

Specific approach for visually impaired persons to get to know the works of art

When the works of art are introduced and described to Visually Impaired Persons (VIP onwards) it is necessary to use a specific approach and to work out a special structure for this description.

Through his eyes a man can perceive about 95% of the information relating to the world around. So when VIPs are concerned, considering how difficult it is for them to have a clear perception of the things they look at, it is necessary to use a specific approach and to elaborate a special structure of the description of the works of art to VIPs. When the works of art are introduced to VIPs the main point is to activate as much senses as possible to stimulate better perception. It is possible to exploit low vision when VIPs can use it or to give enough leading information to VIPs to help them use some other senses.

The main objective when describing the works of art to VIPs is to structure this description in such a way that VP will have a clear perception of the presented works of art. To reach the main objective the followings are needed:

- to give a clear and concrete explanation concerning the presented work of art;
- to give enough information about the whole object and also about its main elements;
- the description has to be structured in such a way that VIP will use more senses for perceiving the work of art - such as hearing, tactile, visual - while the capabilities of the low vision could be activated working with contrast, contour, relief;
- to introduce some additional information to help VIPs to get better perception of the work of art. This information can be about the environment where the described work of art has been placed or the atmosphere related to the presented work of art; information about the spirit of the times when the described work of art has been created can also be given.

The preparation of the learning materials for this project concerning the description of the works of art for VIPs consists on developing a special structure for describing three dimensional images (plastic model, sculpture) and a second one for describing two dimensional images (relief images). These structures will meet all necessary requirements for the description of works of art to VIP. Consequently, VIPs' specific needs concerning clear perception and understanding of the presented work of art will taken into consideration. The sense of hearing is activated when the information about the facts and descriptions concerning the work of art is given. Furthermore, the music or sounds played while describing the work of art can support the emotional connection between VI and the atmosphere related to the work of art. Tactile senses are also activated, so helping VIP to understand the work of art through forms, volumes, relief and contours. Low vision is stimulated as well, as VIPs can work with the contours and contrast.