

Interesting Reads About Alt Text, Image Description, and More

Alt Text as Poetry by Bojana Coklyat and Shannon Finnegan

<https://alt-text-as-poetry.net/>

Alt text is an essential part of web accessibility. It is often disregarded or understood through the lens of compliance, as an unwelcome burden to be met with minimum effort. How can we instead approach alt text thoughtfully and creatively?

Art in America: “Ways of Not Seeing” by Andrew Leland

<https://www.artnews.com/art-in-america/interviews/blind-artists-roundtable-1234641927/>

Art in America convened a roundtable discussion with four blind and low-vision artists. All based in the New York metropolitan area, they work across disciplines: Rodney Evans is a filmmaker; Kayla Hamilton is a dancer; Emilie L. Gossiaux is a visual artist; and Bojana Coklyat’s work encompasses performance and filmmaking.

New York Times: “The Hidden Image Descriptions Making the Internet Accessible” by Meg Miller and Ilaria Parogni

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/02/18/arts/alt-text-images-descriptions.html>

An interactive about the challenge of describing every image on the internet, and the people who are trying.

Accessibility in the Arts: A Promise and a Practice by Carolyn Lazard

<https://promiseandpractice.art/>

An accessibility guide geared toward small-scale arts nonprofits and the potentially expansive publics these organizations serve. It details specific ways in which disabled people are excluded from cultural spaces and offers possible solutions to those barriers. Moving away from historical and juridical definitions of accessibility, this guide considers the unique capacity of small scale arts organizations to meet the needs of disabled communities. It engages principles of disability justice to think through what can urgently be done to create more equitable and accessible arts spaces.

Sins Invalid

<https://www.sinsinvalid.org/>

Sins Invalid is a disability justice based performance project that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centralizing artists of color and LGBTQ / gender-variant artists as communities who have been historically marginalized.

Book

Georgina Kleege’s “[More Than Meets the Eye: What Blindness Brings to Art](#)” (2018)

Alt Text Practice Exercise

1. Choose a photo from your computer or phone, and take 3 minutes to look at the photo and write the objects that you see (nouns)
2. Then 3 minutes to list words that describe the mood and tone that are evoked in the image (adjectives)
3. Reflect on the process – what was difficult, what words stand out as critical, etc.