

**Ability Guidebooks
presents
Explore Riga, Latvia!**



**I Am Going To The
Latvian National Museum of Art!
A Step-by-Step Guide On How To Visit The Museum
by
Brett Bigham**

The Latvian National Museum of Art is a famous museum with a collection of Latvian art.



Let's walk up the stairs and visit the museum!

This man is about to enter the museum. He knows that museums are serious places and that there are rules to follow.



Once inside he knows to use a quiet voice.

This is where you buy your ticket. These people are waiting in line to buy a ticket.



These people know the rules for the museum. They know they will have to walk or go slow in the museum.

When you buy your ticket they will also give you a map!



The map will help you find the bathrooms and elevator.

There is a worker at the top of the first stairs who wants to see your ticket. After you show it to her you can go in the gallery to your left.



This Gallery has some fun art inside! These ladies like these paintings.



They are doing a great job following the rules. They are talking in a quiet voice and they know to never touch the art!

There are many sculptures in the museum. It is very important that you don't get too close to the sculptures.



This sculpture has lights!

Next you can take the elevator up to the top floor. The elevator will open up into a large white space with many ceiling beams. You can touch the beams but be careful, don't hit your head!



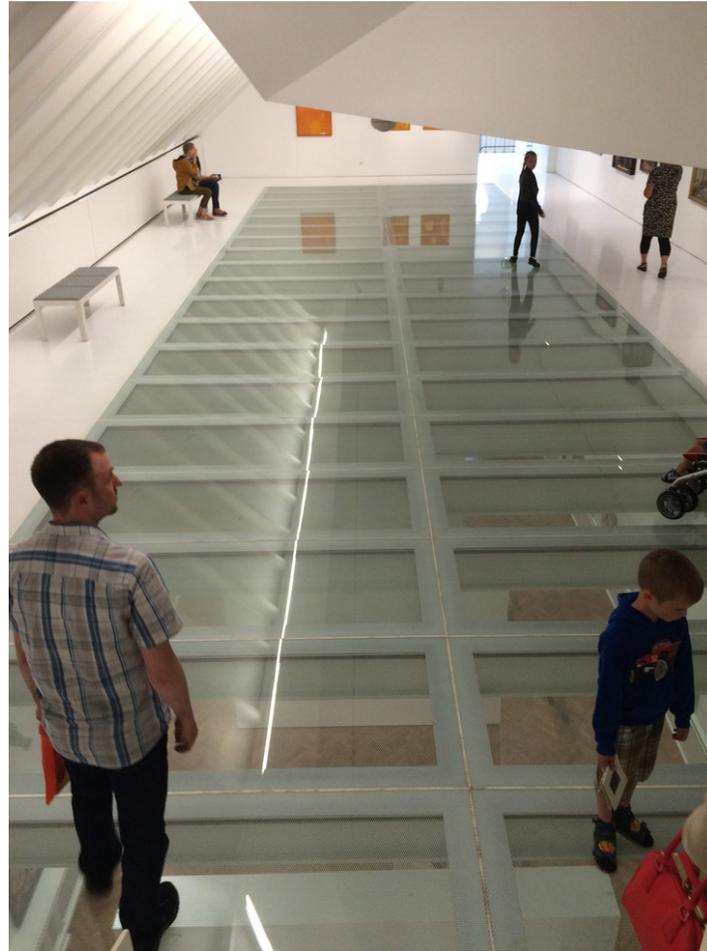
Outside there is a balcony!

Wow! From the balcony you can see out over the whole city of Riga! This is an amazing view! Some people don't like heights but it is very safe on the balcony!



This man is enjoying the view. He is not afraid, he knows it is fun to try something new!

Take the elevator or stairs down a level. Look! The floor is made out of glass. You can see people on the level below! There are benches to sit on in this room.



If you don't like being high up, you can walk around the edge on the regular floor. Don't be scared, it is exciting!

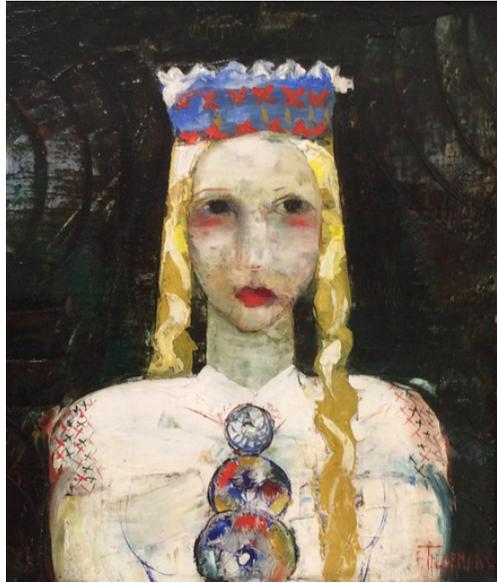
The next level down has regular floors and a great collection of Latvian art. Some of the art is Modern.



