



BERLINISCHE GALERIE

LANDESMUSEUM FÜR MODERNE
KUNST, FOTOGRAFIE UND ARCHITEKTUR
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On the Way to an All-Inclusive Museum: The Permanent Exhibition “Art in Berlin 1880–1980” Is Made Accessible to the Blind and Vision Impaired

Unveiling as part of the press conference (Oct. 4, 11 am) and opening (Oct. 5, 7 pm) for the exhibition
“Jeanne Mammen: The Observer.”

Exclusive press date: Nov. 24, 9:30 am



Art to touch
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For the first time in Germany, the permanent exhibition at an art museum will be made available to the blind and vision impaired. In close cooperation with the Deutscher Blinden- und Sehbehindertenverband (DBSV), Berlinische Galerie has been working for two years now to equip the permanent exhibition “Art in Berlin 1880–1980” with tactile exhibits, a tactile floor guiding system, and a museum app to create an inclusive art experience.

While Berlinische Galerie in recent years has been conceiving its special exhibitions for people with various kinds of disability, the focus is now placed on the permanent exhibition. The foreground of the cooperation project will be a joint learning process using concrete examples in practice. How should a tactile model of an artwork be to allow blind people to use it in an optimal way? What technology is appropriate to prepare information for art works, for blind, sighted, and deaf visitors using a smartphone? How to design orientation and guiding systems? Together, representatives of the museum and DBSV discussed and developed solutions that promise a future.



The first result of this collaboration is the presentation of the exhibition Art in Berlin, 1880–1980 for blind and vision-impaired visitors. Seven tactile models, an inclusive app tour with seventeen stations on the most important art works and over 300 meters of a tactile floor guiding system: these offerings provide a museum experience with all the senses that is open to the handicapped and non-handicapped alike. Communication media that address our sense of touch are equivalent in status to the use of the latest technologies.

The project “Kultur mit allen Sinnen” (Culture with All the Senses) is a collaboration of Berlinische Galerie, Berlin’s museum for modern art, photography, and architecture, with the Deutscher Blinden- und Sehbehindertenverband e.V. With the kind support of Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa, funded by Aktion Mensch.

Art to touch: Two-dimensional highlights of the exhibition at Berlinische Galerie, such as *The Synthetic Musician* by Ivan Puni or *The Door* by Werner Heldt have been recreated as tactile models. Various materials such as felt, textiles, or wood communicate a sculptural impression of the original. Anyone who has ever visited a museum know the urge to touch artworks: here that becomes reality. And this is not only of use to blind guests: children and families can also perceive art with two senses using the tactile models.

App-Tour and tactile guiding system: The new, inclusive app can be used comfortably on your smartphone with automatic triggering. Besides interesting background information, it offers texts that provide an impression of what the original looks like. The app also provides orientation information that allows sight-impaired guests an independent visit to the exhibition in combination with a tactile floor guiding system.

Berlinische Galerie is thus providing access to blind and vision-impaired visitors, and thus fulfilling the demands of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities that foresees exhibition visits “without outside help.” Since in our diverse society, various forms of access to art and cultural institutions are of great relevance, the cooperation partners understand their initiative as an inclusive approach. An expansion of offerings with German sign language or simple German is also planned for the years to come.

Tactile Tours

An expansive communication program concludes the presentation of the collection. Beside interesting information on the art works, touch guides will include extensive descriptions of the images. Touch objects, audio examples, and small tactile experiments are used.

Oct 9, 2 pm, curator tour of the collection (duration 90 min.) / Oct. 15, 4 pm, inclusive tour of the exhibition. Both dates are well-suited for blind, vision-impaired, and sighted guests (as part of the “Week of Vision”)

Jan 28, 11 am / April 29, 4 pm / July 29, 11 am, Tactile tours of the collection presentation

The tactile tours last 120 minutes

Participation in public tours is included in the price of admission. Registration is required (up to four days before date). Touch tours can if needed be booked for adult groups or school classes.

To register for public tours and to book group tours

Tel. +49 (0)30-247 49-888, museumsinformation@kulturprojekte.berlin

The accessible permanent exhibition of the collection will be presented for the first time on October 4 as part of the press conference for the special exhibition Jeanne Mammen. An exclusive press date with experts will be held on November 24 at 9:30 am.

More information online: www.berlinischegalerie.de und www.dbsv.org/museum.html