

Notebook of experiences

Venč the Mouse's Art School

PILONOVA
GALERIJA





*"A new age has begun: I must
leave black and white behind and
return to colours."*

Veno Pilon

In pursuit of
inspiration

Hey there!

Welcome to “in pursuit of inspiration”.

This notebook is unlike any other. It represents a creative **journey following in the footsteps of the artist Venó Pilon**. Together with Venč the Mouse, you will take a walk around the artist’s birthplace and explore his native landscape that he loved so much, even though he really was a citizen of the world. You will start at Pilonova galerija (the Pilon Gallery) which used to house Pilon’s father’s bakery, and return there after exploring the town!

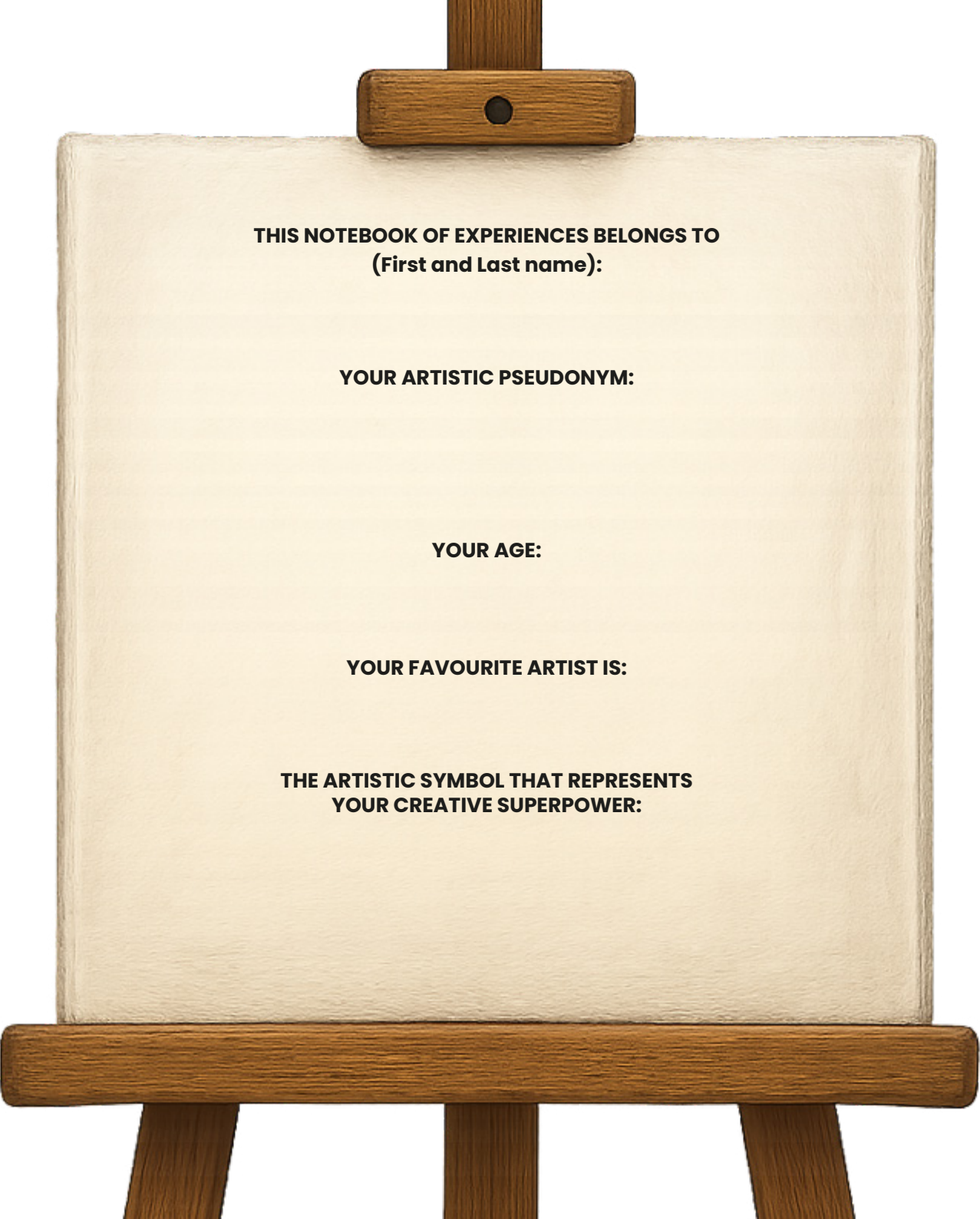
Your task is simple: explore the notebook page after page and complete one task after the other, as if you were following the right path. Along the way, you will draw, paint, make cutouts, explore art, and follow the direction that so often impressed Venó Pilon.

