

# Nottingham Contemporary

**Eva Kotátková: *How many giraffes are in the air we breathe?***


**Easy  
Read**



# Contents

Page

Introduction	3
Eva's artworks	4
Lenka	5
How the exhibition was made	9
For more information	11



Underlined  
Words

In this Easy Read document, difficult words are underlined. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

# Introduction



**This exhibition is a display of artworks by an artist called Eva Koťátková.**



**Eva is an artist from the Czech Republic.**



**We are showing artworks by Eva at Nottingham Contemporary from 27 May to 3 September 2023.**

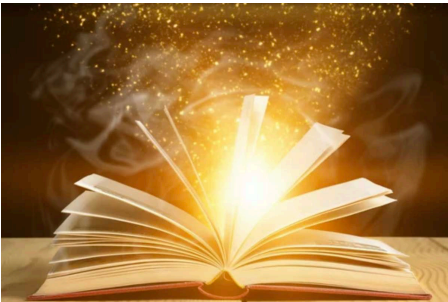
# Eva's Artworks



**Eva makes installation artworks. This means the artworks are made to fit the space they are shown in and often fill the entire gallery.**



**The artworks in this exhibition are new and were made just for this exhibition.**



**Eva likes to tell stories through her artworks.**

**Eva thinks we can use story-telling to spread important messages.**



**For this exhibition, Eva has made artworks about the story of a giraffe named Lenka.**



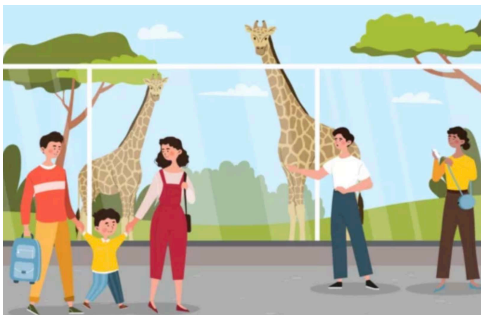
# Lenka



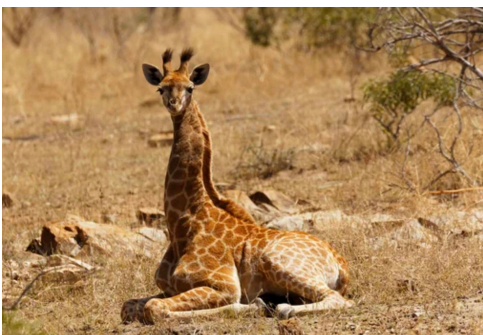
**Lenka was a young giraffe who was alive 70 years ago in the 1950s.**



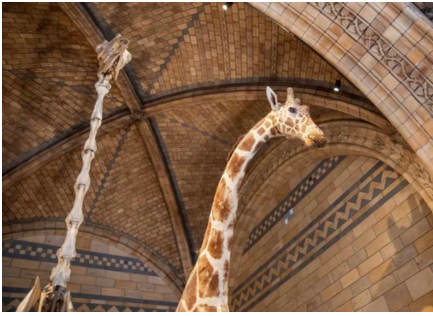
**Lenka was caught in the wild and taken to a zoo in Prague.**



**The zoo staff were very proud to be showing their first ever giraffe.**



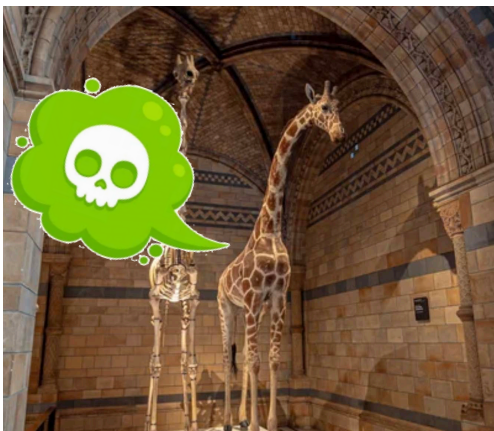
**2 years after Lenka arrived at the zoo, she died.**



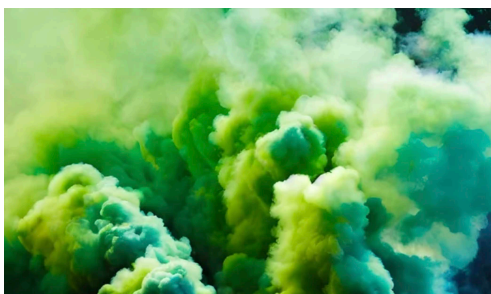
**After Lenka died, her body was taken to the Natural History Museum in Prague.**



**In lots of museums, visitors can look at stuffed animals whose bodies have been preserved. This means special things are done to keep the body looking the same as it did when the animal was alive.**



**When Lenka's body was preserved something went wrong and her body wasn't preserved properly.**



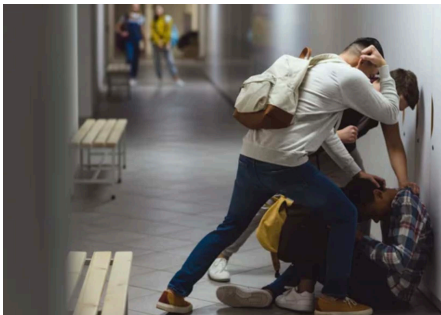
**Because Lenka's body wasn't preserved properly, it gave off toxic gases. Toxic gases are chemicals in the air that we can't see – they are dangerous if we breathe them in.**



**Because there were toxic gases in the air, the people in charge had to close part of the city near to the museum to keep people safe.**



**Eva is interested in Lenka's story because she thinks it says a lot about exploitation. Exploitation is when we treat other people or animals unfairly so that we can get something we want like money or materials.**

