

## Robot Tours Museum to Help People View Art

### What is contemporary art?

- Contemporary art is art that was made from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards.
- This includes works of art by artists who are living and working today.

With art galleries across the country closed at the moment, it can be hard to **immerse** yourself in masterpieces. However, one museum has come up with a way of letting people virtually stroll the galleries using a robot!

The Hastings Contemporary Museum in Hastings, East Sussex, is taking groups of five people on 30 minute-tours around the museum. It is letting visitors log in remotely to a robot which rolls around the gallery filming the artworks.

The robot is called a Telepresence and has a camera attached to a pole on wheels. It can be guided remotely from miles away. The tourists are taken around the collections by one of the directors of the gallery, who gives them more information about the art.

The **directors** of the museum were worried about how they could share the art when they had to shut. Luckily, Praminda Caleb-Solly, from the Bristol **Robotics Lab**, has been developing robots which are designed to help disabled people access things such as art.

The lab knew these robots would be perfect for allowing tours and she said she was 'thrilled' to team up with the gallery.

This is not the only exciting art news happening at this time. Banksy, the famous **street artist**, has created an artwork dedicated to the hard work of the NHS and donated it to a hospital in Southampton.



Illustration: A robot viewing artwork at a museum.

The artwork shows a boy who has left Batman and Spiderman aside for his new favourite superhero: an NHS Nurse.

The artist, who keeps his identity secret, left a note that said, "Thanks for all you're doing. I hope this brightens up the place a bit, even if it's only black and white."

The artwork is being put on display in the hospital for a short while and then it will be sold to make money for NHS charities.

### Glossary

<b>immerse</b>	To dive into something.
<b>directors</b>	People in charge of a business or organisation.
<b>robotic lab</b>	A place where scientists and engineers research and create new robots.
<b>street artist</b>	A person who creates art in public spaces.

# Questions

1. How long are the tours?

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2. 'However, one museum has come up with a way of letting people virtually **stroll** the galleries using a robot!'

Tick the closest word to stroll in this sentence.

- walk
- push
- run
- view

3. Why do you think Banksy depicted an NHS nurse as a superhero?

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4. Tick whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The robots can control themselves.		
The robots can be controlled from miles away.		
The Banksy artwork is in the Hastings Contemporary Museum.		
Banksy keeps his identity secret.		

5. What will happen to Banksy's artwork eventually?

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6. Summarise the story in 15 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. How long are the tours?

**30 minutes**

2. 'However, one museum has come up with a way of letting people virtually **stroll** the galleries using a robot!'

Tick the closest word to stroll in this sentence.

- walk**
- push
- run
- view

3. Why do you think Banksy depicted an NHS nurse as a superhero?

**Accept any reasonable answer, such as I think Banksy depicted the nurse as a superhero to show that he is really grateful for their hard work and that he thinks they are heroes for the work they do helping people.**

4. Tick whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The robots can control themselves.		✓
The robots can be controlled from miles away.	✓	
The Banksy artwork is in the Hastings Contemporary Museum.		✓
Banksy keeps his identity secret	✓	

5. What will happen to Banksy's artwork eventually?

**It will be sold to raise money for NHS charities.**

6. Summarise the story in 15 words or fewer.

**Accept any reasonable summary that is 15 words of fewer, e.g., A robot is touring museums and using cameras to help people view art from home.**