There is no right or wrong here. Anything you create is unique – and entirely your own.

But watch out! A lot of fun and creative surprises await you on your creative journey. Who knows, you might even realise that you are a budding artist!

Venč the Mouse will always have an idea up his sleeve – all there is left to do now is to boldly create **outside the frames** and join Venč the Mouse in following the footsteps of Venó Pilon.

Are you ready? Let’s go ... or – pencils, crayons, markers, chalks, scissors, cello tape, in your hands!



Town of the future

Imagine that you are an explorer from the future!

You are standing at the beginning of your path, in front of Pilonova galerija (the Pilon Gallery). This used to be a bakery and the home of the Pilon family; today, it is a gallery, and on the upper floors, you can see Veno Pilon's artworks. **Lavričev trg, the main square in Ajdovščina**, is opening up in front of you. Pilon once depicted the square on an etching.



YOUR ARTWORK OF THE FUTURE

Look towards Lavričev trg. Imagine that you are looking **into the future**. **Draw your vision of the square in the future.**

What would Lavričev trg look like? Would it be different? What would houses, shops, cafés look like?

Would the square still bear any resemblance to the one you can see today?

Use your imagination. There are **no rules** here!

Take a walk through Ajdovščina!

Come join me for a walk through the sunny town.
We have so many interesting things to do!

We will walk slowly, stop, listen, smell, touch things, and look up and around.

What can you see? What do you hear? What can you pick up, smell ... or maybe even taste?

Try and **focus on one sense at a time**. The town will become a whole new adventure if you experience it with your ears, nose or fingers.

Veno Pilon depicted individual parts of Ajdovščina several times. He was most impressed by the buildings and the landscape surrounding them. One of those views can also be found in his painting, which can be seen in Pilonova galerija (the Pilon Gallery).



SPACE FOR YOUR ARTWORK

Be creative and draw Veno Pilon’s artwork, which I’m holding in my hand, entirely in your own way.

The power of the Hubelj River

The Hubelj River is often admired by artists. Its waters are wild, powerful, and full of energy. Imagine that you wish to **capture the power of the Hubelj River in your artwork**.

Look at the **water**, calmly skipping or flowing between stones, explore the foam and spray droplets ... and then **transfer this power to paper**. You can use whatever you can find: pebbles, tree leaves, bird feathers, or water. Do not forget to bring paints. Just make sure that the environment stays clean after your creative process is over.

A tip

Find Veno Pilon's works of art in Pilonova galerija (the Pilon Gallery), and check how he painted the wild Hubelj River.

DO YOU KNOW?

Water is not only important for drinking – artists also use it when creating! Watercolours are a technique in which colours are mixed with water to get transparent and soft shades. Artists also use black ink and water to create various shadows and textures. Tempera colours are colours that are mixed with water and that dry quickly, yielding strong and vibrant colours. When you draw or paint water, don't forget about all the magical ways artists capture its movement and brilliance!



THE POWER OF WATER IN YOUR ARTWORK

Through the eyes of a photographer

Take a look at where you are standing now. Take your camera.

What or whom would you like to photograph? How would you frame the selected scene? Would you choose an unusual pose or an unusual view of, for example, a landscape or a building? When it comes to taking photos, your imagination is the limit.

