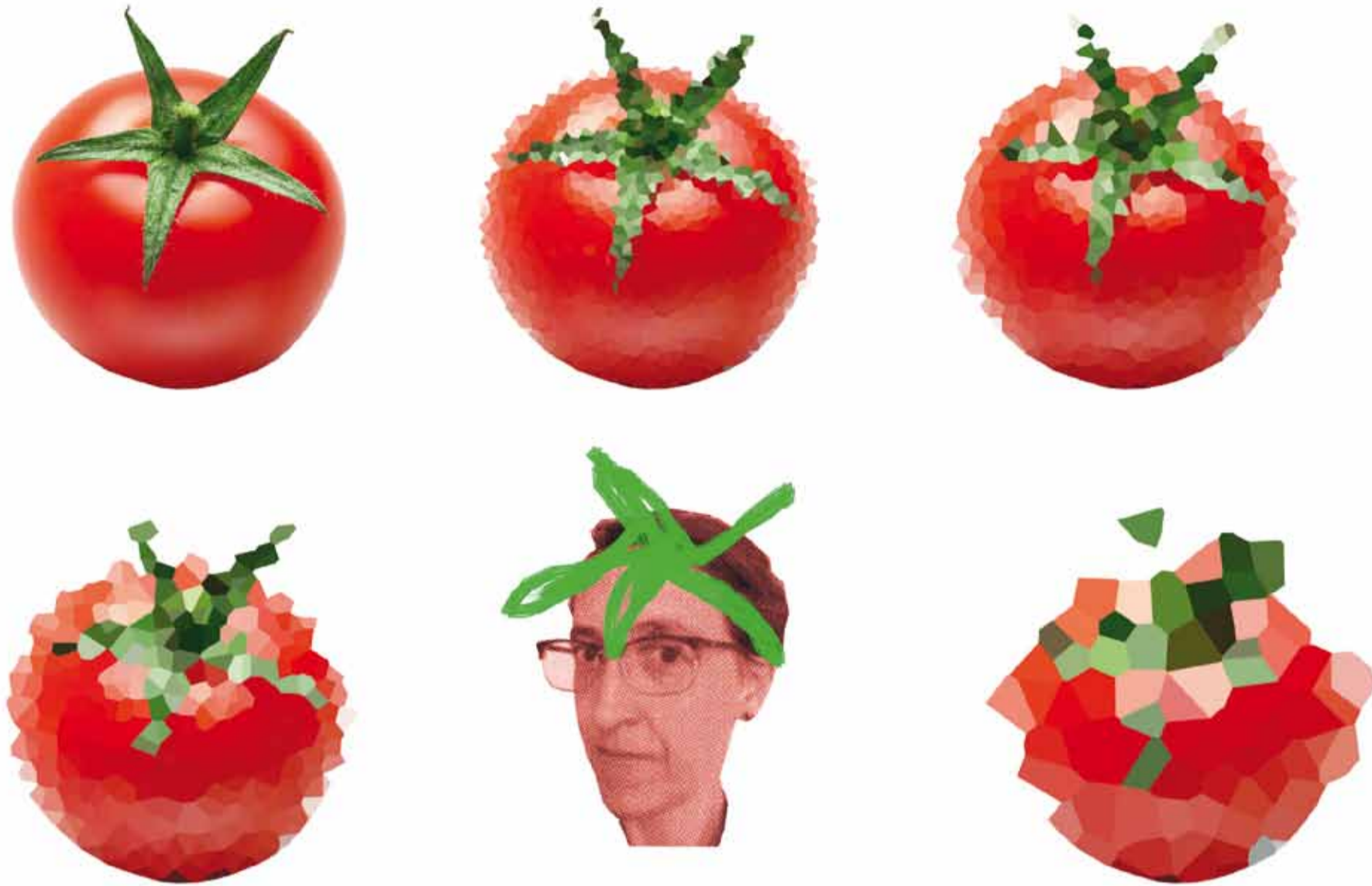


Computers are run by circuit boards. Your brain is like a circuit board, sending messages to different parts of your body. Using the image above, make a drawing of how you think the eyes and the mouth are connected.

AJ: Cut out the images below to make a collage of yourself or your family when you get home.



AG: Because of genetic science now we can control how things grow, their shape, taste and colour. Do you think this is a good thing?



In this box draw how you would change your favourite vegetable or member of your family.

AJ: YUMMY computer food.

Schools and group activities

Clone yourself

Take a close up photograph of your face.
Print it out so it's the same size as your face.
Cut it out and wear it as a face mask using some elastic string.
Ask someone else to wear your mask face.
Have a conversation between you and your mask face.
Get someone to take a photograph or a film of you talking to your mask.
Make several masks and get a group of people to wear them.
Take a group photo with everyone in a line or a circle.
As a group try and talk or do actions at the same time or in the same way.
Try making some masks with expressions, laughing, crying, angry, surprised.
Are they clones of you?
What does it feel like to have more than one of you?



Make yourself into a cyborg

A cyborg is part human, part technology. Cut out images of technology: cameras, televisions, phones, binoculars, telescopes, computers etc from magazines. Working in pairs take some photographs of each other and print these out. Now collage yourself together with bits of technology.
How abstract can you make yourself? Are you still you or are you more technology?
You can scan your collages into the computer and continue to work on them.
What does it look like if you take a photograph of your collage on your computer screen?



Make a film.

In a group create an artificial intelligence agent character for a film:
Imagine what the character of your agent might be: curious, happy, controlling, boring?
Think of questions you would want to ask your agent, write a script for your agent based on questions for it to answer.

Make the set for your film: Get a large cardboard box and cut a big hole in the top so that one person in your group can wear the box and have their head poking out of the top. you can decorate the box or put face paint on your agent depending on their character.

The agent stands in front of a white background. One person films the head while others ask the scripted questions. The agent reads the answers written on large sheets of paper held behind the camera.

Discuss whether the intelligence that your agent has still theirs or is it created by the group.



Make an exhibition.

Put on an exhibition in your bedroom or living room.
Collect and arrange objects and furniture and art works you want to show in your room.
Take a picture of your exhibition then make an exhibition of the photographs at school.



Lynn Hershman Leeson: *Origins of the Species (Part 2)*

30 May - 9 August 2015

Modern Art Oxford

@mao_gallery

@mao_gallery

Free Admission
Donations Welcome

Opening Hours

11am - 6pm Tuesday - Saturday

12pm - 5pm Sunday

Closed Monday

Artist led workshops for schools and other groups are available during each exhibition.

To book a workshop, discuss dates, times or specific requirements please contact:

Ben Roberts, Curator of Education and Public Programmes.

ben.roberts@modernartoxford.org.uk

Workshops last approx. 2.5 hrs and can be tailored to group sizes and year groups. Please note that groups should be no larger than 20 children and that we cannot offer a dedicated lunch space.

Further information about the exhibitions is available at the gallery and on request.

Modern Art Oxford is a Registered Charity, no. 313035

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