

## **WORDS, a better activity**

**Devised by artist-in-residence Sarah Carne**

**Materials:** Spare paper. A pen or pencil. Scissors are optional - you can tear the words out if you don't have scissors or do the activity in your head.

### **Background:**

I am interested in language. This activity is designed to be a prompt for you to have conversations with visitors and staff but you can also carry it out by yourself as long as you always ask yourself why you have made each decision. Don't necessarily accept your first answer, try and think through different possibilities.

### **Activity:**

Below are twelve words. Write them big on your spare paper and cut or tear them out. They can be sorted and arranged in many different ways. Alphabetically, length of word, what they represent - for example a type of object or a quality such as good or scary. Some words might have more than one meaning. Some of your decisions will be personal to you - not everyone is scared of bubblewrap! Cut or tear them out or write them on new bits of paper and experiment with different groupings.

Next think about how you feel about them as words, for instance do you like the sound they make when you say them out loud, do you prefer certain letters? Place them in order from favourite to least favourite. Ask someone if they agree with your order.

<b>grand</b>	<b>follow</b>	<b>tumble-dryer</b>	<b>plain</b>
<b>elbow</b>	<b>bubblewrap</b>	<b>dynamic</b>	<b>carrot</b>
<b>mountain</b>	<b>awkward</b>	<b>brilliant</b>	<b>fun</b>

Make up your own set of words and repeat. I found it hard to choose words, see how you find it. You could pick them at random from a book or newspaper.