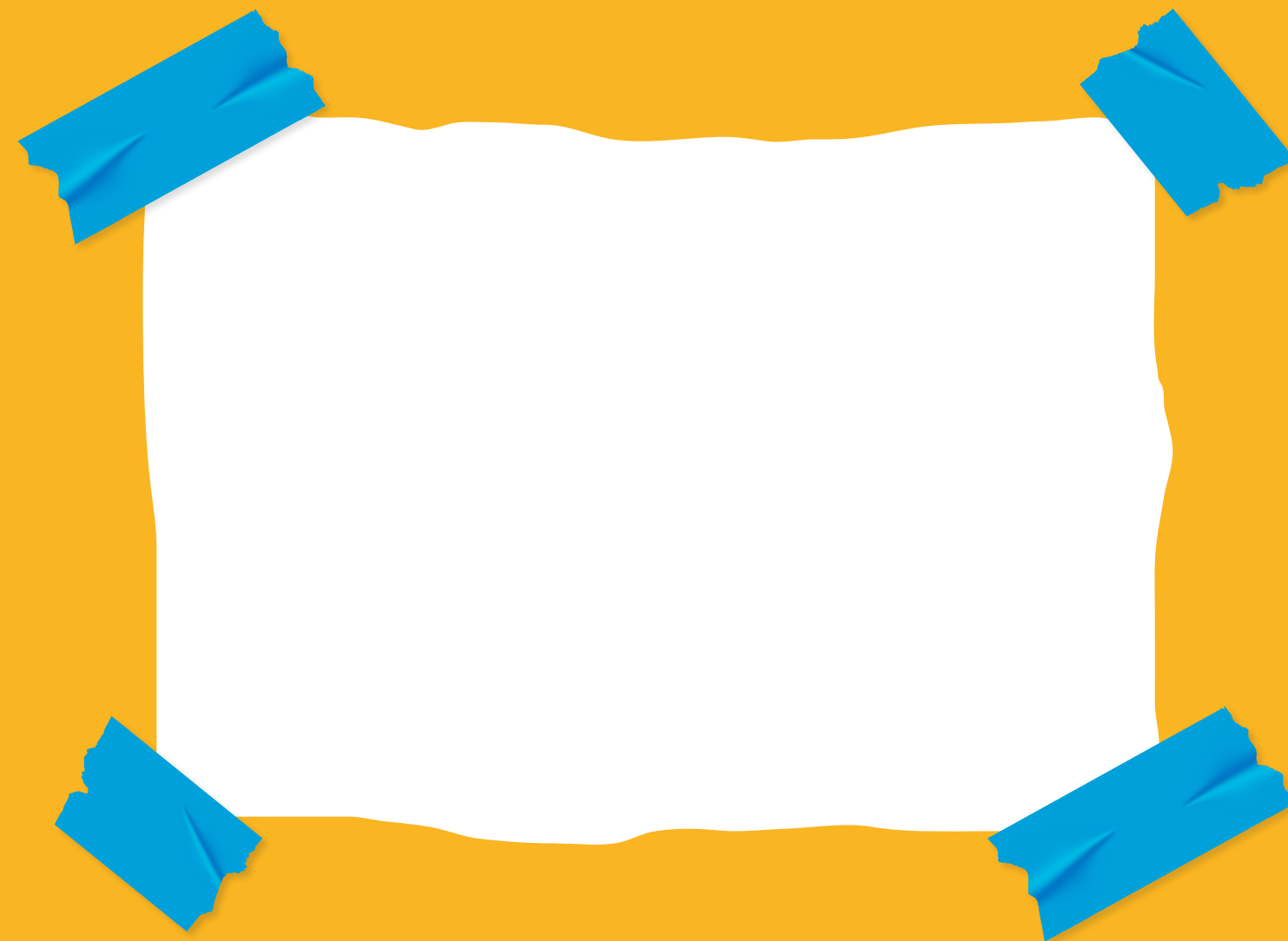
Try out the filters incorporated in your camera. Print your experimental photo at home and glue it into the frame.

A tip

You can see how Pilon tested the limits of his imagination in photography on the top floor of Pilonova galerija (the Pilon Gallery).



SPACE FOR YOUR PHOTO



A walk full of colours

Painters often paint their feelings or their emotions. They also express themselves with colours.

And now, it's your turn to do that! Look around, observe the world around you and find inspiration.

DO YOU KNOW?

Some colours make us feel warm, while others make us feel cold. The colours that resemble the sun and fire are called warm colours, and the ones resembling plants and water are called cold colours.

You probably already know the three primary colours. Why do we call them "primary" colours? Which colour do you get by mixing yellow and red? Or red and blue? Just look at how many new colours we can get from just three primary ones.



