



The Invisible Art Gallery – where the art can be seen

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arsad)))
advanced research seminar
on audio description

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The Invisible Art Gallery

- Poland's first digital audio description gallery consisting only of the invisible artefacts;
- two seemingly disparate realms and groups of people: sighted school students and blind and partially-sighted viewers, meet to form a single communicative medium – virtual art gallery, which:
 - involves verbal and nonverbal art exposition;
 - comprehends narrative and performative aspects of art history;
 - exists above and beyond the audio description and syntax of the artwork itself.

Background, frames and overall shape of the project

- “visual era” → school students are fluent in Snapchat, memes, smileys, emojis; 😊
- problem of describing visual art is marginalised and truncated in schools → functional illiteracy; ☹️
- “De Facto” prepared special “in-school” audio description trainings for volunteers aged 13 to 16; 😊
- 12 schools, 240 students, over 24 hrs /per school/ of workshops conducted by visually impaired educationists, professional audio describers and art historians; 😊
- by preparing AD, students learned how to express themselves using just words. 😊

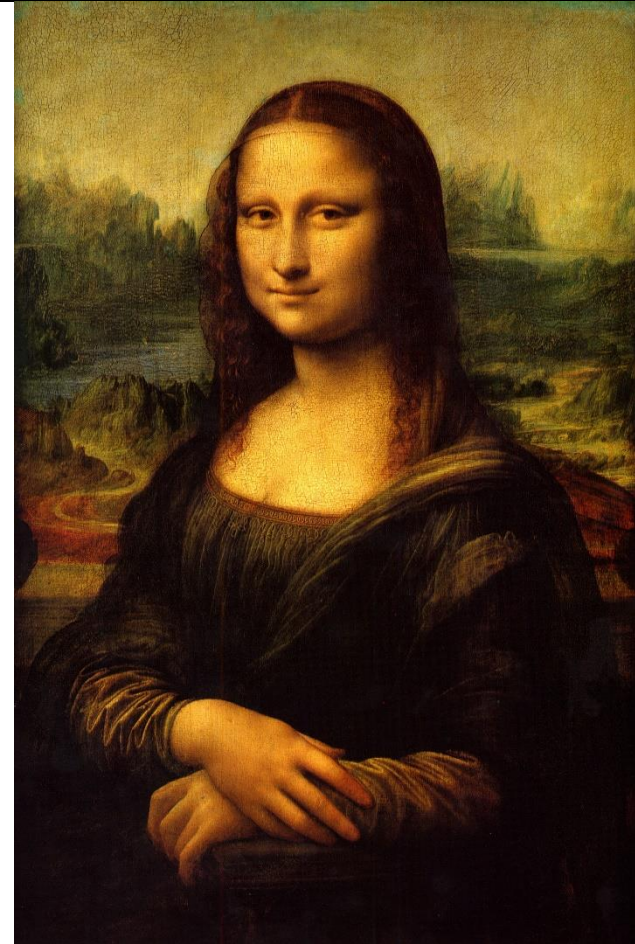
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Why school students?

- “unprejudiced eye”, Panofsky;
- “amazed eyes of the spectators”:
priceless surplus value, Bachelard.

“The painting shows Mona Lisa” →

- AD → synonyms, language parallels,
vast vocabulary → describing cultural
subtleties: “Mona Lisa’s smile”,
Titian hair, Rubenesque;
- aesthetics of the image → aesthetics
of the words.

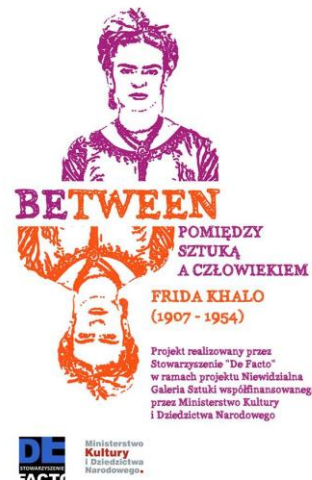
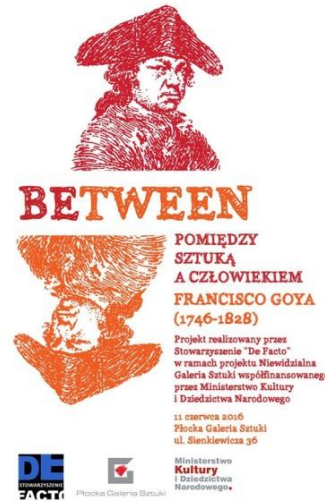


“The Invisible Art Gallery” - museum of the imagination?

