

Sensory: Please Touch the Art

The UNO Art Gallery has scheduled an exhibition in the Fall of 2016 in conjunction with Art Accessibility Month (October), a national movement that attempts to increase awareness of accessibility for all those who wish to enjoy what art has to offer.

Curated by Jamie Burmeister, **"Sensory: Please Touch the Art"** will open with a reception on Thursday, October 6, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. and will run through 3 p.m., Thursday, November 10, 2016.

Rationale

Works of art are almost always enjoyed using sight. We are encouraged to look but not touch, even when we may naturally want to feel a piece to better understand it. Several art forms lend themselves to exploration through use of the other senses: we can explore the intricate weavings of textiles, examine the lines and curves of a sculpture, and listen to the sound of chimes or beads, papers or other materials as they are manipulated. This gallery exhibition challenges artists to create works that invite visitors with low or no vision to experience art-works using all the senses. Our goal for this exhibition is to embrace an accessible art atmosphere for all. We expect to provide information about works in Braille, large print, and high contrast text. We also hope to produce audio description of works as appropriate.

Works Sought

An essential characteristic of submissions is the ability of participants to understand the meaning of the piece and the artist's intent through multi-sensory means. The possibilities for types of submissions for this exhibition are numerous and could include metalwork, sculptures, weavings, wood carvings, sound sculptures, beadings, 3-D representations, and low-relief plates such as those used in printmaking. (This is not an exhaustive list by any means.) We are looking for works that entice interaction through all the senses – works that invite sensory experience in various ways such as through hot/cold, magnetism, time, etc. Our goal is to present powerful interactive artworks that can be experienced by all, using all our senses.

The curator and organizers will invite artists to submit concepts and will work with artists to address accessibility and safety production details. Final selection of works will be made by the curator. Works must be safe (secure so they cannot fall or be broken and without sharp

edges or points so they don't injure fingers), and they must be appealing to the senses. While artworks might investigate negative or jarring aspects of human experience, the interaction of patrons with the art should be pleasant.

For more information and to submit artwork or concepts, artists should contact Jamie Burmeister by email: jamieburmeister@yahoo.com as soon as possible. Artists may also contact Denise Brady (dbrady@unomaha.edu) or any of the organizers listed below.

Dates for Artists

September 1, 2016

by email to dbrady@unomaha.edu

- 1 page bio or resume from participating artists
- description of work (and image if available) for publicity, label, and installation purposes

September 30, 2016 Friday

- Works shipped arrive by this date.
- Works delivered arrive this day.

This unique exhibition is being organized by

- o Dr. Lisa Johnson, Achievement Specialist & Instructor, Nebr. Methodist College
- o Dr. Jeremy Johnson, Assistant Professor, Art Education, & Director, Center for Innovation in Arts Education, UNO
- o Jamie Burmeister, Artist and Art Instructor, Metro Community College
- o Ann Cunningham, advising sculptor
- o Denise Brady, Gallery Coordinator, UNO

Artist's Lecture

Ann Cunningham (<http://acunningham.com/>), Friday, October 7, time & location tba

Summer Workshop

During the summer of 2016, visually impaired teens and adults will participate in an accessible art workshop. The workshop will be facilitated by Drs. Jeremy and Lisa Johnson, and an artist/instructor tba.

Collaborating organizations include

Nebraska Methodist College

Omaha Association for the Blind

National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska

Outlook Nebraska

WhyArts?