DRAW OBJECTS IN DIFFERENT COLORS

Your task is to draw **red, yellow, blue, orange, purple** and **green** objects. Drawing which object made you feel comfortable? Why?

a **red** car

a **yellow** gallery

blue **sky** or blue water

an **orange** fruit or flower

a **purple** object that **you** notice

a **green** tree leaf



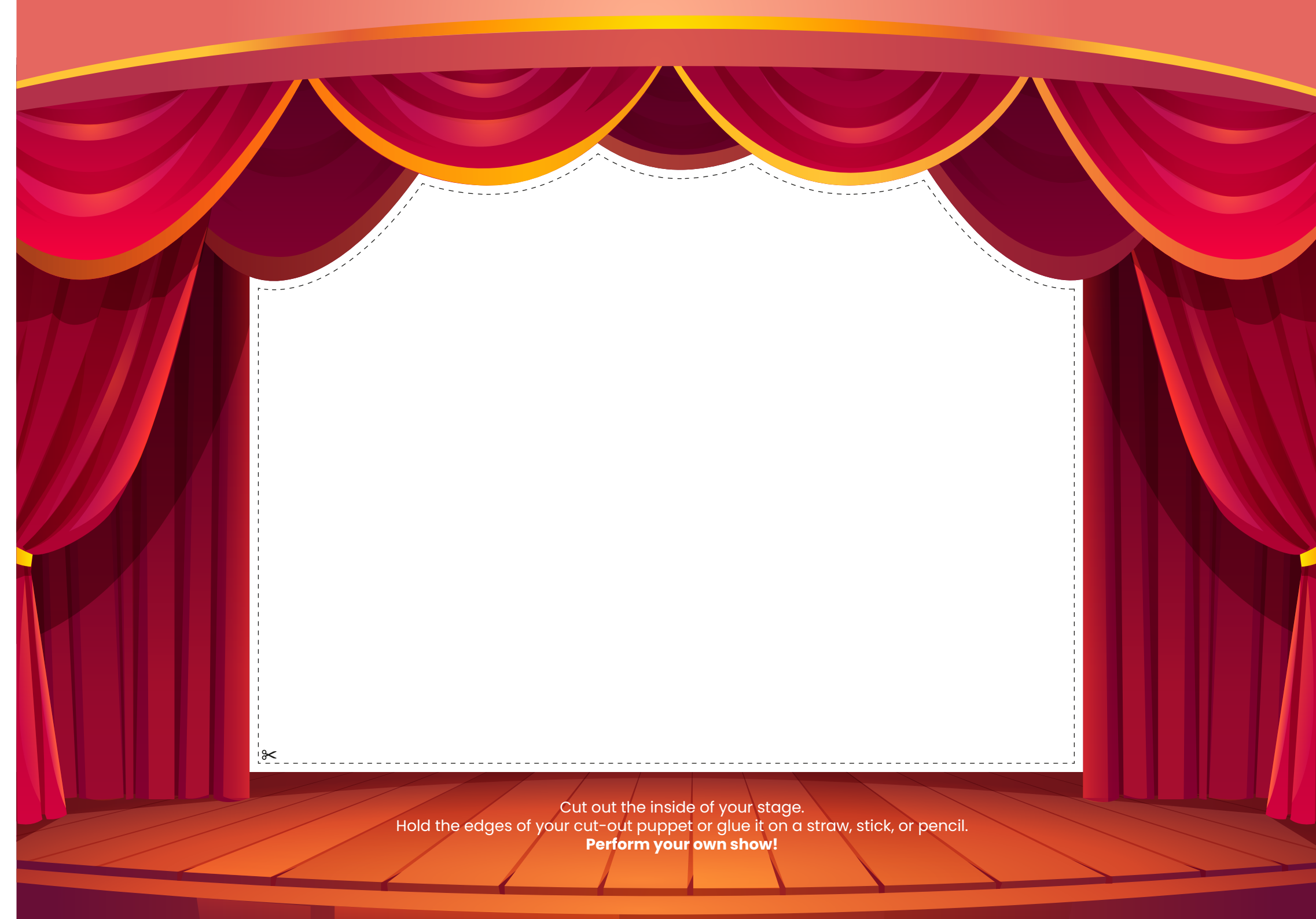
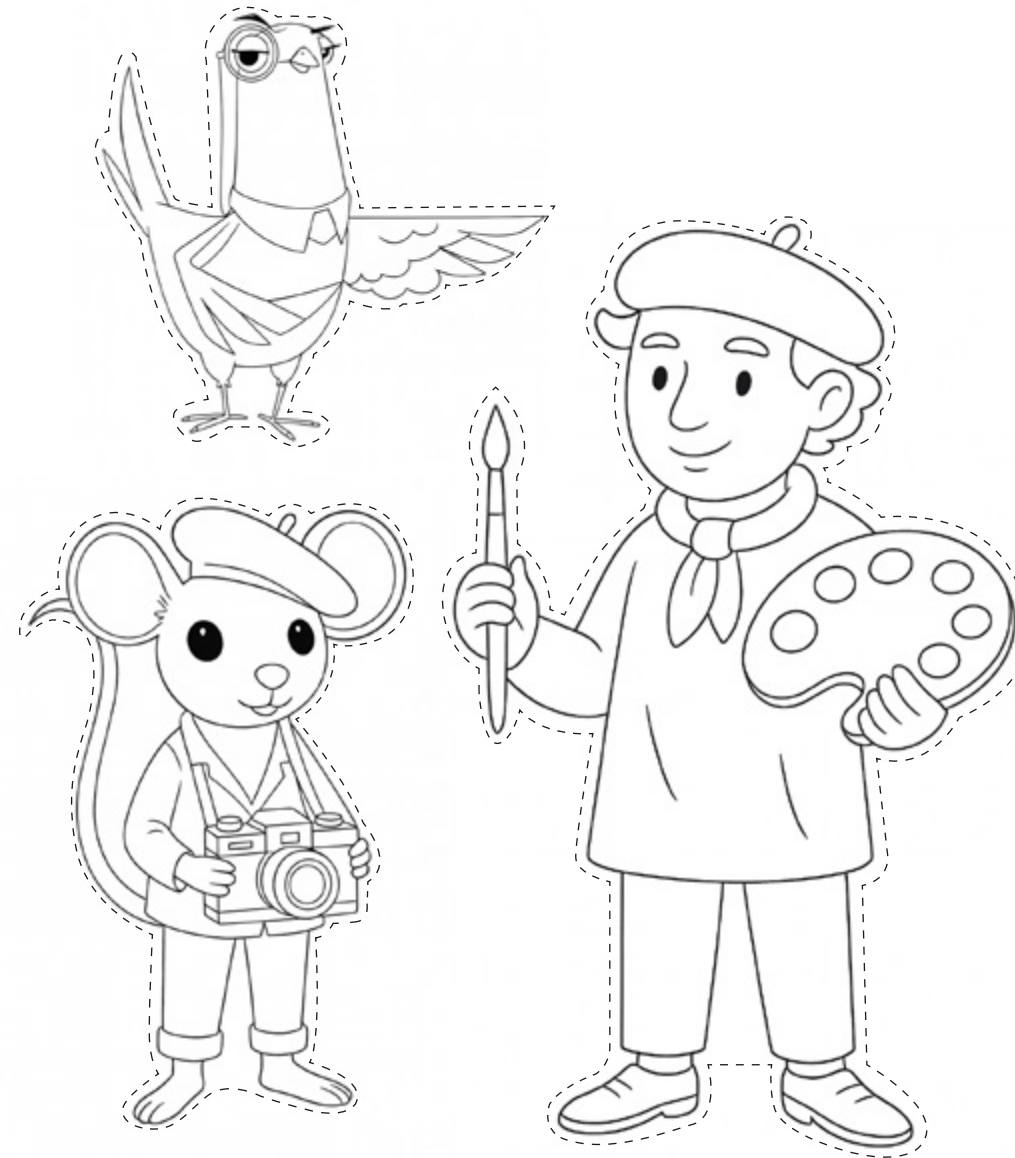
Veno Pilon, 1927–48
Šentvid pri Vipavi (detail)