- “The Invisible Art Gallery” - the biggest Polish institution which assembles only audio described artefacts and makes them available to over **3,000 blind and partially-sighted viewers**;
- **500 artefacts, 5 art periods**, and more than **50 art movements**, all described and presented in the way which is easily converted by any text-to-speech software;
- **30 art albums** (featuring **170 AD**) – narrative, themactic – Braille, mp3, txt formats – over **550 copies** distributed each month (via e-mail, CD).

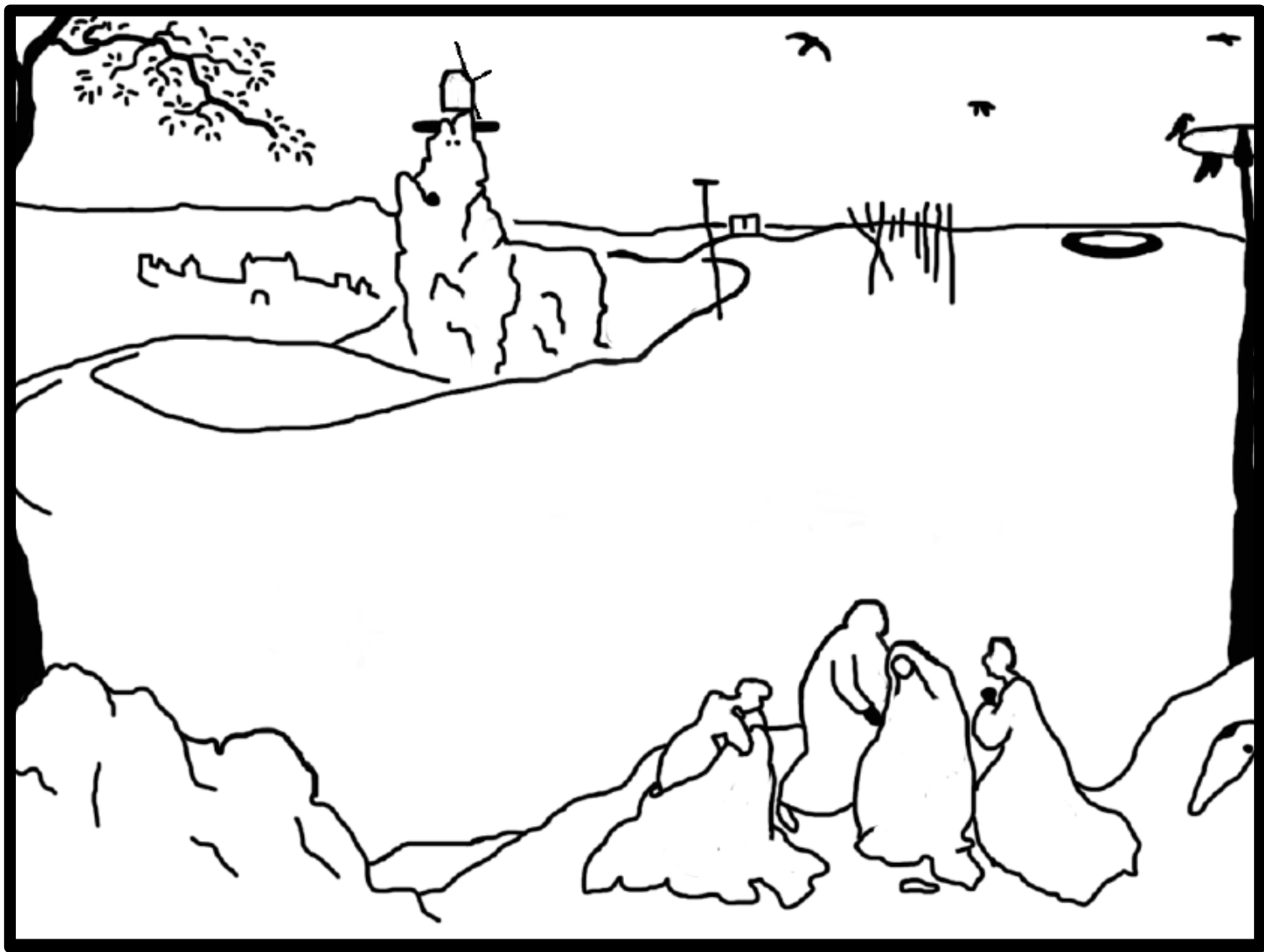
The story behind the frames – BeTWEEN art and man

