

Metaphysical Measuring

Giorgio de Chirico (1888-1978) and Carlo Carrà (1881-1966) both painted in a 'Metaphysical' style and set up the short lived Scuola Metafisica. The painting style was characterised by unusual composition of objects and perspectives and inspired by ideas of the unconscious. They often incorporated objects that embodied systems of knowledge and measurement that provoke us to question how these form our understanding on the world. This activity explores how we perceive the dimensions of our bodies in relation to themselves and the objects around us to offer new ways to think about ourselves.



Giorgio de Chirico, The Revolt of the Sage, 1916



Carlo Carrà, The Engineers Mistress, 1910

- 1) Cut and stick together a wide blank strip of paper the length of your body.



2) Hold the strip up to your body and mark parts of your body in pen.



3) Mark the height of your body in different positions



4) Measure and mark out how many times these objects fit into your tape measure.

A fork

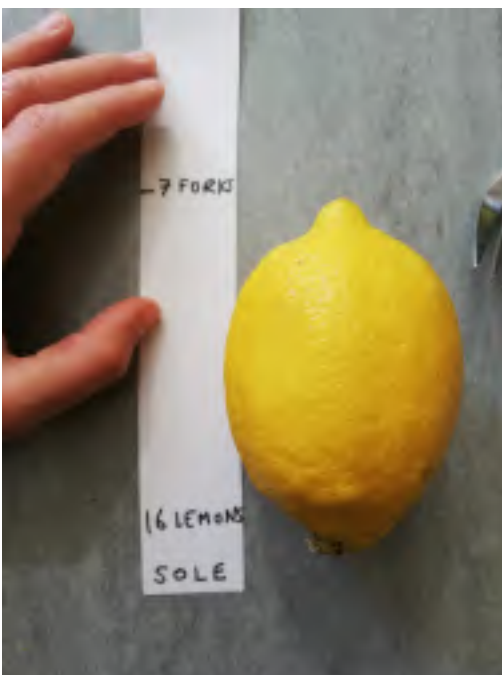
A chair

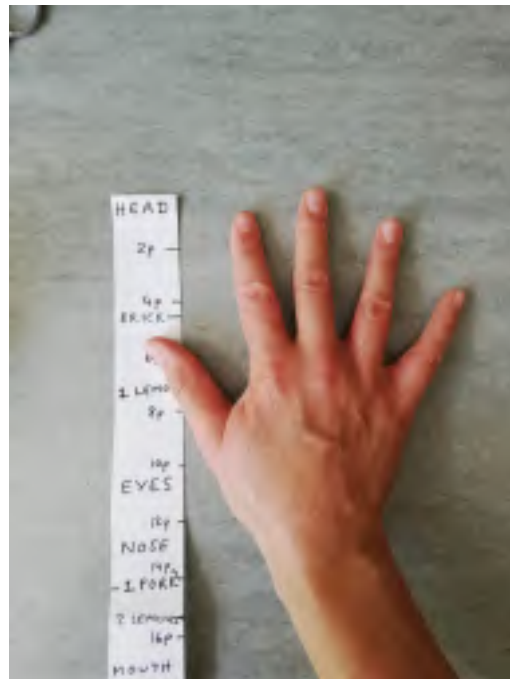
2pence

A piece of fruit

Your hand

Anything else you want to try!





Top Tip: Try using different colours to mark the objects and decide which how many times you mark it on your tape measure. You try and use pictures instead.

Experiment: Work out how many of you fit into the distance of a walk to your local shop or the height of the building you live in, or the distance to the moon.

Further Activity:

- Explore different ways to measure your time. E.g Time how long it take you to read a page and apply that to other activities. Time how long it takes you to complete a specific walk and create a playlist that exact length.