



Robo-Tours

What is contemporary art?

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

Illustration: A robot viewing artwork at a museum.

Robot Helps People Tour Museum

As people across the globe stay at home to help beat the coronavirus, many are turning to online **virtual tours** as a way of spending their time.

The Hastings Contemporary museum in Hastings, East Sussex, has come up with a clever way of letting people enjoy their collection... by using a robot!

The Bristol **Robotics Lab** **loaned** the device to the gallery and professor Praminda Caleb-Solly said she was "thrilled" to be teaming up with the museum.

The device is called a Telepresence and has a camera and screen attached to a pole on wheels.

Visitors share a video call from their homes with one of the directors of the museum, who guides them through the collections.

This is not the only exciting art news happening at this time. Banksy, one of the most famous artists in the world, has created a piece dedicated to the heroic work of NHS

workers and donated it to a hospital in Southampton.

The artwork shows a boy putting more famous superhero toys aside in order to play with his new favourite superhero: an NHS Nurse.

The **street artist** 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."

Glossary

virtual tours	Photos and videos which simulate visiting a place.
robotics lab	A place where scientists and engineers research and create new robots.
loaned	Borrowed for an agreed period of time.
street artist	Someone who creates art in a public place.

Questions

1. What type of art is displayed in the Hastings Gallery?

2. Tick whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The robots control themselves.		
The robots can be controlled from home.		
The device was bought from Bristol Robotics Laboratory.		
The device was loaned from Bristol Robotics Laboratory.		

3. Use information from the article to help you fill in the blanks to complete this sentence.

The artist _____ created an artwork for a hospital. It shows a boy playing with a _____

4. Tick which of these alternate headlines **does not** summarise the story.

- ☐ Virtual Tours Help People Still Enjoy Art
- ☐ Robot Assistance Aids Art Lovers
- ☐ Artists Donating Works to Hastings Contemporary Gallery
- ☐ Contemporary Art Aided by Contemporary Technology

5. How do you think the people at the hospital in Southampton felt when finding out a world famous artist had created a work honoring them?

6. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.

Answers

1. What type of art is displayed in the Hastings Gallery?

contemporary art

2. Tick whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The robots control themselves.		✓
The robots can be controlled from home.	✓	
The device was bought from Bristol Robotics Laboratory.		✓
The device was loaned from Bristol Robotics Laboratory.	✓	

3. Use information from the article to help you fill in the blanks to complete this sentence.

The artist **Banksy** created an artwork for a hospital. It shows a boy playing with a toy
NHS nurse/nurse superhero/nurse toy.

4. Tick which of these alternate headlines does not summarise the story.

- ☐ Virtual Tours Help People Still Enjoy Art
☐ Robot Assistance Aids Art Lovers
☒ **Artists Donating Works to Hastings Contemporary Gallery**
☐ Contemporary Art Aided by Contemporary Technology

5. How do you think the people at the hospital in Southampton felt when finding out a world famous artist had created a work honoring them?

Accept any sensible answer which references them: feeling valued or special; feeling happier because the work has brightened the place up a bit. e.g I think they would feel happy because he made it specially for them.

6. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable answer that includes the key information from the article. e.g. A gallery is using a robot to let people look at artwork while Banksy donated a painting to the NHS.