Your own theatre performance

During his high school years, Veno Pilon became friends with Milan Klemenčič, a painter, photographer and puppeteer. In order to get to know him, he attracted his attention by hanging his oil painting out of the window to dry, and the tall-grown Klemenčič hit the painting with his head when he was visiting Pilon's neighbours, the Casagrande family. From then on, the locals often saw the two of them together; Pilon also admired the sophisticated puppets at his home in Šturje and participated in Klemenčič's performances of the first marionette theatre in Slovenia.

Now, it's up to you to try your hand at being a director, actor and artist! Invite your friends to create with you!

Paint these three puppets as you wish and carefully cut them out along the dotted line.



Cut out the inside of your stage.
Hold the edges of your cut-out puppet or glue it on a straw, stick, or pencil.
Perform your own show!



Veno Pilon, 1928
Old power station on Hubelj (detail)

Artwork on a piece of paper

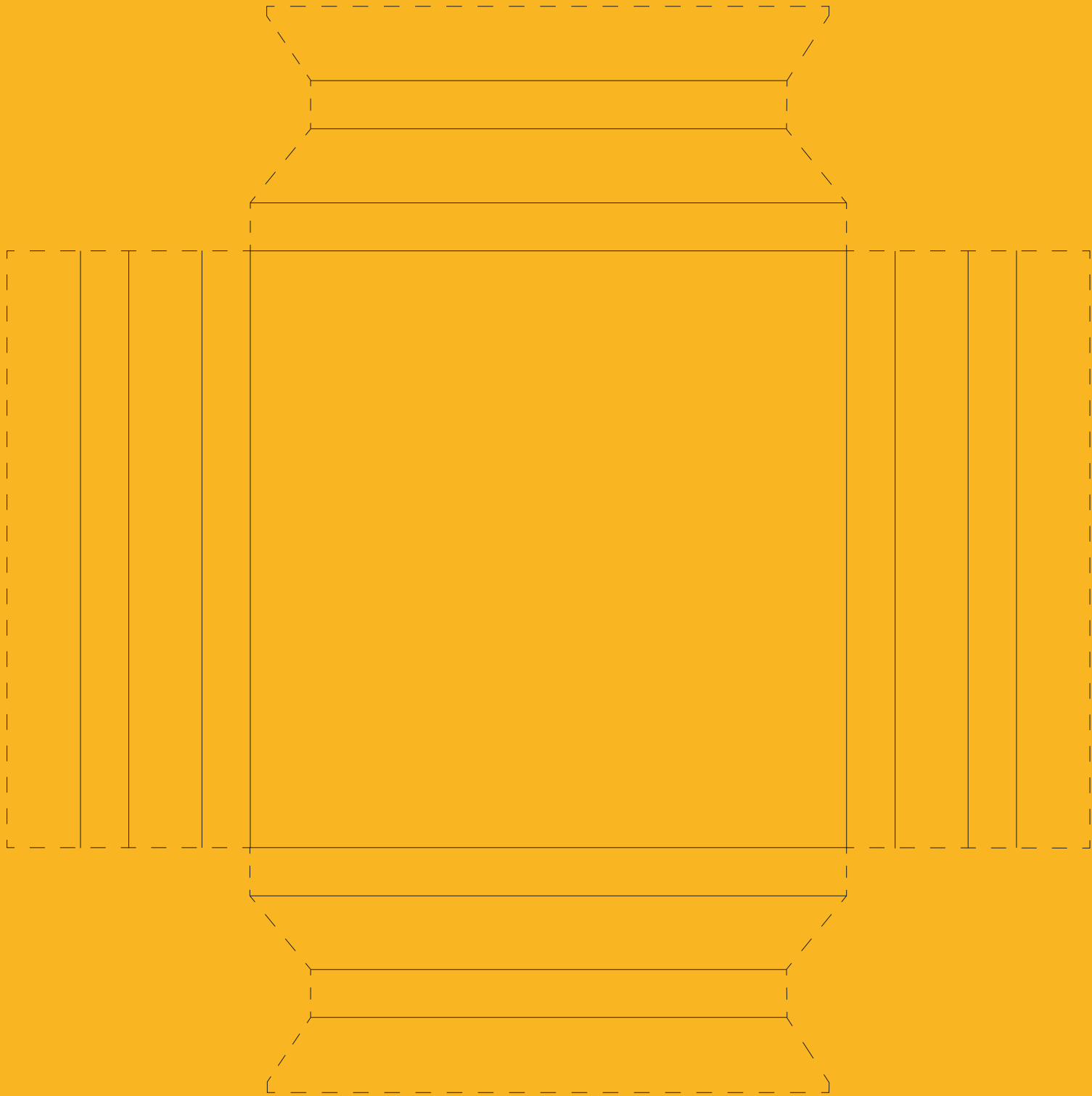
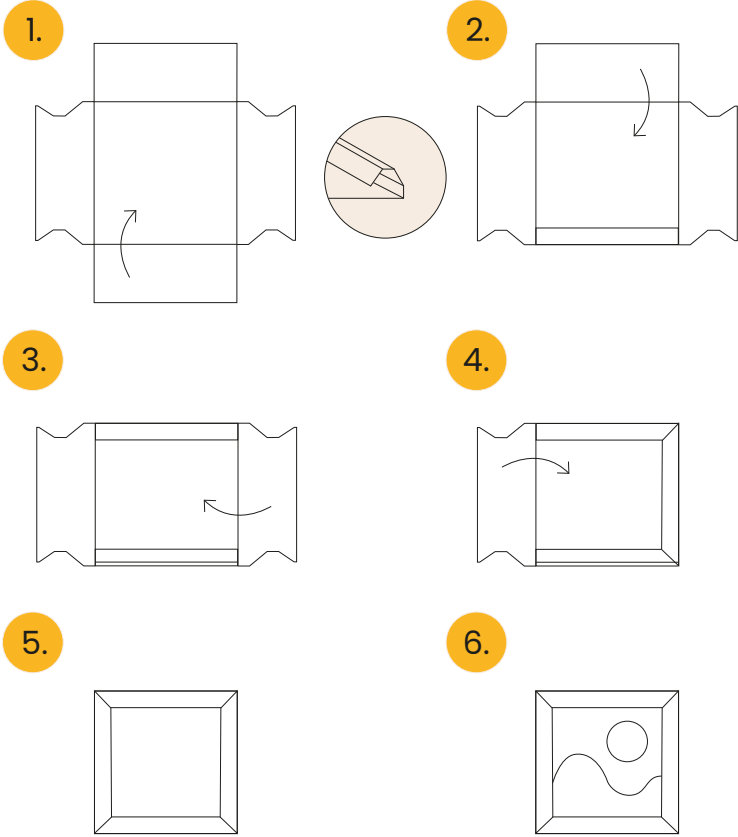
A simple piece of paper can be the beginning of something extraordinary. Now, this piece of paper will become your creative material.

