

PRESS RELEASE

Touching Art Touching You

BlindArt Permanent Collection

artistic excellence regardless of visual ability

Hove Museum & Art Gallery

12th June – 5th September 2010



Quipu II, Andrew Senior

Touching Art Touching You, a fresh and unique concept in the visual arts comes to Hove Museum & Art Gallery on 12 June. The exhibition breaks traditional barriers by actively encouraging visitors to experience and explore the art on display through touch and other senses. The experience challenges the notion that sight is essential for creating and enjoying exceptional art.

The exhibition includes paintings, sculptures and installations, including sound, drawn from the permanent collection of BlindArt. BlindArt is a charity which promotes contemporary works by visually impaired and sighted artists, showcasing them side by side and challenging the public to tell the difference.

Touching Art Touching You appeals to a wide ranging audience, including visually impaired visitors as well as children and families who can enjoy the freedom to explore the art through touch.

Comments from exhibition visitors:

"Over throwing years of not being allowed to touch art. Quite mind bending".

"Touching the work added another dimension to the usual event of looking at art"

"Felt nervous and excited touching the art. Taboo/freedom/liberating"

All works in the exhibition are made accessible to a diverse audience through touch, audio description, large print and Braille labels.



Ice, Lyn Lemont Webb



Self Portrait with Moon, Norman Long



Musical Hirst, Alexandra Conil-Lacoste



Barnacles, Natasha Lewer

Address: Hove Museum & Art Gallery, 19 New Church Road, Hove BN3 4AB

Tel: 03000 290900

Email: visitor.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk **Website:** www.brighton-hove-museums.org.uk

Opening Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday – Saturday 10am – 5pm; Sunday 2pm – 5pm.
Closed Wednesdays. **Admission:** Free. Fully accessible. Café. Shop.

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Editor's Notes:

BlindArt www.blindart.net Tel: 020 7245 9977 Email: newsdesk@blindart.net

BlindArt Permanent Collection <http://www.blindart.net/permanent-collection>

Hove Museum & Art Gallery**Press enquiries**

Marketing & Audience Development

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BlindArt, an innovative, all-inclusive charity founded in 2004, is behind "Touching Art Touching You". BlindArt has gained worldwide recognition for promoting contemporary works of art by both visually impaired and sighted artists, showcasing them side-by-side and challenging the public to tell the difference. BlindArt exhibitions aim to dispel the notion that sight is essential to creating or enjoying exceptional art. The overall message of BlindArt is artistic excellence regardless of visual ability.

The BlindArt Permanent Collection is the world's first permanent showcase of visual art accessible to visually impaired people, and includes paintings, sculpture, installations and other works of art. The Collection provides a platform for the works of both visually impaired and sighted artists showcasing exceptional works that appeal to a multitude of senses; questioning the nature of artistic perception and whether visual ability is essential for artistic excellence and aesthetic appreciation. The Collection currently contains 32 works in various media and has been exhibited at: Royal Cornwall Museum, July 2008; Museum of Modern Art, Wales, March 2008; Catmose Gallery, Rutland, January 2008; Menier Gallery, London, May 2007; Affordable Art Fair, London, March 2006; New York Public Library, NYC, October 2006. Each work in the Collection is made accessible through a range of access materials: large print & Braille labels, audio-descriptive guides, tactile images, large print & Braille catalogue, etc

Exhibiting Artists

Mirror, Frances Aviva Blane; *Just Looking*, Joanna Brendon; *Chalk & Cheese*, Michael Cahillane; *Reclining Figure*, Peter Clossick; *Musical Hirst*, Alexandra Conil-Lacoste; *Symphonie des Parfums*, Alexandra Conil-Lacoste; *Lolly Gobble Choc Bomb*, Stephen Farley; *Elvis (What do you want me to do?)*, Nigel Foster; *The Laughing Record*, Nicola Green; *Open Wounds*, Colin Hoppe; *The Lost Reels*, Matthew Humphreys; *Spinning Out of Control*, Jolanta Jagiello; *Ice*, Lyn Lemont Webb; *Barnacles*, Natasha Lewer; *Blood Cells*, Natasha Lewer; *Life Line 01*, Linda Lieberman; *Self Portrait with Moon*, Norman Long; *Head*, Liz Munro & Nuala Watt; *Pulse*, Hermanti Patel; *Lava*, Jonathan Roberts; *Braille Rail*, Maggie Rose; *Untitled Image No 8*, Keith Salmon; *Aspen Tree Yorkshire*, Gary Sargeant; *Men as Trees Walking*, Gary Sargeant; *Quipu II*, Andrew Senior; *Tactile Textures*, Ruth Spaak; *Anemone*, Dr Kate Wells; *Large Bowl of Strange Fruits*, Jon Williams; *S1&hted*, Fiona Zobole.