# Art for blind and partially sighted people

## Meeting another artist with sight loss

Many artists and painters continue to paint even though their sight has deteriorated or, in some cases, gone altogether. Through a variety of technical changes, the use of good light and good magnifiers it’s possible to carry on.

By far the most useful step you can take is to talk to a fellow painter who has been through the process of sight loss and found ways of adapting. This is not always easy to do, but your local society for blind and partially sighted people or local talking newspaper may be able to ask around for you. You can find details of your local society by visiting RNIB Sightline Directory at **sightlinedirectory.org.uk** or by calling our Helpline on **0303 123 9999**.

### Joining a local art class

This option can seem quite daunting, particularly if the rest of the group is sighted. People who have succeeded by joining such a class say that it all depends on the relationship with the tutor and how well you can make them understand your needs and what you want to achieve. Although you may be nervous about what fellow students will think, they are almost always very supportive.

## Useful publications

Our Research Library has a number of publications which you may find useful. For more information call **020 7391 2052** or email **heritageservices@rnib.org.uk**

## Useful organisations

### Extant

Extant is the first performing arts organisation in the UK managed for and by blind professional arts practitioners. Although Extant’s work is in performing arts rather than visual arts, some of their members have worked on sound installations.

For further information call them on **020 7820 3737**, email them at **info@extant.org.uk** or visit their website **extant.org.uk**

You can write to them at Extant, The White House, Oval House Theatre, 52–54 Kennington Oval, London SE11 5SW.

#### The Art House

The Art House is an inclusive organisation for visual artists. They provide opportunities, advice, information, and training for artists. They also campaign for equal opportunities for disabled artists within the visual arts.

For further information call them on **01924 312 000**, email them at **info@the-arthouse.org.uk** or visit their website **the-arthouse.org.uk**

You can write to them at The Art House, Drury Lane, Wakefield WF1 2TE

#### Shape

Shape is based in South London, they are a charity that opens up access to the arts, enabling greater participation by disabled and older people.

For further information call them on **020 7424 7330**, email them at **info@shapearts.org.uk** or visit their website **shapearts.org.uk**

You can write to them at Shape, Floor 2 Peckham Library, 122 Peckham Hill St, Peckham, London SE15 5JR

#### The Living Paintings Trust

The Living Paintings Trust is an organisation that produces raised, tactile images of works of art which are used alongside detailed audio descriptions of each picture. These packs are sent to blind and partially sighted people as part of a library service.

For further information call them on **01635 299 771**, email them at **info@livingpaintings.org** or visit their website **livingpaintings.org**.

You can write to them at Living Paintings, Unit 8 Kingsclere Park, Kingsclere, Newbury RG20 4SW

## Connect with others

Meet or connect with others who are blind or partially sighted online, by phone or in your community to share interests, experiences and support for each other. From book clubs and social groups to sport and volunteering, our friendly, helpful and knowledgeable team can link you up with opportunities to suit you. Visit **rnib.org.uk/connect**

Call our Helpline on **0303 123 9999**, we’re ready to answer your call Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm. You can also email us at **helpline@rnib.org.uk** You can also say, **“Alexa, call RNIB Helpline”** to an Alexa-enabled device.

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