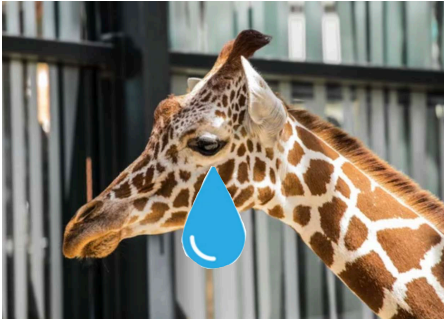


**People exploit other people and animals by forcing them to do things.**



**People exploit nature by taking things that don't belong to us. This includes cutting down too many trees or taking animals from their homes.**

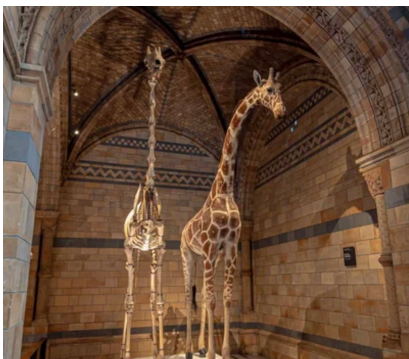




**Eva wants visitors to the exhibition to think about how Lenka was exploited twice.**



**The first time, Lenka was exploited by being put in a zoo for people to look at.**



**The second time, Lenka's dead body was exploited by being put in a museum for people to look at.**



**This is exploitation because it didn't make Lenka happy and it made money for the people who did it.**

# How the exhibition was made

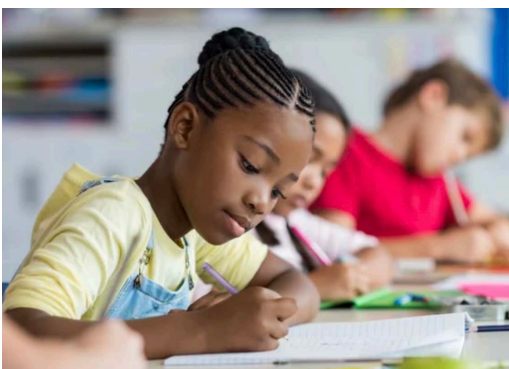
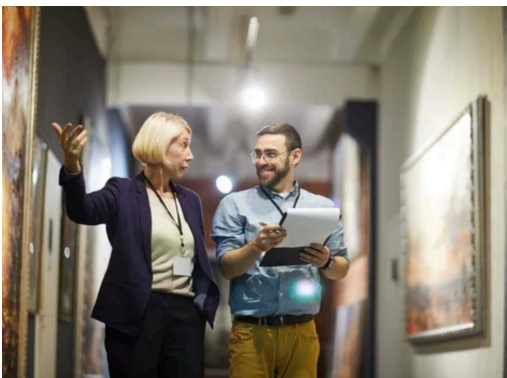


**This exhibition was a collaboration. A collaboration is when different people work together.**

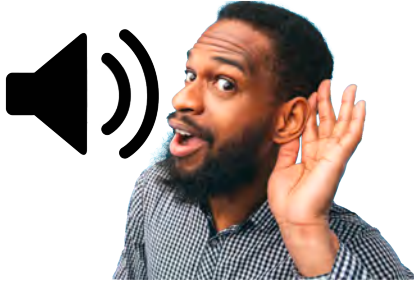


**This collaboration included:**

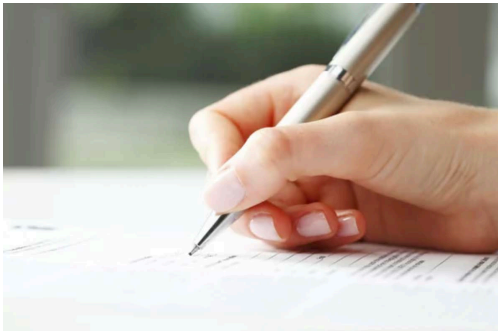
- the artist Eva
- school-children
- a writer called Peter Rumney
- a sound-artist called Tom Harris
- the learning team at Nottingham Contemporary. The learning team work with local schools and young people and put on events for them.
- the curators at Nottingham Contemporary. Curators are people who work with artists to make exhibitions happen.



**The school-children worked with Peter the writer to write stories about Lenka the giraffe. Tom the sound-artist recorded these stories.**



**If you listen to the sound artwork you can hear local children talking about Lenka the giraffe.**



**When people listen to the sound artwork, Eva the artist would like them to write their own stories and add them to the exhibition. There is a space in the gallery for you to write your own stories and stick them to the wall.**



**There is a guide to help you write your story in the gallery. If you need more information, you can ask a member of staff in the gallery.**

# For more information



You can find out more about what we do by looking at our website here:  
[nottinghamcontemporary.org](http://nottinghamcontemporary.org)



If you would like to help us show more artworks in the future, please think about giving us some money.



We suggest £3 as a good amount.



If you need more information please contact us by:

•Post:  
Nottingham Contemporary, Weekday  
Cross, Nottingham  
NG1 2GB



• phone: 0115 948 9750  
• Email:  
[info@nottinghamcontemporary.org](mailto:info@nottinghamcontemporary.org)



# Artwork Credits

Artwork credits tell us who made an artwork and when they made it. The artwork credits for the artworks you have seen in this easy read guide are shown below.



This is an artwork by Eva Koťátková. The title of the artwork is *Blankets, Monsters, Anna and the World*. The artwork is a collage made from paper and red ink.



This is a photograph of an exhibition by Eva Koťátková. The title of the exhibition is *My body is not an Island*.

The exhibition was at a gallery called CAPC d'Art Contemporain in Bordeaux, France. The exhibition was in 2022.

This photograph was taken by Arthur Péquin.