

FRAGILE!

19 February 2022 — 08 January 2023

Cité des sciences et de l'industrie

Temporary exhibition for children aged 2 to 6

«Fragile! is the third part of the Petits Curieux (Curious Kids) programming line which extends the experience of Cabanes (Playhuts) and Contraires (Opposites) exhibitions, by giving little ones the opportunity to discover a story they can visit. Tagging along with Windy, Iggy, Folia, Glitch, Woolma and Roky, six sweet little characters created for the occasion, the children are drawn into adventures that lead them to experience what fragility means. It is an important concept, the various aspects of which this exhibition conceived and designed by Universcience gives them the opportunity to discover.»

Bruno Maquart, chairman of Universcience

An original story to visit, play with and experience

Fragile! invites you to discover the little world of Windy the balloon, Iggy the egg, Folia the sheet of paper, Glitch the bar of soap and Woolma the ball of wool. These five little mischievous and naive characters are brought back to reality when their cousin Roky the stone arrives and warns them: "Be careful, you are fragile, you risk hurting yourselves!". Fragile? Yes, because one can rip, one can burst, another slip, or even break... But bam, as it turns out it is Roky who falls and breaks! This is where "the Great Adventure" starts, where the children, along with their little friends, go on a series of adventures in which they see how fragile they can be and learn how to overcome these aspects in order to successfully achieve their quest: to repair Roky!

Is fragility a strength?

Young visitors explore the complex notion of fragility by handling fragile objects, testing delicate materials, experiencing falling, feeling vulnerable... Maybe fragility is not always where you think it is... When it comes down to it, are we not all just as strong as we are fragile?

It is a poetic, intuitive exhibition to gently explore and experience.

THE WAY AROUND THE EXHIBITION

In terms of design, the bold choice has been made to use narration so the exhibition is explored and experienced as a story. Moving from chapter to chapter alongside the little characters, children learn and experience fragility through handling and trying out a host of objects and decors that convey the concept.

■ The Cabinet of curiosities

Young visitors enter the exhibition through this surprising installation where they discover images of objects and funny situations: a monkey hanging off a crystal chandelier, a mouse perched on a house of cards or an elephant balancing on a spider's web... They are immediately faced with the idea of what fragility is and invited to grasp all the different forms it can take.

■ The Little World

A bit further along, the children continue their visit in a projection room and set out to meet "The Little World". Plunged into darkness, they meet the six characters who will become their travel buddies along the way, when all of a sudden one of them, Roky the stone, breaks into a thousand pieces. Everything must be done to repair him! The adventure starts here.



An exhibition designed for 2-6 year olds

Booking recommended

French, English, Spanish

The *Fragile!* exhibition is part of the **Petits curieux / La science élémentaire** (Curious Kids / Elementary Science for Children) editorial line, following on from *Playhuts* (2019) and *Opposites* (2020).

This programming direction groups together exhibitions destined for children. They propose a range of contemplative, active, participatory experiences... which promotes children's curiosity about the world that surrounds them, according to methods that take advantage of the latest developments in educational sciences.

■ The Great Adventure

We're off on the "Great Adventure": the one where crazy discoveries are made, adventures are difficult, challenges are taken on together. Here, visitors handle their little characters and test out how fragile they are in life-size settings. Help Iggy the egg get across the mountains without breaking, fold Folia the sheet of paper so that she becomes a paper boat to help her friends cross the river which could make Glitch, the bar of soap dissolve... During a storm, Windy the balloon is carried away... what can be done to catch her? Further on the little ones experience motor skills through the game "Take me with you!", where they have to get the characters from A to B without making them fall of course!

■ The Land of Restoria

The adventure is over and now it's repair time. Thanks to the material provided like string, plasters, and fabrics..., children use tips and ideas to give Roky a second lease of life and get him back on his feet. Next door, in the "Cuddles Corner", it's all about being gentle. Little visitors learn how to look after others surrounded by cushions, comforters and books. Through cuddling the characters represented as soft toys, they realise that fragility can also be emotional...

■ The Moral of the Story

Watching a three-minute film, the children see Roky the stone again: he explains how his accident and mending really changed him, on the outside of course, as his scars show, but also on the inside. He is now different and more grown up thanks to everything he went through and everyone he met.

AROUND THE EXHIBITION

■ Activity book (from 4 years old)

Make an egg without a shell bounce, make your own soft pompom, let someone guide you with your eyes shut... It has scientific experiments, games and manual activities to teach children how to lightly discover the notion of fragility. Because nothing stops you from being strong and fragile at the same time!

Text: Cécile Jugla. Illustrations: Tomoë Sugiura.

Character design: Pénélope de Bozzi and Matthieu Lemarié.

Price: 4.95€. On sale in the shop and at the cashdesks, on site and online in from February 2022.

■ Demonstrations

The Whirlwind of Emotions (School workshop, from the first year of preschool to Year 2)

Sometimes emotions whirl around in our head: although they can be very useful, they can prove to be unsettling and intrusive and make us feel "fragile". This workshop gives children the opportunity to learn to identify them and express them to manage them better. Working in groups they are invited to listen, show empathy and understanding, to identify those of others. Do all these emotions that run through us make us strong? Weak? Fragile?

From March 2022, duration 1 hour.

Resistatou (Resist-all) (Family workshop, for children over 5)

Roll up your sleeves, we're cobbling things together. Children use their imagination and tips to protect a fragile object using bits and pieces. Will it resist everything?

Summer 2022, duration 30 to 45 minutes.

Practical information

Cité des sciences et de l'industrie

30 avenue Corentin-Cariou
75019 Paris
📍Porte de la Villette 📞3b

Opening times

Open every day except Monday,
from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
and until 7 p.m. on Sundays.
00 33 (0)1 40 05 80 00

www.cite-sciences.fr
#ExpoFragile

Prices

→ €12, €9 (reduced rate for: over 65s, teachers, under 25s, large families and students)

→ Free for under 2s, job seekers and benefits recipients, and people with disabilities including their carers.

The ticket gives access to the exhibitions on levels 1 and 2, the Argonaute submarine and the planetarium.

Health pass mandatory from 12

More information on cite-sciences.fr/en/visit-us/plan-your-visit

The exhibition concept: an exhibition designed as a story to visit, play with and experience.

To embody the abstract, complex notion of fragility, the exhibition design team chose to use a story staging characters which are each fragile in their own way. For little ones and their parents, the exhibition becomes a time of sharing and discovery, through the measures that showcase it. With this choice of exhibition design, visitors are invited to enter an imaginary world and take part in the little characters' adventures, which enables them to become familiar with the idea that there are many ways to be fragile and that you have to cherish it.

The big family of the little characters in Fragile!

Windy, the balloon

Iggy, the egg

Folia, the sheet of paper

Woolma, the ball of wool

Glitch, the bar of soap

And last but not least

Roky, the stone



Press contacts

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