

Tephra Institute of  
Contemporary Art:  
**Social Guide**



# Introduction

We can use this guide to help us prepare for our trip to Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art. This guide will help us learn how to enter the museum, meet the people who work at the museum who can help us with our visit, and show us some of the things we can enjoy during our time there.

Left: Artwork by Rose Jaffe

# 1. Getting to the Gallery

Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art is located in Reston Town Center. RTC has many garages that are free to park in on the weekends or after 5pm. There is also street parking available. We can pay by pay station location in the garages or the ParkRTC app.



## 2. Entering the Gallery

- The building is white and brown and has many glass windows. We are going there to look at contemporary art. Contemporary art is art that is made by artists who are alive and working today!
- There are 3 steps down to enter the museum. I can also use the ramp to the left of the steps if that is more convenient for me.



# 3. Once You're Inside

- Tephra ICA is free to the public! We don't need tickets to enter. We will stop at the big desk at the front to sign in with our name, email, and zip code. This helps Tephra ICA keep the gallery free and fun for everyone!
- When we sign in, the person at the front might give us special instructions about the art. For example, the art might be fragile. We always want to listen to these instructions so we can keep the art safe!



## 4. Coat Check and What to Bring

- If we have coats or purses we don't want to carry, we can hang them on the coat rack inside! The person at the front desk will be happy to show us where it is.
- If it helps me, I can bring fidget toys or noise cancelling headphones.



# 5. Gallery Guides

- I can always ask the person at the front desk if I have a question about the art! They can also direct me to the restroom.
- If I need to take a break, or I'd like to make some crafts of my own, I can go to the Explore More area and see what activities are available for the current exhibition.



# 6. In the Gallery

I will remember these rules so I can make sure everyone has fun and the art is protected!

1. I will walk slowly and keep my arms at my sides so I can keep the artwork safe
2. I will speak softly so everyone can enjoy themselves
3. I will stay with my family and friends who are visiting with me
4. I will not touch anything without asking first
5. I will not eat or drink in the gallery



Image from the exhibition *Pressing*.



# 7. Leaving the Gallery

- When I feel like I am ready to go, I'll make sure we have everything we came in with and we'll leave out the door we came in.
- I can have a fun time at the gallery no matter how long I stay. What's important is that I enjoy my time and stay respectful of the art and the other patrons. I hope I can visit Tephra ICA again soon!



# Accessibility at Tephra ICA

## **Gallery Policies**

Restrooms - All Tephra ICA restrooms are single stall, wheelchair accessible, and all-gender

Service Animals - Trained Service Animals are welcome at Tephra ICA

Exhibition Checklists - Exhibit checklists and wall text are available in large font as requested

## **Visitors with Reduced Mobility**

Wheelchair access – Tephra ICA is a single-floor building with external ramp access

Seating – ample benches are located around the gallery

## **Social Guide**

Our Social Guide can be helpful to first time visitors, families, or individuals with developmental disabilities. This resource provides a step-by-step explanation of what visitors can expect when they visit the gallery.

If you have additional questions about accessibility at Tephra ICA or an upcoming visit, please feel free to contact [info@tephraica.org](mailto:info@tephraica.org) or call (703)471-9242.