- audio description, poetry, music and dance;
- literally touching the history and feeling it by certain textures, fragrances, tastes and sounds specific for the artist's epoch;
- movies with audio description - biopics and documentaries on visual art and artists.





Pieter Bruegel The Elder, **The Procession to Calvary**, 1564.

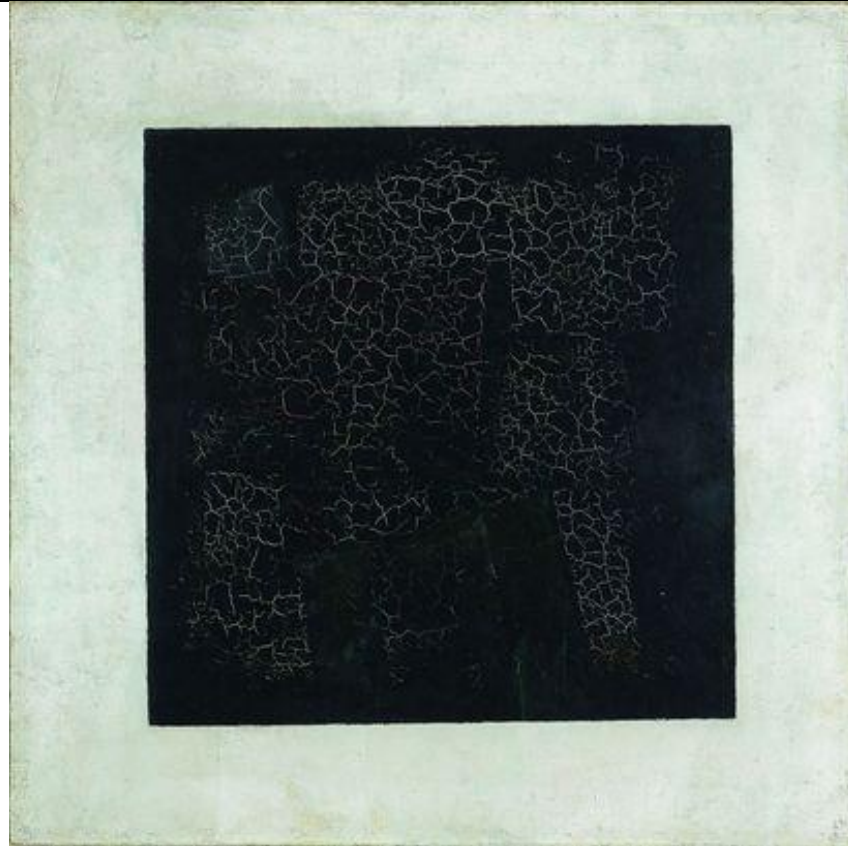


The picture shows outlined shapes of the main figures and composition from the painting „**The Procession to Calvary**”.
Author: Katarzyna Anzorge, BeTween workshops – Bruegel.



Project “BeTween” equally combines rehabilitation (**spatial orientation**), typhlo-pedagogy (**workshops**) with knowledge about art (**lectures combined with audio description of works of art**).

Thank you!



**Kazimir Malevich, The Black Square on the white Surface,
1915.**