



Ending the isolation.

Media Release
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Vision Impaired Junior Art Aficionados

Vision impairment is now no barrier to art appreciation.

Thanks to the Senses Foundation people are now free to *feel* the art so they can appreciate the lines and form of a series of sculptures as a powerful way of glimpsing life with deafblindness.

A free exhibition of sensory sculpture in the foyer of the Central Park building has been put on by Senses with the help of renowned Western Australian sculptor Robert Hitchcock, and while it has been widely acclaimed, it has been some of our junior art enthusiasts who are most readily embracing the challenge of getting their hands on the works.

The sculptures are on display as part of a push to increase awareness of the work of Senses Foundation, and people visiting the exhibition are encouraged to close their eyes, feel the art and imagine life without vision and hearing.

Participants have embraced the concept, but it is the children who visit who seem the least inhibited in taking the tactile approach to art appreciation.

38 sculptures are on display and this Friday a group of children who are vision and hearing impaired or blind with other disabilities will visit Central Park to take part in their first real experience of sculpture.

Senses CEO Debbie Karasinski said the exhibition was a great way for participants to get a brief but powerful glimpse into the life of someone who was deafblind.

“It is not until you see children with vision impairment approach the task of feeling the sculptures that you grasp how well their hands - unaided by sight - can feel the beauty in the work. They seem to grasp the emotion of the creations so readily” she said.

Senses Foundation is the primary advocate and service provider for the 40 000 people who are deafblind or blind with significant other disabilities living across Western Australia.

The exhibition is aimed at increasing awareness of the nearly 14 000 Western Australians who are living in Rural and Remote communities around the state who cannot access Senses services.

The students will be visiting the exhibition on Friday the 27th of June at 10am. Central Park is located at 152 St Georges Tce, Perth. For more information contact Senses media liaison officer Pip O'Connell on 042 111 9645, or visit: www.senses.asn.au