

Stanley Spencer



Visionary Painter of the Natural World

Guidance note for visitors on the autistic spectrum to the Stanley Spencer Gallery

The gallery has paintings painted by one of Britain's leading artists – Sir Stanley Spencer.

You can visit the Gallery on one of the sessions organised for people on the autism spectrum. These take place on Saturday morning between 9.00 and 10.30 for visitors under the age of 18, or for visitors over 18 years of age, on a Wednesday evening between 7.30 and 9.00 on dates agreed with the Gallery. Sessions should be booked on the internet at access@stanleyspencer.org.uk.

These sessions are arranged when the Gallery is closed to the general public to provide a very quiet environment. There is no charge for visiting the Gallery during one of these sessions.

Alternatively, you can visit the Gallery during times when it is open to the public but on those occasions normal admission charges apply. Parent's, guardian's or carer's are admitted free when accompanying a paying visitor who is on the autism spectrum.

When in the Gallery you can do a number of things

Activities

Look and talk about Stanley's paintings.



Listen to an audio guide enabling you to hear people talking about Stanley's paintings.



You can use headphones and therefore adjust the sound to suit your preference. This will also mean that you do not disturb anyone else who may be in the gallery

Complete a quiz about the works on display.



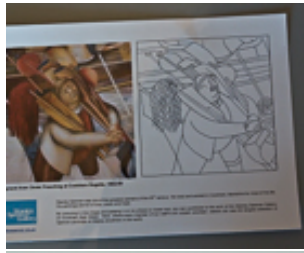
Use your own artistic skills to do a sketch in pencil which is inspired by one of his paintings.

Stanley would copy illustrations from books when he was learning to draw!

Colour a printed copy of a painting.

You can use similar colours to Stanley or choose whichever colours you would like to represent how you feel.

This can be a very relaxing activity.



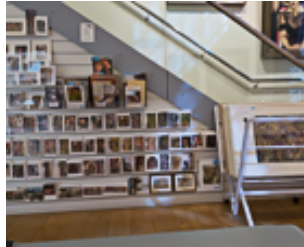
Write a comment in the Visitors Book.

Our Management Committee reads all comments to see how we can improve the visit for future visitors.



Buy a catalogue describing the exhibition, a postcard showing a painting or a print of a painting.

Postcards are £3.00 for 6 or 60p each with other products priced separately. Please ask the custodian if you would like to know the price of any product.



However, there are **two** things you should **not do** in the Gallery.

The first is that you must not touch any of the paintings with your hand or a pencil or anything else because that would damage the painting.

For the same reason we do not eat anything in the Gallery and only drink still water. This minimises the risk of damage to the paintings.

Going to the Gallery

The Gallery is in a village called Cookham. Stanley was born in the village in 1891 and lived here most of his life. If you have any questions about Stanley and his life, please ask the custodian who is in the Gallery.

If you come to Cookham from the south, you can park either on the road or in the car park next to the gallery.

The Gallery is the white building



If you come through the village you can park on the High Street or the road opposite.

The Gallery is the white building



This is the entrance door. You will see that the door is at the side of the porch and not at the front.



If you are visiting the Gallery for a BAS session, if you look closely you will see that the sign inside the porch says 'closed'. This is because the gallery is closed to the public but open to you on these special occasions.

To go into the Gallery please open this door and an inner door on your left hand side as you go into the porch.

If you visit when the Gallery is open to the public, the signs say 'Open' and are outside of the Gallery. On these visits the outer door will automatically open outwards as you approach it.

As you go through the porch this is what you will see paintings on the wall opposite the entrance.



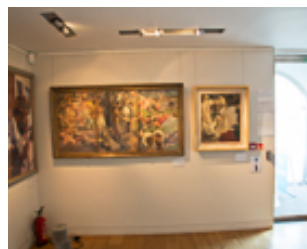
As you go through the second door, to your left you will see one of our custodians sitting behind the desk.

They will welcome you to the Gallery and will try to answer any questions you may have and give you a guide to the exhibition which you can read as you go round the gallery. This briefly describes each painting and drawing



They can also let you have sketch paper, drawings to colour or a quiz should you decide you wish to use them. You can also hire an audio guide.

The exhibition starts here on the north wall which is the wall on your right hand side as you come into the Gallery



The exhibition continues in an anti-clockwise direction to your left as you view the paintings.

As you go around the Gallery this is the next wall. It will have some other paintings for you to look at.

The door slides open and gives access to the lift and other rooms used by the volunteers to store publications and copies of prints.

This photograph shows the door open and the lift door.



This is the view down the Gallery towards the wall opposite the entrance to the lift.

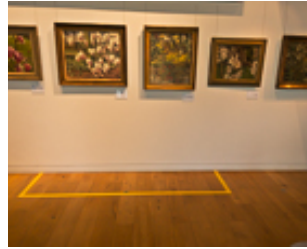


The door in this wall is an emergency exit.

In the unlikely event of a fire in the building you will hear the very loud fire alarm!

You should then leave the building either through this door or the entrance.

If you see any yellow lines on the floor can you please not stand on the floor within the lines.



Most paintings in the Gallery are covered with a glass sheet to prevent the painting being accidentally damaged.

However, if any paints are not covered with glass we have to be careful that visitors do not get too close to these paintings in case they accidentally damage them.

The stairs take you up to the second floor. There are paintings on the wall for you to look at as you go upstairs but, because they are close to you, you need to take care that you do not accidentally touch them.



This shows the lift entrance on the second floor

The cabinets on either side of the lift door contain books and other documents you can read when you are in the Gallery.



There is a programme on the computer which lets you see and hear Stanley and other people discussing his life and work.

You need to use headphones to hear the sound.

The black head set is for use if you have a hearing aid.

The pram used to be used by Stanley to take his easel and paints around the village. It is very old and therefore delicate and we ask visitors not to touch it in case it gets damaged.



This is the view from the second floor back towards the east wall.

You have seen all of the paintings and drawings in this Exhibition.



EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

In the event that the alarm bell rings you must follow the Custodian's instructions and leave the gallery. If you are on the second floor, please do NOT use the lift to go downstairs but please use the stairs.

There are two exits from the building in an emergency.

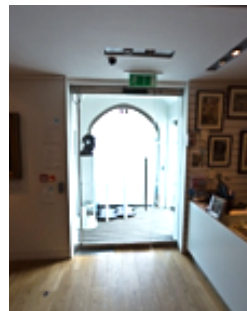
You can leave through this door which will open automatically in the event of an emergency.

If you use this door turn right outside the door and wait in the car park next to the garage which is in front of you.



You can also leave the building through the doors you came in.

You should turn then turn right at the end of the building and go and wait in the car park until you are told what to do next.



Your Notes and Questions

If you would like further information, please email Dennis at access@stanleypencer.org.uk
March 2017