A Shifting Form

Nematostella Manual

Activity proposed by Irene Kopelman, visiting artist at Röttinger lab (Institute for Research on Cancer and Aging, Nice (IRCAN)

In the context of 'WORKSTATION NICE – Marine Models Drawing Regeneration' at MAMAC

We will be working with a little sea animal called *Nematostella vectensis*.
Here is a picture of the animal:

Photo: Röttinger lab

Nematostella vectensis, also called the starlet sea anemone, is part of a group of animals called cnidarian. Nematostella's cousins are corals and jellyfish.

Their body measure between 1.5cm and 4cm in length. In the wild, most of their body is buried in the sand, with only the mouth and tentacles sticking out into the water to catch the free-living prey that they feed on.

These little animals can regrow all the different parts of their bodies.

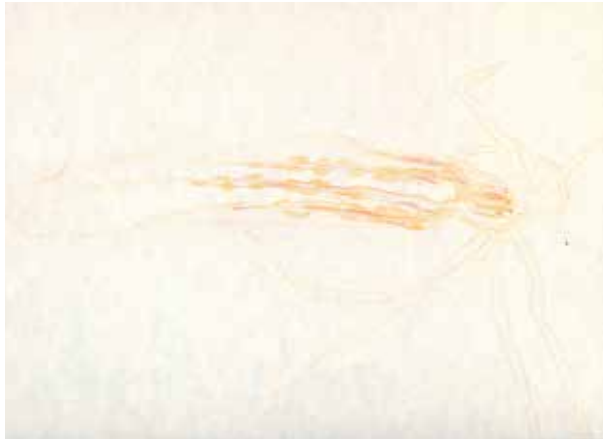
Photo: Irene Kopelman

Here, we will concentrate on looking at them as a source of inspiration for making art. They are very beautiful and there are many ways we can look at them.

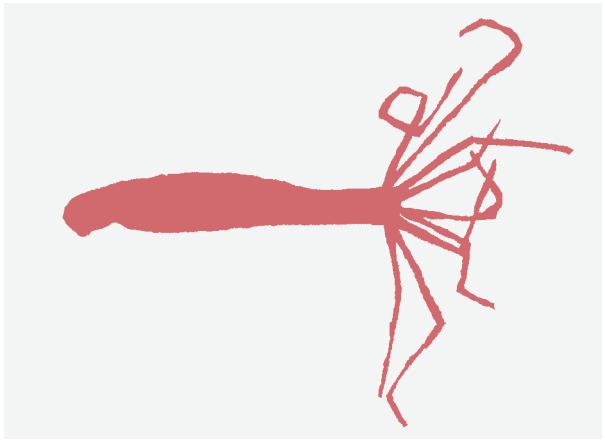
As an artist it is important to decide what materials you want to work with. Drawings of the same thing will look completely different depending on the materials you choose.

We can decide to work with watercolours:

With lines:



Or with the flat color:



How would you like to draw Nematostella? There are lots of other options too! Think about what you like best and try it out.

It's interesting to know that Nematostella change in colour, depending on what they eat. You might choose to draw it in some of these different colours.

Can you imagine what they could have eaten to change colour? Draw it too!

One of the most fascinating things about Nematostella is that the same animal can look very different at different times.

It can look like this drawing:

Or this:

Or this:

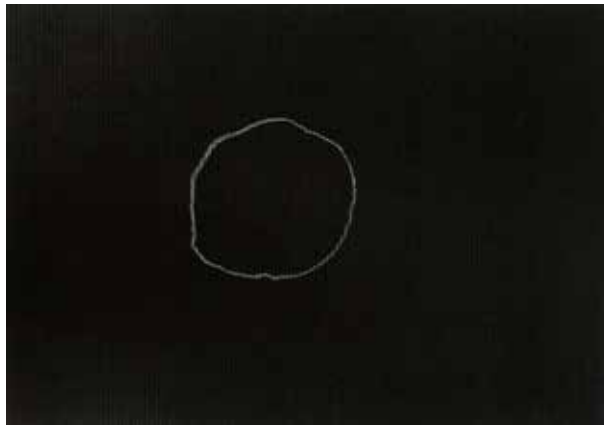
Or this:

And even this!

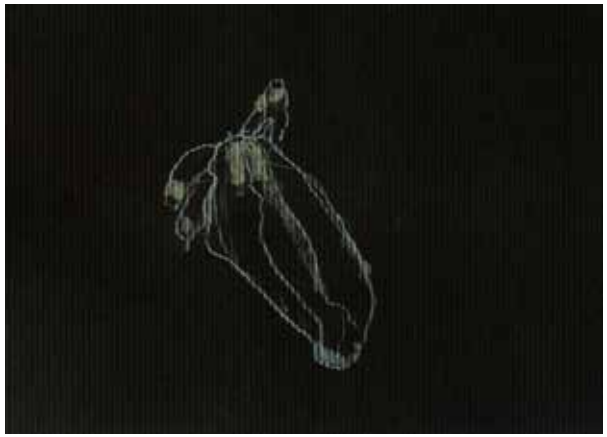
The possibilities are endless.... Nematostella is very plastic!
Can you imagine and draw some other ways it could look?
Can you imagine ten different versions of the same animal?

Another very interesting thing about Nematostella is that it changes a lot from when it's a fertilised egg and becomes a young creature called a juvenile, and then an adult.

