

You Can Touch This

An interactive trail for people with curious minds and sticky fingers

Why can't I touch the artworks?

This is because your fingers have special oils in them which help to keep your hands soft but these can leave marks behind which spoil the art works. You can see this if you make a fingerprint on a glass surface. People who work in the gallery wear special gloves when they need to move the art work around.

Things you CAN touch...

Here at the Laing, we understand how much you want to touch the lovely things in the gallery. And so, we have made lots of things that you CAN touch and play with!

REMEMBER:
it is still **NOT OK**
to touch the
actual art works,
no matter how
much you
want to!

Hooray!

In Northern Spirit:

Bewick's Blocks!

Through the shop to the Northern Spirit displays - There are some carved wooden blocks by Thomas Bewick

Close your eyes - Can you tell what the pictures are without looking at them?



leathery

corduroy

velvet

hairy

DOG

wooden

If you look up, there is a painting of Thomas Bewick. Does he look happy? Or sad? Who is his friend in the picture?

Look for the textures below the painting. Can you match them to the ones you can see in the picture? (We've done one to start you off!)

Do you have any pets?

In Northern Spirit:

A Very Noisy Painting

Have you ever listened to a painting? Well here is your chance! This painting is called *The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah* and is by John Martin. What noises can you hear? What do you think is going on in this painting? Can you find out what the story is?

Crazy Carving!

WOW! Look at this fantastic wood carving - how do you think the artist did it? There is another one next to it that you can touch. How does it feel? Is it smooth? Soft? Prickly?

The artist has made a 3D picture by carving the wood in this way. What textures can you find in the carving? Tick if you can find these ones:

leaves

fur

skin

grass

teeth

In Northern Spirit:

Zoetrope

(Pronounced zoh-eee-trope)

Can you find the zoetrope? It has a strip of pictures inside a special cylinder. Look at the image inside through the slots. What happens when you turn the handle?

In Northern Spirit:

Mirror Mirror...

Lots of artists use a mirror to make a portrait of themselves, like the one by Ralph Hedley, next to the mirrors in the gallery. Sometimes artists paint clues into portraits to tell us something more about themselves. Ralph Hedley's paints, palette and artist's smock tell us that he is an artist.

What clues would you put in your self portrait? Can you use the mirrors to draw a picture of yourself here?



Building Bridges...

There are lots of paintings of bridges in the Northern Spirit gallery. Count them all - How many can you see? Write the number here.

Look for the biggest painting in Northern Spirit (next to the café.) There are some blocks underneath. Can you build three different bridges?

In the Marble Hall:

Fishy Fossils...

Can you find the under-the-sea sculpture in the Marble Hall? What kind of creatures can you see in the black marble? They are fossils of creatures that were alive over 3 million years ago! WOW! Those marks you can see in the marble on the floor are fossils too!

How does the marble feel when you touch it? Is it **smooth**? Is it cold? Is it **FURRY**?

Can you draw a picture of the sea creature that lived 3 million years ago?



In the Marble Hall: (upstairs)

Stained Glass

Go into the massive Marble Hall - Look up the stairs all the way up to the top. There is a window there. What colours can you see?

Up there is a copy of the stained glass window. The copy is raised and bumpy so that you can feel it. This is called a RELIEF - can you see where the real stained glass is?

Do you think the stained glass would feel the same as the relief? Why?

How many stairs can you count on your way UP? Write the number here.

Open: Monday to Saturday
10am - 5pm, Sunday 2pm - 5pm
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The Laing Art Gallery is managed by Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums on behalf of Newcastle City Council.

Every penny helps!

Entry to Laing Art Gallery is free but we welcome donations. You can donate in person at the gallery, online at www.twmuseums.org.uk/supportus or text **TWAM12 £4 to 70070**.

If you are a UK tax payer please Gift Aid your donation

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