



## 1 Khon dance mask

This Khon mask would have been used in holy masked dances that were held for the royal court in Thailand. It represents Thotsakan, a green, ten-headed demon from the *Ramakien* story, which is loosely based on the Indian story *Ramayana*. What demon-like features can you see?

## 2 Ceremonial mask



This hawk mask is probably from the Nuu-chah-nulth people, who live on Vancouver Island in Canada. The hawk symbolises noble families and mythical ancestors, and is a character in many stories. Such masks are worn at *potlatch* celebrations. Which animal would you choose to represent your family?

## 3 Sickness mask



This is a Sanni (sickness) mask traditionally used in Sri Lankan Kolam (theatre) and Tovil (exorcisms). 18 Sanni masks represent different illnesses. Some illnesses were believed to be caused by demons that had to be banished by an exorcist wearing the correct sickness mask.

## 4 Dance mask



This half-mask is of Bondres Cungih, a clown figure with a cleft lip and palate. It was used in Balinese *Topeng*, a type of dance with *gamelan* (percussion instruments in Java and Bali), in which masked performers act out tales of myths, kings and heroes

## 5 Yam mask



This is an Abelam yam mask (*baba-tagwa*) from Papua New Guinea. Abelam people from different villages compete to grow the largest yam. The yams are dressed in masks and are displayed at ceremonies so they can be judged. How would you describe its expression?



## 6 Mystery mask

This 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> century Italian mask was bought at auction and its purpose is a mystery. The auction house described it as 'A rare Executioner's Mask', but it could have been a face guard to protect a horse rider in woodland. What do you believe?



## 7 Winter demon mask

This mask appears to represent a demon. There is a long folk history in Switzerland of making masks for festivals at the start of the long winter. Why do you think they have made this mask a demon?

## 8 Winter festival mask



This bear mask from Slovakia would have been used during the 'Fašiangy' festival and at Christmas, along with a costume and bells. Bears were a symbol of strength and, as they sleep in winter, they represented new life. What other symbols of new life do you know?

