

Competition for blind and partially sighted writers

Creative writing on museum art or home objects

We welcome submissions for a piece of creative writing (prose or poetry in any form or style is welcome), centred on your experience of a museum trip, piece of art, or even household object. Taking the lead from the RNIB's motto, 'See differently', we want to celebrate these different ways of seeing, beholding, and sensing museum artworks and everyday objects.

This piece of creative writing can be based on a real experience, or serve as imagined storytelling, so long as it is grounded in visual or material culture as experienced by a person with sight loss. We are keen to explore and celebrate how people with sight loss experience and enjoy museums, art, and objects.

No previous experience of creative writing is required – we are keen to receive submissions from as wide a field as possible. Applicants from traditionally marginalised groups are particularly welcome.

Word limits are strict: 1,000 words for prose or 50 lines for poetry.

The deadline is 5pm Friday 2nd February 2024.

Submissions and requests for details in an alternative format to be emailed to ellen.adams@kcl.ac.uk, using the subject heading 'KCL RNIB writing competition'.

Prizes

First prize: £250

Second prize: £100

Third prize: £50

A panel will assess a long-list of submissions selected by the organisers (Ellen Adams from KCL and Sonali Rai from the RNIB), and this long-list will be reproduced in a booklet. Panel members include: Tanvir Bush (writer of *Cull*), Rachel Hutchinson (Lecturer of Psychology at Westminster University), Georgina Kleege (Emeritus Professor at the University of California, Berkeley), and Victoria Moul (Professor, poet, critic and translator).

We have some suggestions to inspire you – this list is not exhaustive:

- Articulate your sensory experience of a museum visit or artwork or object.
- Describe a museum access event for blind and partially sighted people.
- Create an audio description from your perspective.
- Portray a museum visit made independently, or with companions.
- Imagine your ideal future access event.
- Review access provision, such as touch tours or the use of raised line drawings.
- Centre touch in your interaction with objects in a touch description.
- Create an imagined story inspired by a material object as you experience it.
- Compose a piece inspired by an artwork, object, or heirloom from home, or to engage with a memory from the past.

Eligibility and terms:

- You must be blind or partially sighted.
- You must be over 18 and a UK resident.
- Submissions must be in English.
- Submissions may be in text form only, using a common software programme such as Microsoft Word or a PDF.
- Submissions may be sent in as an audio MP3 file, however, these should also be accompanied by a text transcription.
- Submissions should reflect the personal responses, feelings, and opinions of the author, so the use of AI (such as Chat GPT) is not permitted (please contact the organiser if you feel you have a valid creative reason for using it).
- One submission per author only.
- Authors must keep to the word limit: 1,000 words maximum for prose, 50 lines for poetry.

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See differently