

Information for Visiting Groups

Donald Rodney: *Visceral Canker*

27 Sep 2025 – 5 Jan 2025

Advance Booking

Our gallery is free of charge to visit; however, we do ask groups to book in advance so we can help plan your visit and ensure a safe environment. More information can be found at

<https://nottinghamcontemporary.org/visit>

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 contact Nottingham City Transport for buses or NET for trams to check routes and arrange concessional group travel - <https://www.nctx.co.uk/customer-services/travel-centre/> and <http://www.thetram.net/contact.aspx>

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. Blue badge holders may park in the bay outside the main entrance. 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 and Broadmarsh Car Park. See <https://parking.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/> for details.

Access

We are working to make Nottingham Contemporary more accessible. We are an accessible building with step free (street level) access and lifts. We have accessible toilets on the third floor and a [Changing Places](#) toilet with a changing bed. Service dogs are welcome throughout. Portable folding stools are available to use in the galleries and a wheelchair is available to use around the building. Hearing loops are fitted in our reception and in The Space.

Available at reception desk we have children's and adult's ear defenders, coloured overlays, and magnifiers. Communication cards are available from the reception desk or on our website to print at home or to use with a mobile phone or tablet.

Our team are always happy to support with access requirements – please do get in touch. Our full access statement can be viewed online or ask the team for a printed copy.

<https://www.nottinghamcontemporary.org/visit/access-and-facilities/>

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 – please get in touch and book ahead of 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 do a quick check of the toilets after your group has used them and let the team know if some additional cleaning and maintenance might be required.

Group Leader Ratios

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

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. 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. The notes are also available in easy read, large print, and in Arabic, Polish and Urdu to pick up at the gallery. They are available online, alongside audio versions <https://nottinghamcontemporary.org/record/>

Resources

We offer free 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. They are available here <https://nottinghamcontemporary.org/exchange/educational-group-visits/>

Gallery Conduct

We encourage visitors to move around and explore works from different angles and to talk and take part in group activities. You are welcome to borrow Ferby pencils, paper and clipboards; please contact us in advance so we can provide these. Our Gallery Assistants welcome questions and conversations. They may also remind visitors to be careful around artworks. Some works of art damage easily so please advise your group not to touch the artworks on display (unless otherwise stated) and take care when moving around. Please do not eat or drink in the galleries or lean on the walls. Photography – no flash, is possible in all galleries except Gallery 3.

Risk Assessment, Safeguarding, Access and Exhibition Content

We advise you complete your own planning and risk assessment prior to visiting. Donald Rodney's artworks address racial identity, Black masculinity, chronic illness and Britain's colonial past. Some of the artworks reference experiences of racism and contain racist language and images. Artworks also prompt connections to illness and loss. See our separate Teacher and Visitor Guidance Notes for further context, details and images. Our team are happy to discuss and plan a visit with you.

Gallery 1: Capacity max 15 pupils + adults

On entering the gallery, immediately ahead is a partial wall with information displayed about the exhibition. Here, you can move left or right to reach the main gallery space. Artworks are wall based or in display stands or cases on the perimeter of the gallery. Wall-based artworks have a low wire barrier around them. There is plenty of space in the centre of the gallery. **Lighting is a little dimmed. Artworks are particularly fragile and cannot be touched.** One work has a 3D element – a toy gun. Some artworks contain **racial slurs**. Language was an important part of Donald's practice. A work features **imagery that suggests racial violence**. See separate Teacher and Visitor Guidance Notes for further context, details and images.

Gallery 2: Capacity max 15 pupils + adults.

The gallery space is divided into two sections with a partial wall. There are wall-based works and a display case. **Lighting is a little dimmed.** One work is a wall projection with a rack of 3 stacked **slide projectors suspended from the ceiling.** The bottom shelf is 5ft from the ground, so please **take care around this equipment.** Another work with a low wire barrier around, features **theatrical blood and mechanical pumps.** Please **remind pupils not to touch the artworks.** It also contains **a coat of arms, belonging to a trader of enslaved people which features problematic imagery.** Two **lightbox works** are attached securely to the wall and resting on the floor. Please **take care around these works.** See separate Teacher and Visitor Guidance Notes for further context, details and images.

Gallery 3: Capacity max 15 pupils + adults

The gallery contains wall-based works, most with a low wire barrier. **Lighting is a little dimmed.** In the centre of the room are display cases and further cases on the left-hand wall. There is a screening room towards the back of the gallery with a curtained entrance. The room is dark with a bench in the centre. There is also an **interactive work,** formed of a **programme with a computer screen and keyboard** at a desk and with a single stool. It is a 'virtual version of the artist, Donald Rodney'. Please ask students to carefully, **interact one at a time with this work.**

Gallery 4: Capacity limited. Suggest small groups of 5 -10 pupils + adult/s. Rotating

Again, **lighting is a little dimmed.** This gallery has a wide-open area with a single artwork, a motorised wheelchair that navigates the space. It has motion sensors and moves slowly but does not always respond quickly to obstacles in its path. It is **a delicate work operating on old technology** and needs to be treated with care. We are therefore **recommending that smaller groups view this work.** At the far end of the gallery are four display cabinets filled with sporting trophies. On each trophy is a **small, engraved plaque with a racist stereotype.** See separate Teacher and Visitor Guidance Notes for further context, details and images. Also in this gallery are wall-based works, and a short film on a tv monitor of Donald talking to sixth form students about his work. At the back of the gallery in its own **separate space** is a single work. It is an **animatronic** (within a cabinet like a 'laughing policeman' in a seaside arcade) activated as visitors approach. This space is quite **darkly lit** and **may be experienced as a bit of a 'jump scare'.** You may wish to prepare your students. The artwork features a moving puppet – a version of the pop star, Michael Jackson in **blackface.** See separate Teacher and Visitor Guidance Notes for further context, details and images.