

A View on Access – **Manchester Art Gallery** – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2018  
10.30am – 12.30pm

An audio described, guided and curated tour of ‘Speech Acts’

A FULL Audio version of this review is available by clicking [here](#). Due to a technical error only part of this document is currently available.

This is an exhibition of paintings, photography and sculpture which asks what we mean by the term ‘British’ in our public collections of modern British art? What do public museums collect and why? Which works become highlights, and which lie forgotten in storage? This exhibition comprises the work of 40 artists taken from four public collections – the Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford, John Rylands Library, The Whitworth and Manchester Art Gallery.

The tour and talk was presented by curator **Kate Jesson**, with description by **Anne Hornsby**. Everyone met in the lobby café and then were all paired up with guides and partners.

These events are always very well organised and this was no exception and are a fabulous collaboration between – Mary Gifford of Henshaw’s, Manchester Art Gallery and Anne Hornsby of Mind’s eye, they have a great team of volunteers who act as drivers and guides on the day and it always has a large turn out and often gets fully booked.

There was a diverse selection of exhibits on offer than were all totally abstract and open to interpretation allowing the audience to decide what was going on in the painting and debate the artist’s motivation.

Anne Hornsby as always was on expert form and served up a clearly defined description for each piece painting images in our minds from an expressive use of the English language bringing each exhibit to life.

Curator Kate Jesson complemented Anne brilliantly with an uncanny light-hearted overview of each exhibit and invited plenty of discussion and debate which made the occasion more enjoyable as a result

The exhibits covered were:

Section 1 - Gilbert & George and Sutapa Biswas

Section 2 - R B Kitaj and Frank Auerbach

### Section 3 - Eduardo Paolozzi

The last section were sculptures and on this occasion the group had special permission to touch and feel them, this added extra dimension to the session and was invaluable for all those blind and partially sighted.

Everyone then moved to the Ground Floor Education Suite at 12noon for tea, coffee and biscuits, the event finished around 12.30pm.

This was a fabulous experience for all and shows in the best way possible how art can be made accessible and inclusive for those with a visually impairment.

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