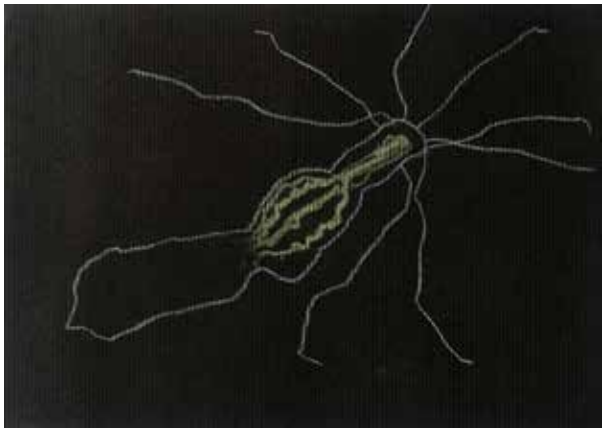
This is a drawing of a fertilised egg:



This is a drawing of a Juvenile:



And this of an adult:



Can you imagine what happened to the creature to grow from one stage to the next? Make some drawings that show these changes.

As artists, we have a lot of freedom to decide how to draw and what to draw. We can play with colour, size, texture and materials.

If you have more ideas than the ones suggested here, go for it!

We would love to see the results of your experiments!

Please send us one of your drawings before mid-July , with your first name and age on the back side of the paper to :

MAMAC
1, Place Yves Klein
06364, Nice cedex 4
mediationmamac@ville-nice.fr

We will also need your complete address (in uppercase letters) to communicate with you

In sending your drawing, you will accept a dissemination (e.g. on our website or twitter) of the drawing within the context of this project linked to the MAMAC Workstation.

A selected team will choose specific contributions for further (mainly digital) communication.

If you would like to know more about *Nematostella vectensis*, you find a poster in the next page with information.

We hope you enjoy it! We are looking forward to see the results!

You might also like to play with the patterns by drawing individual organisms, numbering them, cutting them out and playing around with different ways to make the pattern grow!

There are lots of other possibilities and many other things you might notice about these creatures! Feel free to experiment with different ways of drawing!

Irene

Drawings: Irene Kopelman

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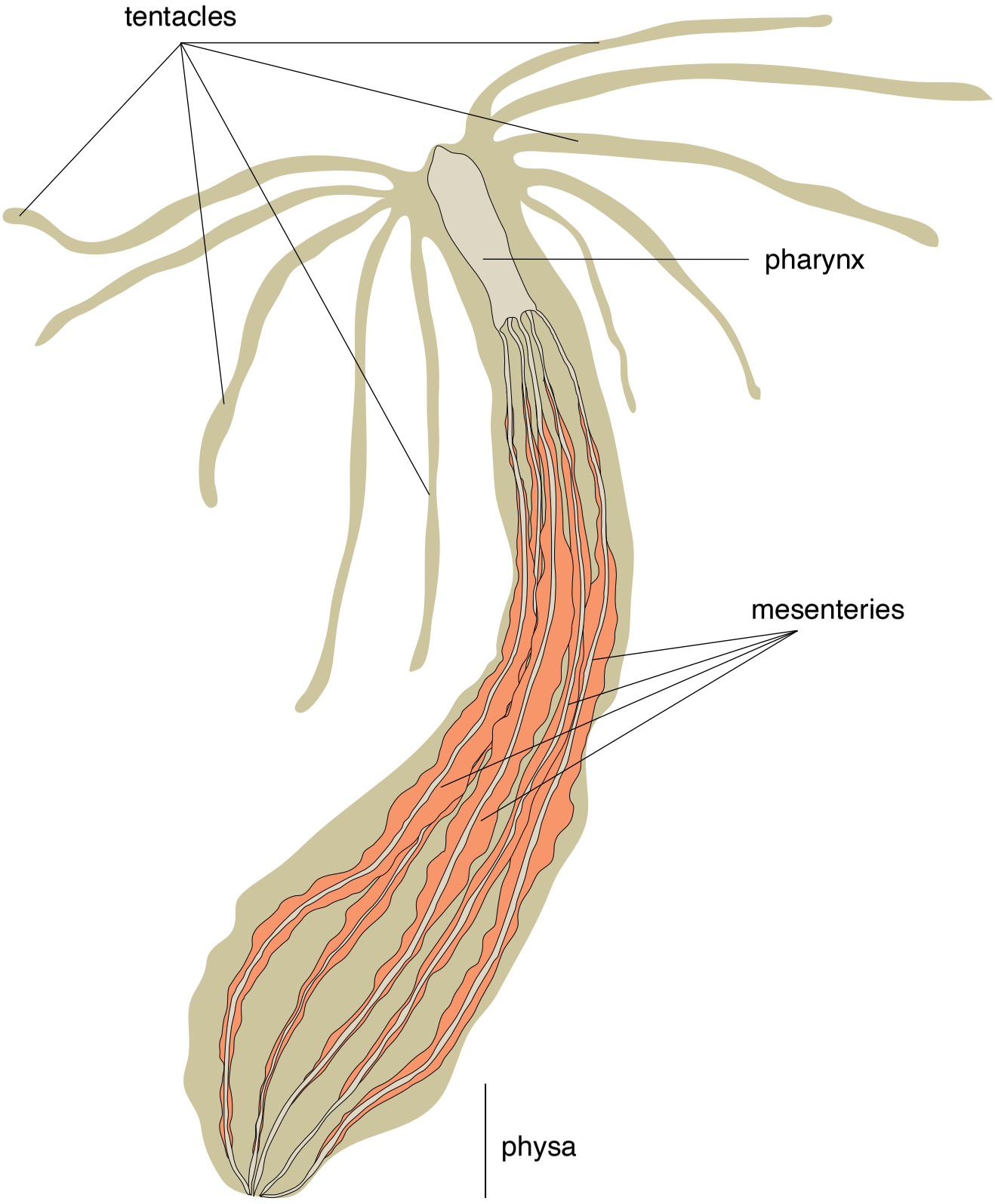
NEMATOSTELLA VECTENSIS



Credit: Röttinger lab