Welcome to Turner Contemporary

We are a contemporary art gallery inspired by JMW Turner's spirit of radical enquiry to activate art and people, in our galleries and beyond

A visual journey



The gallery is on the harbour arm, you will see lots of boats in the water opposite the gallery





The gallery is open every day during the Turner Prize exhibition.

We are also open on Bank Holiday Mondays.

First floor



Monday – Friday is open 11am – 6pm Saturday and Sunday is open 10am – 5pm

The gallery and exhibitions are free.



This is the Sunley Gallery which is the main entrance hall. Sometimes there are performances, workshops or artworks in this area.



Image by James Newton





When you arrive in the gallery you will be greeted by a Gallery Assistant you will explain what you can see at the gallery today.

There is a Gallery Assistant in each gallery. They can give you information about the artworks. You can ask them for help if you need to.



On the wall, there are large drawings by artist Barbara Walker. The drawings are of women who live in Margate.

- You can listen to the voices of the women through the headphones that are hanging on the wall
- Please do not touch the artwork





This is our shop



If you would like to buy something from the shop you can take it to the shop staff who work behind the desk.



We often show artwork in the Foyle Room corridor. The toilets are nearby so you might hear the hand dryers.



These are the Foyle rooms. We use them for events and meetings.

If you need a quiet space you can ask to use one of these rooms if they are available.



There are signs on the walls to show you where to find the toilets and lockers.





There are toilets and an accessible toilet on the ground floor. The toilets have hand dryers which can be noisy.





There are lockers which you can use to store your coats and bags and also wheelchairs available if needed.



If you want to eat or drink something there is a café on the ground floor by the front entrance. When its warm, there are tables and chairs outside.

Sometimes it can be crowded and a bit noisy.



Order your food and drinks at the counter.

The person behind the counter will give you a number on a stand.

Take this with you to your table and the café staff will bring your order to you.



The main galleries are on the first floor. You can take the stairs or the lift.







The lift is very big, there are handrails you can hold if you want. You enter and exit the lift through the same door.





Upstairs, you will find the Turner Prize exhibition.

This is the balcony. Here there are places to sit and books to read.

Each exhibition has it's own entrance.

Image by Manu Palomeque





On the right in the Clore Room, you will find an exhibition by Oscar Murillo.

The room has a strong smell of oil paint and the walls are covered with painted canvas. Human effigies sit on church pews inspired by a Columbian tradition.

• Please do not touch the artwork

Image by David Lavene





Images by David Lavene

In the West Gallery is an exhibition by Lawrence Abu Hamdan. The films are about a Syrian prison and can be quite upsetting, so only people above the age of 14 can enter this room.

The room is very dark, so it may take a moment to adjust to the lighting.

There is a large projection screen in the middle of the room. You can sit and watch the films on benches in the right hand side of the room.

The sound can be very loud and random.

• Ear defenders are available, ask a gallery assistant if you would like a pair





In the Irene Willet gallery you will find artwork selected by the Turner Prize artists.

- You can listen to the films through headphones
 - There are stools to sit on

Image by Manu Palomeque





In the North Gallery, there is an installation by Tai Shani.

There is gentle music playing in the space and benches to sit on.

- You can walk around the outside of the installation, but please do not touch the artwork
- If you are 18 years old or over, you can listen to the audio piece through headphones



In the South Gallery, you will find an exhibition by Helen Cammock.

Her work is about the civil rights movement in Northern Island.

There are two rooms. The first room has a selection of books for you to read.



Images by David Lavene



In the second room, there is a film playing. There are benches for you to sit on while you watch.

• The film is 1 hour and 30 mins long







You might see members of our Facilities team in the gallery.

They work hard to keep the gallery clean and safe.

These are the rules in the gallery



You cannot touch the artworks



You can take photos without a flash



You cannot eat or drink in the gallery