## 9 Dance mask

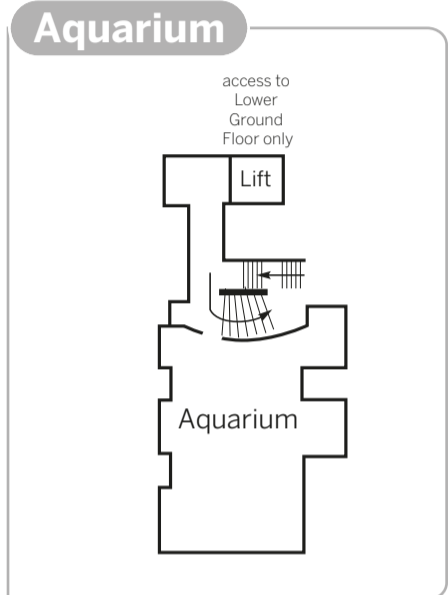
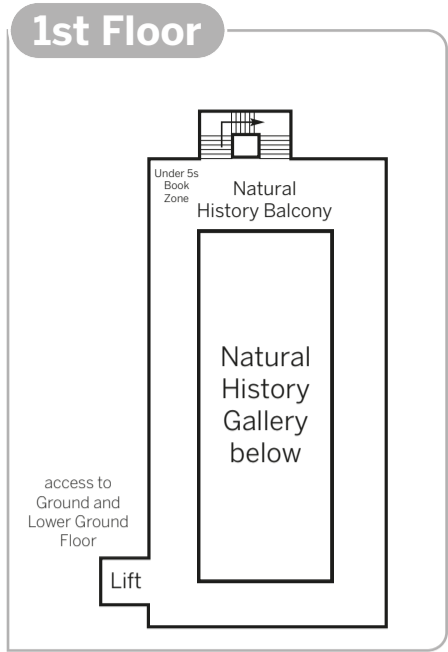
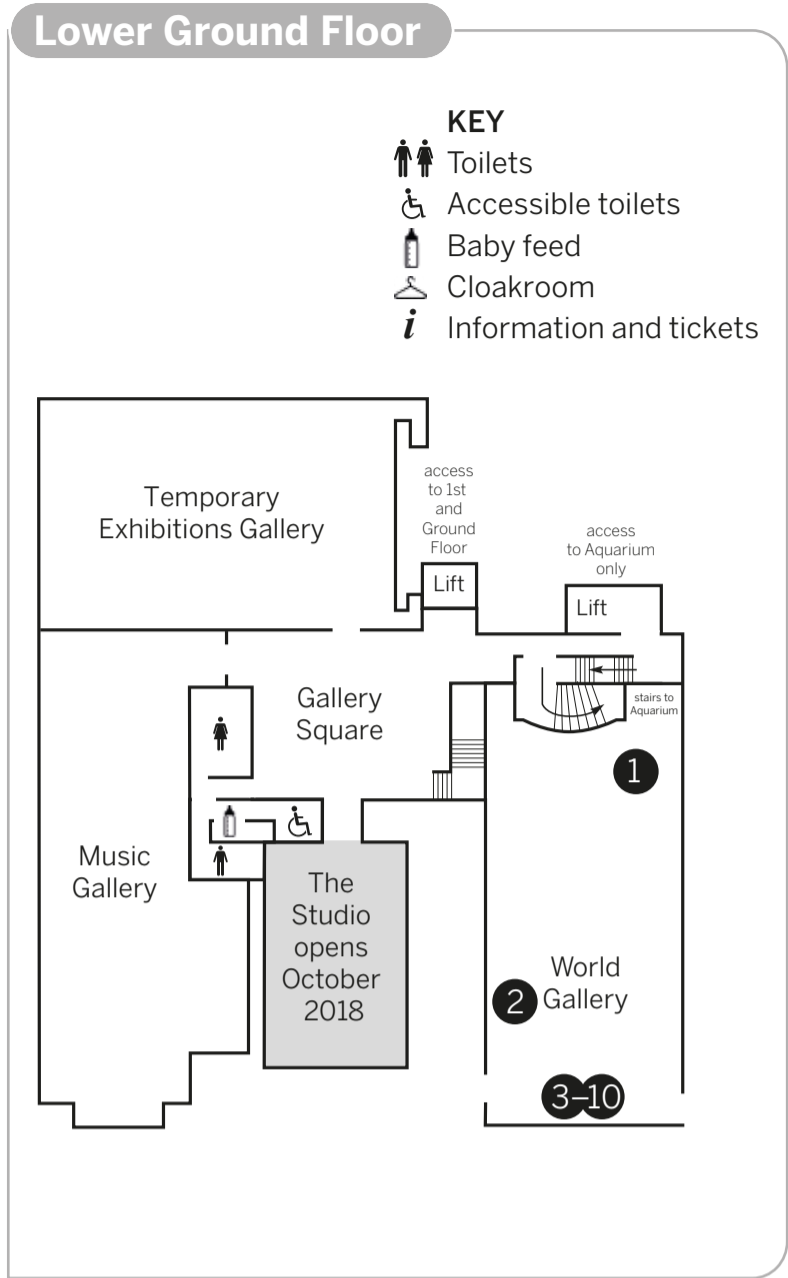
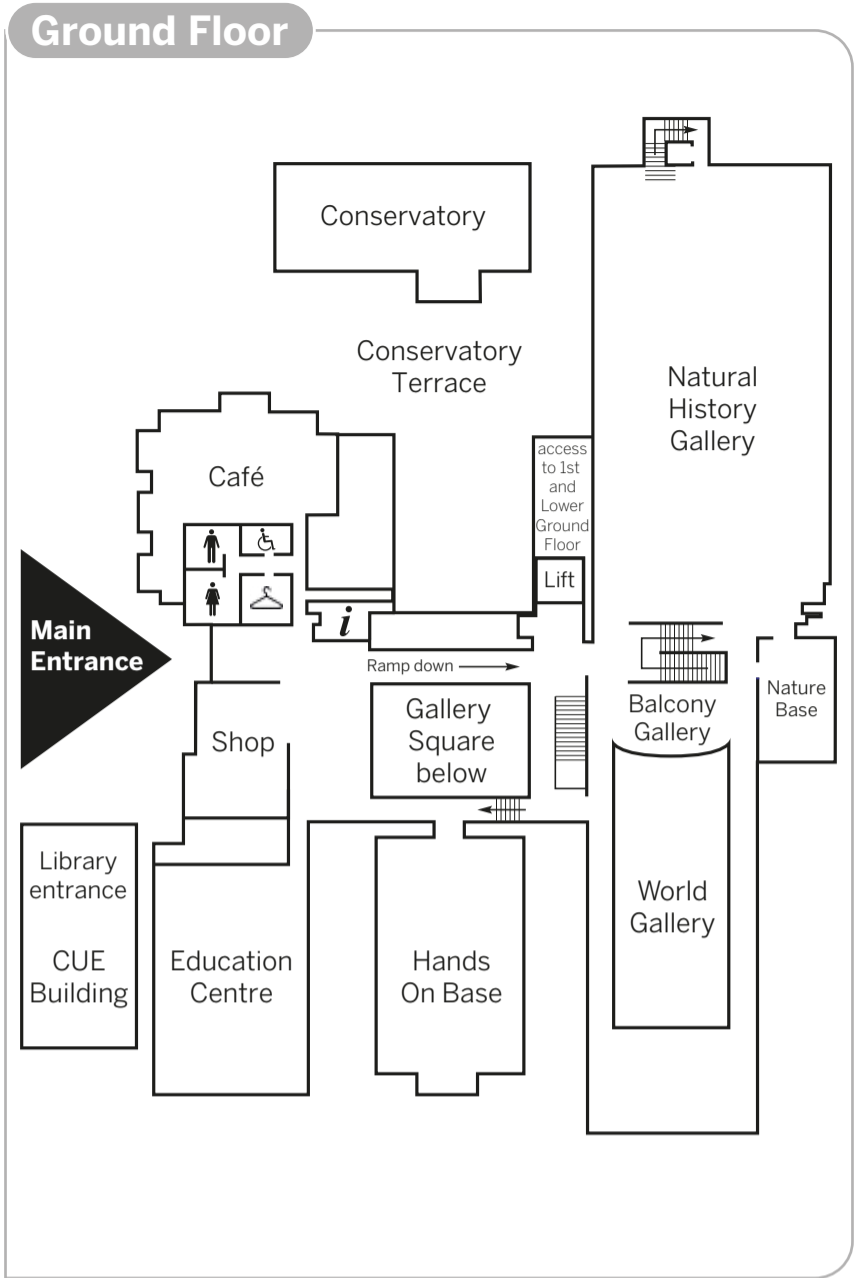


This bird mask is from the Mexican state of Guerrero, famous for its festival masks, many of which are animal-based dance masks. This one was probably used in festivals of the Tlapaneco people, which has the *Danza de los Zopilotes* (dance of the Turkey Vultures).

## 10 Cham dance mask



This mask is used in Cham dance which is performed in front of Buddhist temples in Tibet and India, to drive away evil forces. It represents Mahakala, chief protector of the Buddhist faith, whose job is to chase away enemies of Tibetan Buddhism and bring balance between good and evil.



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  - 2 Ceremonial mask
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  - 6 Mystery mask
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  - 8 Winter festival mask
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  - 10 Cham dance mask

