

Information for Visiting Groups

Assemble + Schools of Tomorrow: The Place We Imagine Meriem Bennani: Life on the CAPS

7 May – 4 September 2023

Advance Booking

Our gallery is free of charge to visit, however groups do need to book in advance so we can help plan and manage your visit and ensure a safe environment. More information can be found at <https://nottinghamcontemporary.org/visit/visit-us-safely/>

Arrival

Our main entrance is through automatic double glass doors on High Pavement. On arrival, please go to Reception and a member of our team will welcome your group.

Transport and Parking

The gallery can be reached by public transport. Lace Market is the nearest tram stop and there are several bus stops close by; please check routes with NCT and contact them at <https://www.nctx.co.uk/customer-services/travel-centre/> or NET trams <http://www.thetram.net/contact.aspx> to arrange concessional group travel. If you are arriving by coach/minibus, please note we do not have on-site parking, however you can use the curb side short stay bay for drop off only. There is coach parking nearby; please call 0115 915 3783 for up-to-date information, rates and bookings before you visit. The nearest paid for secure public car park is Lace Market Car Park; see <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/parking-and-permits/city-centre-parking/car-parks/lace-market/> for details. There is a free public bike rack outside the main entrance.

Access

We are an accessible building with step free (street level) access, lifts, accessible toilets and changing facilities. Service dogs are welcome throughout. Portable folding stools are available for visitors to use in the galleries. Please be aware the exhibition spaces change, which means that sometimes some areas of the galleries are less easy to navigate. Please make contact to advise how we can better support your visit and access requirements. You can view our full access statement online <https://www.nottinghamcontemporary.org/visit/access-and-facilities/> or request a copy from staff.

Facilities

Lockers are available and are operated by a £1 coin (a group of 30 would need approximately three lockers for bags and coats etc.). We have limited lunch space available, which you must book before your visit. Toilets are in the basement floor, and we have a changing place facility. If appropriate, please accompany visitors to the toilet entrance - it would be greatly appreciated if group leaders could check the toilets after your group has used them.

Group Leader Ratios

When visiting as part of a group, we request the following group ratios to be maintained as a minimum:

1 adult member of staff or helper per 4 Early Years Foundation students

1 adult member of staff or helper per 6 KS1 students and per 8 KS2 students

1 adult member of staff or helper per 10 Secondary School students

1 adult member of staff per community group (visitors aged 18+)

Exhibition Information

A3 written exhibition notes (in English) are provided at the entrance of the gallery; these can be taken freely. These are available in other languages and in large print to pick up at the gallery or online. Short, filmed interviews and large print panels (in English) on walls around the galleries introduce the artists' and their artwork. Our gallery assistants are on hand to answer any questions you might have too.

Resources

We offer free Learning Resources and Notes to support your visit. Please book prior to arrival. Resources contain practical activities and discussion prompts designed to support self-led visits for all ages.

Gallery Conduct

Unlike other exhibitions some of the artworks in these exhibitions are playable and interactive. Visitors are asked to remove their shoes to play. Non-slip socks are available. Help our team to encourage safe and positive play by taking an active role in supporting play with your group and asking students to take care and be mindful of others. Our Gallery Assistants may remind visitors to be careful and will welcome questions and discussing the art on display. Please do not eat or drink in the galleries. Photography and filming are permitted.

Risk Assessment, Safeguarding, Access and Exhibition Content

We advise you complete your own risk assessment prior to visiting. Below are details you may consider:

Gallery 1: The gallery is dark with a large multi-screen installation positioned around the perimeter of the gallery. The screens emit quite a lot of light and some of the screens are also lit from behind, so a halo of green light surrounds them.



Image: Jim Brouwer

However, it's dark, and some visitors may prefer support navigating the space – our team will be happy to assist. The work is on multiple and sometimes fragments of screen. The film sound is quite loud. We have adult and child headphones available at Reception. The gallery is carpeted, and low silver stools are available as well as benches along the back wall.

The film is subtitled (English) with multiple languages spoken during the film. The film length is 25 mins 28 secs. A timer at the entrance to the gallery counts down to the start of the film. The film contains some strong language in parts. We can advise further and help you navigate this with your group.

Gallery 2: This gallery shows another film work, this time positioned on a very large single screen at the rear of the gallery. Again, the space is dark and the sound quite loud. The gallery is carpeted with beanbags as well as benches along the back wall. The film is subtitled (English) and the film length is 34 mins. A timer at the entrance to the gallery counts down to the start of the film. The film contains some strong language in parts. We can advise further and help you navigate this with your group.

Gallery 3: The gallery is bright and colourful. There are two large play sculptures. One is a multi-coloured floor vinyl with seven large scale foam animals that can be moved. Please be careful when jumping or climbing on or between the animals, as the floor surface is hard. The second sculpture can be climbed and has a doorway so you can go inside. A foam floor is positioned in and around this sculpture and it is wheelchair accessible. The large inflatable ball is a loose part that can be dislodged and moved around the galleries. Visitors inside, outside and on the structure should be mindful of each other's position and movements to avoid accidents.



Image: Stuart Whipps

Gallery 4: Another bright gallery with one large climbable sculpture with stairs and slides. Please take care on the steps and when sliding – particularly at the bottom of the slide and on the bottom edge of the slide. Mats are positioned at the base. Please also be mindful of the corners and edges of the benches when playing. Capacity across the two galleries is set at 60 – 2 classes. Please remove shoes to play and take care on our wooden floor – non-slip socks are available.