



**THE BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

ACCESS STATEMENT

June 2014

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I. Statement of General Principles

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts is committed to providing the widest possible access to its collection of paintings and other objects of fine art which it houses. The collections are held to: *create inspirational opportunities for learning and enjoyment for students, staff and the wider public.* This includes everyone who visits regardless of education, income, residence or personal circumstances.

The Barber sits within The College of Arts and Law which is a collegiate faculty of the University of Birmingham and therefore embraces the Universities policies regarding equality and subscribes to the action points set out in the 2011-2015 Equality Action Plan.

The Barber aims to make physical access to the collection as easy as possible for everyone; to allow everyone to have access to scholarship and information about the collection; to allow everyone to enjoy and study the collection.

The Barber, as a service provider, will at all times strive to comply with the Equalities Act and future amendments made to that act. It will do this by feeding into and following the equality policies of the University and will measure results against the 23 targeted action points in the University's equality statement.

2. Access to the Collections

Physical Access

The Barber strives to provide equal access to the building for all visitors, making alternative arrangements where necessary. Within the constraints of a Grade 2 listed building. It ensures that all future building projects contain a design and access statement describing how compliance with the Equalities Act will be undertaken.

Learning about the Collection

The Barber wants the widest possible audience to study and enjoy the collection. It always seeks to extend opportunities for access to scholarly research and information about the collection. The Barber considers the views of people with disabilities, specialist organisations, other galleries and that of the University to seek out ways to improve intellectual access to the collection.

The Barber strives to engage with all communities within its locality and the wider region to provide the widest and most inclusive contact with the collection and information about it.

Safety and Access

The Barber designs and writes its safety procedures, accounting for the needs of people with disabilities. The evacuation policies are aimed at ensuring all people are evacuated at the same time in the event of an emergency.

The Barber has trained Fire Marshals and security staff trained in first aid and the evacuation of people with disabilities available in the case of emergency.

Information and Signage

The Barber endeavours to present information in forms that are accessible to all visitors. Information is offered in alternative formats and these are reviewed regularly. Signage is designed to be as functionally effective as possible.

The Barber reviews regularly its methods of communication in consultation with the University, specialist organisations, and other galleries to ensure best practice.

3. Employment

The Barber subscribes to the employment policies of the University of Birmingham which endeavour to ensure equality in the selection and ongoing employment of people. These procedures are reviewed by the Human Resources team and the Registrar to ensure equality within across the whole University.