



## 9 Ways to Enhance Access through Tactile Experiences

Tactile experiences allow people with visual impairments the opportunity to acquire information, access a work of art or other object, and create a mental image of the art or object through touch and feel.

### 1. Tactile Maps

Tactile maps can provide information about navigation through a museum for visitors who are blind or have low vision, assisting them in planning their visit.

### 2. Guided Touch Tours in Museums

Visitors who are blind or have low vision can touch original artworks, either in the galleries or in an alternative space. A trained education professional or docent guides the tour of works chosen by conservators and curators.

### 3. Self-Guided Touch Tour

Some museums allow visitors who are blind or partially sighted to explore art on their own in the museum's galleries. Touchable objects are identified by Braille and large-print labels, or by instructions in a recorded audio tour. This option requires security personnel to receive additional training.

### 4. Handling Sessions

Some museums offer visitors in-depth tactile investigation of selected works, frequently in an alternate space. These sessions are offered as a supplementary educational approach to gallery programming.

### 5. Tactile Diagrams

Visitors can explore a tactile diagram of a painting or other work that cannot be touched, or is oversized and cannot be fully explored through touch.

### 6. Replicas, Facsimiles, Props, and Three-dimensional Printing

Some museums create touchable copies of original sculptures using plaster, 3-D printing, or other media. Small-scale tactile models of architecture or architectural details can also be useful. Some institutions use three-dimensional props or replicas related to the objects depicted in a work of art to make it accessible to visitors with visual impairments.

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### **7. Three-dimensional Interpretations and Relief Sculptures**

Three-dimensional interpretations of paintings can convey basic composition and color. They can also translate stylistic properties such as texture and brushwork into a touchable format.

### **8. Tools and Materials**

Touching and working with tools and materials such as brushes, canvases, palettes, wood, stone, or carving implements can create a better understanding of the processes or techniques used by artists in creating their works of art.

### **9. Contemporary Artworks Made to Be Touched**

Many artists, both with and without visual impairments, expressly create tactile and multisensory works of art that all visitors can explore.