

# THE AWARDS 2021

## Outstanding Contribution to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

<b>Institution name</b>	Royal Holloway, University of London
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	The audio described tour of Royal Holloway's Picture Gallery
<b>Nominee/key personnel</b>	Laura MacCulloch and Hannah Thompson
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://smartify.org/tours/audio-descriptive-tour">https://smartify.org/tours/audio-descriptive-tour</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>In 2020, Royal Holloway, University of London became the first UK Higher Education Institution to provide free, online, and inclusive access to their stunning art collections. The College Curator worked with academics and Smartify to create a free online audio-described tour of paintings from the Picture Gallery. The tour uses digital technology developed by Smartify and a diverse range of voices, to make the Royal Holloway Picture Gallery accessible to blind and sighted visitors from around the world.</p> <p>Unlike traditional audio description, 'inclusive' audio description does not claim to offer an objective description of an image. Instead, it recognizes that each beholder will see things differently. It welcomes non-normative gazes and encourages individual and inventive responses to art.</p> <p>These inclusive audio descriptions show that blindness is not a tragedy or an affliction, but a valuable and inventive way of being in the world which has much to offer sighted people.</p>