

## Abstract

### **Art is all around you. Remember – you can touch, not look!**

The world is perceived through senses. It could be said that all senses basically rely on the sense of touch – an object (sound wave, photon, molecule) comes into mechanical contact with an organ of the body.

Despite the importance of the sense of touch, we live in a visually oriented world, and I think that most of us very often do not think about how we would experience the world without the sense of sight.

My first contact with a person who lost his sight was in 2005, when we had our third child, who became blind at the age of 5 months. Since then I have been interested in what the world looks like for a visually impaired person and have tried to understand it as much as possible.

The first part of the paper is about the elitism of the sense of sight and how other senses have been orphaned and get less attention than sight. I will explore how non-sighted people form their reality and which senses they use to perceive their surroundings.

As a seer, we tend to blindly trust sight. The other senses are like appendages of sight. By touching, we get to know different materials, textures, which we then associate with visual vision. The senses are not only for conveying information, but they help to ignite the imagination, especially in the dark, when the eyes do not see. Then the brain and imagination start to work especially vividly, because it is not for nothing that they say that fear has big eyes.

If things can be identified via touch in everyday life, how can we explain art, which is largely visual and in most cases forbidden to touch, to people who can not see?

In the second part of the thesis I investigate what kind of possibilities there are for visually impaired people to experience art and what kind of solutions museums offer in this field. I bring examples of descriptive translations of works and tactile tours that museums provide for visually impaired people.

In the practical part of the thesis project, I reflect on the themes of the thesis and create an opportunity to experience art in a dark room in order to encourage the exhibition visitor to rely on their imagination and touch, listen and smell the work.