

A Consideration of All Bodies

Language and Disability Policy for the exhibition and programme

'A Consideration of All Bodies' wants to acknowledge that the language used in relation to disability can often be contentious. The term 'disabled', is often used (but not always) by people with physical disabilities, chronic illnesses, or autism. This is identity-first language and is often used to own the disability. However, other people, including those with intellectual disabilities, use the term 'with a disability' because this is people-first language. The person comes first before the disability. The disability is separate to who they are as a person.

There is a constellation of disabilities. So, people with different disabilities identify differently. 'A Consideration of All Bodies' aims to respect this diversity of identification. There is no hard and fast rule, 'A Consideration of All Bodies' suggests asking a person or listening to how they describe themselves to learn what language to use for that person.

However, 'A Consideration of All Bodies' policy uses the terms 'disabled' and 'non-disabled' in most contexts as the writer of the current policy identifies with these terms. However, the term 'with a disability' will be used when artists or arts professionals involved in an exhibition or project prefer to use this term. With regards to sensory disabilities, the terms visually impaired/visual impairment, D/deaf person, hearing impaired, non-verbal and psycho-social disability will be used. With regards to autism, neuro-diverse (in contrast to neuro-typical) will be used as well as autistic person, as these are the preferred terms.

'A Consideration of All Bodies' encourages feedback on this policy, particularly with regards to the language used as language is an ever-evolving thing and needs to be continually updated.

Please e-mail the curator roisin_ph [at] hotmail.com to give feedback.