

A View on Access- An audio described and guided tour of a new art exhibition at the Manchester Art Gallery, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2018 10.30 am till 12.30 pm.

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### **'Painting light and Hope' A collection of painting's by Anne Swynnerton**

Organised by Mary Gifford for Henshaw's, Audio Described by Anne Hornsby of Mind's Eye descriptions and curation by Rebecca Milner

This is the first event showcasing audio description and curation for an art exhibition I have attended and to say I was impressed and blown away was an understatement.

These events happen on a regular basis, usually every month and the passion shown by Henshaw's and the Manchester Art Gallery staff, including Meg from the learning team was evident straight away with a commitment to make art accessible for all despite disability.

We all met at 10:30 in a special area with tables and chairs, reserved just for the event and there was introductions, fire and safety announcements and a roll call, led by organiser Mary Gifford.

A large party of 30 plus including volunteers, made their way to the first painting, I was partnered with Roz Olver a VI past participant and enthusiast who would be my guide during the tour and was nothing but warm, helpful and supportive throughout.

Eight pieces of Swynnerton's work were chosen to highlight and describe which took approximately around 80 minutes.

Help and support was made available every step of the way, for those who needed it, including guides, stools to sit on and large print copies of the pictures discussed and presented to us which had also been emailed out to everyone before-hand.

For each painting the format was as follows. The painting was announced, then Anne gave a very detailed description and curator

Rebecca gave a thorough background and history into the painting with a chance to interact and ask relevant questions along the way.

Annie Swynnerton, was born in Hulme in Manchester in 1844 and trained to be an artist at a time when it was difficult for a woman to succeed in this field, she was ground breaking in 1922 when she became the first woman to be elected into the Royal Academy of Arts in London. Although not a suffragette she was a supporter of that movement. She had a love and passion for Italy and painted a lot of her paintings there.

The paintings featured were:

1. Portrait -Susan Isabel Dacre.
2. Portrait -William Gaskill.
3. The Young Mother/Through The Orchard.
4. Italian landscape.
5. The Sense Of Sight.
6. Portrait – Dame Millicent Garret Fawcet.
7. Montagna Mia.

As Anne describes each painting, she addresses all the important aspects contained within, including monotonies, expressions, clothes, colours, landscapes and mood illustrated in a very detailed manner evoking thought, feeling and emotion.

This was complimented superbly for each painting by curator Rebecca who expertly delivered all the history on the painting and how it came into being resulting in a very enjoyable and informative tour.

For more information on Henshaw's and the work they do email [mary.gifford@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.gifford@btinternet.com)

And to find out about forthcoming events visit <http://mindseyedescription.co.uk/events.html>

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