Some of the art is classical. I wonder what sculptures you will like best?



Here are some paintings that you will see at the museum. I wonder what painting will be your favorite?



Jānis Tidemanis-Girl In A Folk Costume 1930

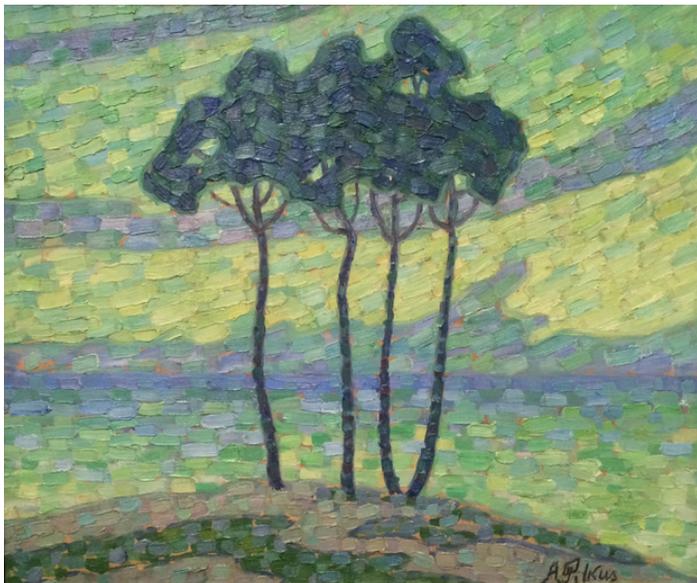


Jāzeps Grosvalds-Portrait of Three Artists 1915



Māris Subačs-Man with Medals 1989

Albert Filka - Landscape 1913-1915



Uga Skulme - Concert 1923



Jānis Tidemanis-Harbour. First Glove 1930s



The next floor down has a grand room. Make sure you look up at the paintings over the door!



This woman is very glad she got to take a day off to go to the museum. She likes to see different kinds of art so she is taking her time looking at each painting.



When she got tired she found a bench and sat down. If you feel tired, you can find a bench to sit on.

The grand staircase is very big! Remember that we have to walk in the museum.



This staircase may be the fanciest staircase you ever walk on!

I hope you have a fantastic time visiting the Latvian Museum of Art! I wonder what your favorite piece of art will be?



Jānis Osis-Rowing Race at a Latvian Fisherman's Festival 1958!

This was my favorite painting!

Tips For Visiting The Latvian National Museum of Art.

The Latvian National Museum of Art is two outings in one! The views from the roof are some of the finest views of Riga and that alone is worth a visit. The Museum's collection of Latvian arts from the mid-18th century art to the present, make it the best Latvian art collection in the world.

When you visit the museum you can walk up from the first floor or take the elevator up to the top and walk down. We chose to use the elevator and walk down. Fatigue can ruin a museum visit and walking down allowed us to rest after a long day of hiking and looking at Art Nouveau architecture.

If heights are an issue the viewing platform and the glass floors might be an issue. The viewing platform has high railings but it might be frightening to someone who is afraid of heights. The glass floors on the level below may also be a problem. You can skirt the outside edge of the glass panels and walk on regular floor. You can skip the fear by skipping the top two floors of the museum. If multiple visits are a possibility, perhaps on the first visit you can use the elevator to go to the level with glass floors and look at them from the elevator or approach them from the lower floor when they are the ceiling and you can explain them from below.

There is a shop on the bottom floor that sells gifts and postcards of the museum collection.

The grounds around the museum have benches under beautiful trees and peaceful areas to sit. This would be a great place to rest for a few minutes, have a snack or a drink, before heading back to school or home. The roads around the museum are heavily used so be prepared to cross busy streets.

Ability Guidebooks are step-by-step instructions on how to access community destinations. For many people with autism and neuro-diversity, new situations can cause stress and discomfort. Ability Guidebooks help prepare people for new experiences. This is why I emphasize the places to sit and areas to relax.

This book will also help general ed teachers prepare their young students for a visit to the museum.



Can You Translate?

If you can translate this book into Latvian or any other language I would love to hear from you!

Brett Bigham is the 2014 Oregon State Teacher of the Year and an NEA National Award for Teaching Excellence winner. Bigham is the first Oregon Special Education teacher to win these awards.

Bigham was named a Global Fellow by the NEA Foundation and traveled to Peru as an ambassador of that program. This allowed Bigham to create his first international Ability Guidebook for the Museo de Inka in Cusco, Peru. He has since made books for Greece, Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Montenegro.

Text and Photos by Brett Bigham unless otherwise noted.

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