



Berlinische Galerie, Foto: © Daniel Müller

Accessible Museum

**Options for visually-impaired
in our permanent collection
“Art in Berlin 1880–1980”**

This is the first time in Germany that blind and sight-impaired people have been able to enjoy independent access to a permanent exhibition in an art museum. To facilitate an inclusive art experience, we worked closely from 2015 to 2017 with Germany’s advocacy association, the German Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted (DBSV), on installing tactile models, tactile guidance and a museum app in the presentation from our collection “Art in Berlin 1880–1980”.

The Berlinische Galerie takes the right to equal participation in cultural life seriously and is actively promoting the process towards becoming an accessible, inclusive museum. In this joint project, the partners have centred on learning from concrete practical examples: What criteria should the tactile model of an art work meet so that people with sight impairments can make optimum use of it? What technologies help to convey information about works of art – for the blind, people with low vision, the sighted and the deaf using their own smart phones? What is the best way to design signposting and guidance systems? Staff at our museum and representatives of the DBSV have been discussing and developing the solutions together.

The project “Culture with All Senses” is a partnership between the Berlinische Galerie, Berlin’s public museum of modern art, photography and architecture, and the DBSV, the German Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted, backed by funding from the Senate Department for Culture and Europe and with generous support from Aktion Mensch.

For visitors with impaired vision

A tactile floor guidance system provides orientation for blind and sight-impaired people. It consists of double-strip line markings with attention fields for museum features such as the ticket counter, cloakroom, lift, toilets and permanent exhibition space on the upper floor. A tactile plan and an audio guide to the museum can be borrowed at the ticket counter. The guide is also available as an app and can be downloaded free of charge from the App Store for Apple iOS or the Google Play Store for Android. Apart from background information on 17 major works in the permanent collection, it contains audio descriptions with precise details of the original. Moreover, the app offers tips for orientation which, in combination with the tactile floor guidance, facilitate an independent visit to the museum.

Seven major works in the current selection from the permanent collection can be explored



by touch. “Synthetic Musician” by Ivan Puni and “Door” by Werner Heldt have been translated into a tactile format. Tactile models made of different materials like felt, textiles and wood convey a three-dimensional, material impression of the original.

Anyone who has visited a museum is familiar with the temptation to touch the works – and now it is a real option. Not only our blind visitors seize this opportunity: everyone, including children and families, can now appreciate the art through two senses thanks to the tactile models.

Guided tactile tours to both the permanent and temporary exhibitions take place regularly. Guide dogs for the blind are allowed in the museum.

Access and options for visitors with impaired mobility

The Berlinische Galerie is accessible to visitors with impaired mobility. The museum building itself, all the exhibition and event spaces, and Café Dix can be accessed without barriers in a wheelchair. The entrance to the museum is on ground level. You will find a power-assisted door in the glass façade about 5 meters to the right of the main door. The temporary exhibitions are displayed on the ground floor. The exhibition rooms on the upper floor can be reached by a lift that also accommodates wheelchairs. There is a disabled-access toilet by the cloakroom in the museum foyer. This door is opened by pressing a button. Mobile seating and two folding wheelchairs can be borrowed free of charge from the cloakroom.

Inclusive education programme

The Berlinische Galerie offers regular education formats tailored to the various needs of visitors with disabilities. During the touch tours, apart from providing information about the works of art, the guides also give detailed descriptions. The tours include tactile objects, audio samples and short experiments with touch.

Press Berlinische Galerie

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Admission
€ 8, concessions € 5
(prices may vary during temporary exhibitions)
Holders of a disability pass can bring a companion to the museum free

Opening hours
Wed–Mon 10 am–6 pm
Tue closed

Programme
berlinischegalerie.de/en/visit/calendar

Press release
berlinischegalerie.de/en/press-release/on-the-way-to-an-all-inclusive-museum

Onlinetickets
berlinischegalerie.de/en/visit/your-visit

Social Media
#berlinischegalerie