Take it, and turn it into art!



HOW TO CREATE AN ORIGAMI FRAME?

1. Cut out the frame along the dotted line.
2. Pre-fold all the fold lines on the sheet in advance.
3. Fold the rectangular sides along the marked lines.
4. Then insert whatever you want into the center of the foldable sheet.
5. Now assemble the frame as shown in pictures 1 to 4 (you can also glue it if you wish).



*You have created your own art frame!
You can insert whatever you wish into the frame.*

Title of the artwork:

Author:

The reason you chose this artwork:

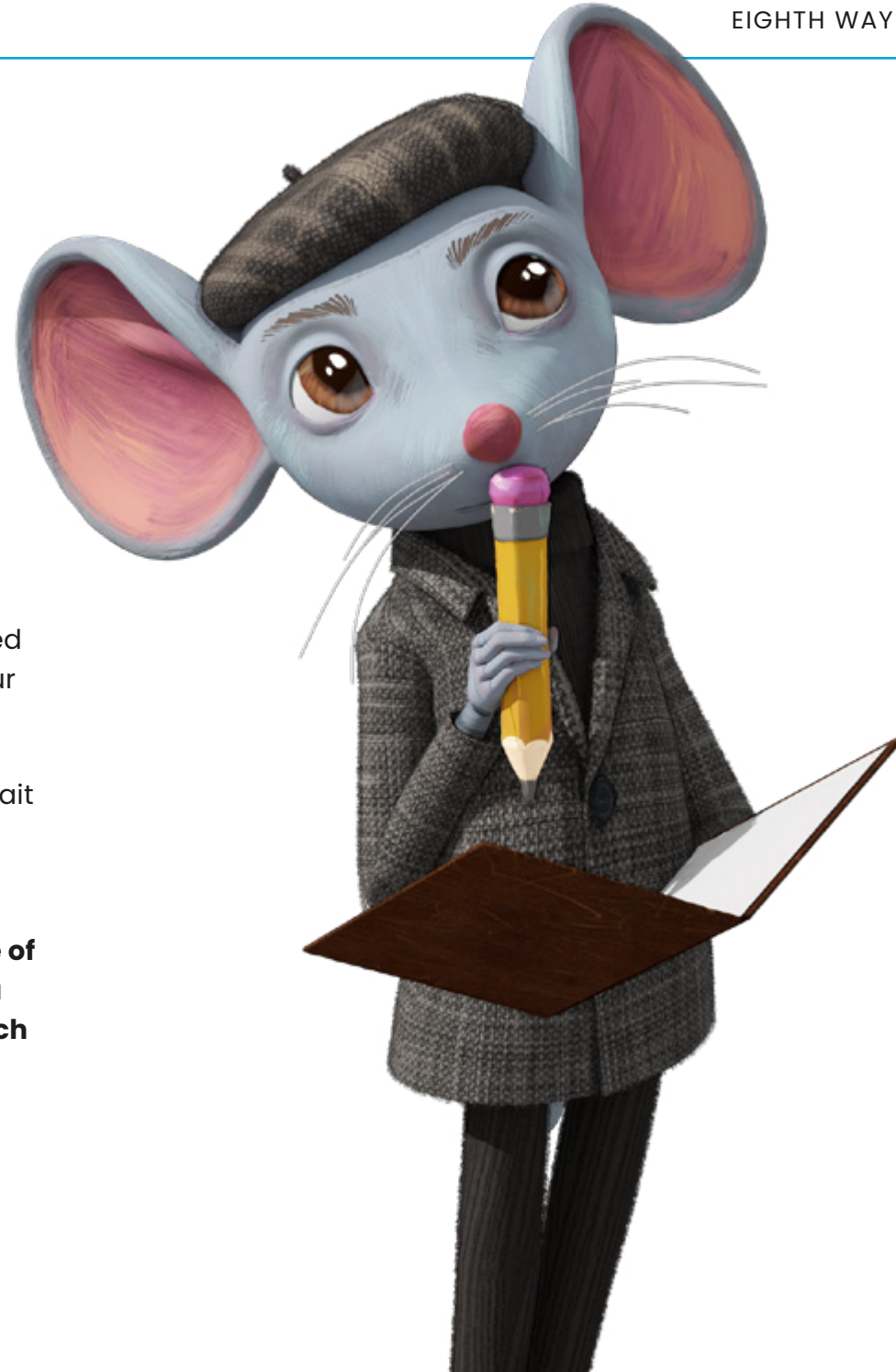
Sculptural portrait

Veno Pilon did not sculpt often. Nevertheless, he made two sculptural portraits of important personalities, which he donated to the town of Ajdovščina. You will definitely notice them on your walk around town.

A **portrait** is created when an artist **depicts a person**. The portrait can depict just the head and the face, or it can be a bust, or a full-body portrait.

Would you like to try sculpting too? **First, draw a portrait of one of your family members or of a friend who is accompanying you on your journey, then make a statue at home using your sketch as a guide.**

Use your imagination and the materials you have at your disposal: paper, cardboard, cardboard boxes, waste materials, hard soap, plasticine, etc.!



YOUR PORTRAIT

Well done,
artists!



Hey!

**Yes, you – creators, researchers, artists,
world watchers, inspiration seekers!**

You have just completed an experiential journey through colours, stories, ideas, and imagination. Through 8 creative tasks, you have proven that inspiration can truly be found everywhere – inside you, around you, on paper and in your mind.

Good job! You have an artistic streak and your eyes see the world through coloured glasses. As early as tomorrow, you might be able to tell a story with a painting, and capture the world in a photograph as only you can see it in a year's time.

This notebook of experiences is now your journal of creative trails. When you open it again in the future, you will see just how many ideas and how much imagination is hiding in it.

Come and visit Pilonova galerija (the Pilon Gallery), where you will see more art by Veno Pilon and, of course, other artists who were also Pilon's friends! Bring your creations to the gallery and take part in our creative competitions. We invite you to join us at our group creative workshops that are organised in our gallery.

Art connects, creates friendships, and opens up to imaginative surprises, so keep creating and let your imagination run wild!

See you in the gallery!

Your creative companion

Venč the Mouse



*"You remain an artist
if you stay a little curious
every day and never
stop dreaming."*

Venč the Mouse

Veno Pilon, 1925
Aj dovščina (detail)



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA KULTURO



NAČRT ZA
OKREVANJE
IN ODPORNOST



Financira
Evropska unija
NextGenerationEU