# RNIB’s new 'Seen' exhibition challenges perceptions with immersive portraits of people with sight loss



The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) is set to host a compelling new exhibition titled "Seen," featuring the work of Newport photographer Joshua Bratt. Opening this September at the charity’s London headquarters, the Grimaldi Building, the exhibition highlights the lives and stories of blind and partially sighted individuals from across the UK. Bratt’s project challenges common stereotypes by emphasising the individuality and achievements of people with sight loss, moving beyond reductive labels to reveal the rich personal narratives behind their experiences.

Joshua Bratt remarked on his revelation during the project, admitting that he had previously viewed visually impaired individuals merely through the lens of their disability rather than recognising their full personhood. This insight became a driving force behind "Seen," aiming to shift public perceptions and promote a deeper understanding of those living with sight loss. The exhibition comprises 22 photographic portraits, each paired with an audio description and accompanied by a tactile brochure to offer visitors an inclusive, multi-sensory experience that extends beyond the visual.

The diverse group of participants includes Louise Simpson, notable as the first blind person to complete 100 marathons, alongside a range of distinguished figures such as former Home Secretary Lord Blunkett, British archery champion Clive Jones, astronomer Dr Nicolas Bonne, gamer Ben Breen, barrister Jessikah Inaba, and model Nan M. Anna Tylor, chair of RNIB, also features among the portraits, lending her perspective to the collection. Tylor expressed her enthusiasm for the project, highlighting the importance of authentic representation in promoting awareness and empathy. She said the exhibition offers a moving reminder of the vital role representation plays—not only in how people with disabilities are seen but also in how they are heard and understood.

"Seen" will run from 12 to 14 September, and visitors can book free timed tickets via the RNIB website or Eventbrite. This exhibition is part of RNIB’s broader commitment to accessibility and inclusion, coinciding with other upcoming events such as their Accessible Media Symposium, which brings together creators, technology experts, and people with lived experience to explore innovations in accessible storytelling.

Within the vibrant London art scene this September, "Seen" will be one among several notable exhibitions drawing attention to diverse narratives. While larger-scale events like Kerry James Marshall’s major retrospective at the Royal Academy spotlight Black histories in art, and Frieze Sculpture in Regent’s Park explores themes of light and shadow, Bratt’s exhibition uniquely centers on sight loss and the spectrum of human experience it represents. It stands alongside other recent inclusive initiatives such as RNIB’s collaboration with Canon Europe on "World Unseen," another photography exhibition designed to be immersive and accessible to all visitors.

Through "Seen," Joshua Bratt and RNIB invite the public to engage with the perspectives and achievements of people with sight loss more deeply—encouraging society to reconsider assumptions and celebrate the talents and stories often overlooked. The exhibition promises a thoughtful, immersive encounter that broadens the conversation about disability, identity, and representation.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25437771.photographer-joshua-bratt-display-new-exhibition-rnib/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.rnib.org.uk/campaign-with-us/book-your-ticket-to-seen-today/), [[3]](https://walthamforestecho.co.uk/2025/09/02/photography-seen-by-joshua-bratt/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25437771.photographer-joshua-bratt-display-new-exhibition-rnib/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://walthamforestecho.co.uk/2025/09/02/photography-seen-by-joshua-bratt/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25437771.photographer-joshua-bratt-display-new-exhibition-rnib/?ref=rss)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25437771.photographer-joshua-bratt-display-new-exhibition-rnib/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.rnib.org.uk/campaign-with-us/book-your-ticket-to-seen-today/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.rnib.org.uk/news/rnib-2025-media-accessibility-symposium/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[5]](https://www.lettsart.com/2025/08/29/shadows-interiors-histories-three-london-exhibitions-september-2025/), [[6]](https://artplugged.co.uk/five-exhibitions-to-see-in-london-in-september-2025/), [[7]](https://www.rnib.org.uk/news/the-photography-exhibition-you-dont-need-to-see/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25437771.photographer-joshua-bratt-display-new-exhibition-rnib/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://walthamforestecho.co.uk/2025/09/02/photography-seen-by-joshua-bratt/), [[7]](https://www.rnib.org.uk/news/the-photography-exhibition-you-dont-need-to-see/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25437771.photographer-joshua-bratt-display-new-exhibition-rnib/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.rnib.org.uk/campaign-with-us/book-your-ticket-to-seen-today/> - The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) is hosting 'Seen', a portrait series by photographer Joshua Bratt, featuring 22 powerful portraits of blind and partially sighted individuals. The exhibition aims to challenge misconceptions and showcase the achievements of those with sight loss. It will be on display from 12–14 September at RNIB's Grimaldi Building in London. Free tickets can be booked through their Eventbrite page. The exhibition is a collaboration between RNIB and Bratt, highlighting the lives of blind and partially sighted people across the UK.
3. <https://walthamforestecho.co.uk/2025/09/02/photography-seen-by-joshua-bratt/> - Walthamstow-based photojournalist Joshua Bratt is debuting a portrait exhibition titled 'Seen', spotlighting the strength, individuality, and lived experiences of blind and partially sighted people across the UK. The exhibition features 22 intimate photographic portraits that share interesting stories of people who navigate the world with sight loss. Bratt's thoughtful composition invites audiences to see the person beyond the sight loss, placing their achievements, passions, and inner worlds front and centre. The exhibition will be on show from 12th to 14th September at the Royal National Institute of Blind People's Grimaldi Building in London. Timed viewing slots can be booked for free at Eventbrite.
4. <https://www.rnib.org.uk/news/rnib-2025-media-accessibility-symposium/> - RNIB's Accessible Media Symposium brings together broadcasters, streamers, technology companies, creatives, researchers, and people with lived experience to explore the future of accessible media. As storytelling, platforms, and technologies evolve, so too must the ways we think about access. This two-day event is a chance to share ideas, highlight innovation, and shape what accessible media looks like in the years ahead. The symposium is scheduled for Tuesday, 16 September – Wednesday, 17 September 2025, at RNIB London HQ, The Grimaldi Building, London.
5. <https://www.lettsart.com/2025/08/29/shadows-interiors-histories-three-london-exhibitions-september-2025/> - September in London moves from park to room to academy. Frieze Sculpture animates Regent’s Park (17 Sep–2 Nov), “Interior Motives” probes the domestic at Hauser & Wirth (to 20 Sep), and Kerry James Marshall reshapes the canon at the Royal Academy (20 Sep–18 Jan). Public, private, and historical realms meet. Frieze Sculpture 2025 returns to the English Gardens of Regent’s Park as a free, open-air exhibition curated for the third year by Fatoş Üstek. The 2025 edition (the 13th) carries the theme “In the Shadows,” inviting 14 international artists to think with light, darkness and what’s hidden — historically, socially and materially — across London’s most strollable lawns (opens 17 September, runs to 2 November).
6. <https://artplugged.co.uk/five-exhibitions-to-see-in-london-in-september-2025/> - As autumn arrives, the capital opens its doors to a new season of art, with some of the most anticipated shows of the year. Among the five exhibitions to see in London in September 2025, one of the most significant is Kerry James Marshall: The Histories at the Royal Academy of Arts. Bringing together 70 works, this exhibition marks the largest survey of Marshall’s paintings ever staged outside the United States. For more than four decades, the artist has transformed the Western tradition of history painting by centring the Black figure in narratives that had long excluded it. Monumental in scale yet deeply personal, Marshall’s canvases weave together art history, the civil rights movement, science fiction, comics and everyday life, making this one of the must-see exhibitions in London this September.
7. <https://www.rnib.org.uk/news/the-photography-exhibition-you-dont-need-to-see/> - RNIB is excited to announce that we have partnered with Canon Europe to create a unique photography exhibition called 'World Unseen'. The exhibition is designed to provide an immersive experience for all visitors; including those who are blind, partially sighted, or sighted. The exhibition will take place at Somerset House, London, between April 5th to 7th and will feature works from well-known photographers and Canon ambassadors including Brent Stirton, Sebastião Salgado, and Heidi Rondak. The show will be accompanied by a video series which will feature partially sighted individuals, including activist Lucy Edwards and Winter Paralympian Menna Fitzpatrick, who have both partnered with Canon to tell their stories and show their reactions to the photography.