



BFTF Plus visit to V and A Design and Disability exhibition. 26 August 2025

	
<p>We Are Strong Stephen Thompson © ARTHOUSE Unlimited</p>	<p>Kitty and Daniel outside the museum.</p>

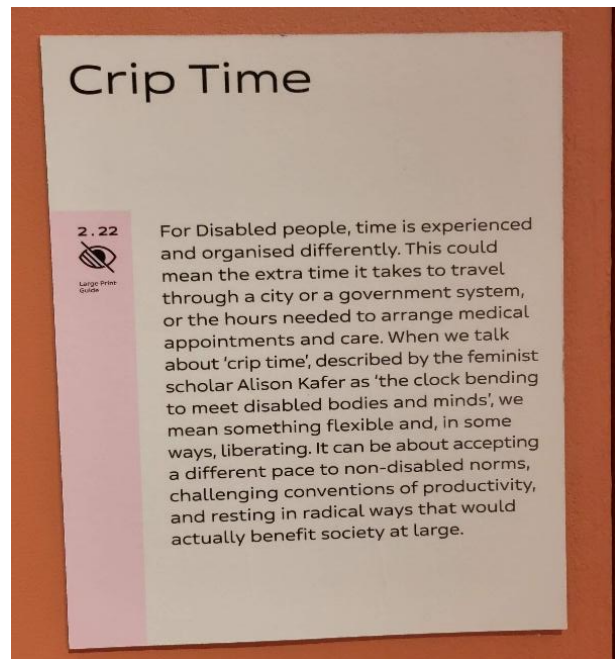
On 26 August we went to the Victoria and Albert Museum to see their Design and Disability exhibition.

We took the train to Paddington and walked across Hyde Park. The Elizabeth Line is fantastic as it takes you right into central London and all the stations and platforms are accessible. There is a small step up onto the train at Twyford, so you need to have some help to get a wheelchair on. We just bump up, but it's easy to get a guard to help with a ramp.

You can get from Paddington to South Kensington by tube in 16 minutes, but there are no lifts at South Ken so you can't do this in a wheelchair! TFL's website has a great journey planner where you can put in your access requirements. It tells you you need to get at least 2 buses to get to the museum, which takes one hour. This is a great example of Crip Time, which we read about in the exhibition.

The V and A says the exhibition is 'both a celebration and a call to action' and that it 'showcases the radical contributions of Disabled, Deaf, and neurodivergent people and communities to design history and contemporary culture'. There were lots of different displays including:

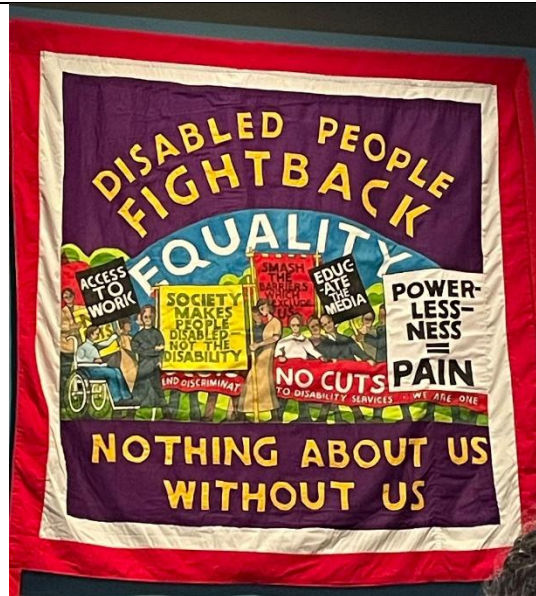
- Art by disabled people
- Protest art and photos of protests by disabled people
- Mainstream and specialist designs made by and for disabled people
- Information about design projects involving disabled people



The wide variety of stuff on show made it quite difficult to make out the point of the exhibition. But it also meant there was lots of great stuff, which got us thinking.

Some things we loved:

	<p>Do You Want Us Here or Not by Finnegan Shannon. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London</p>
	<p>Video by Katherine Araniello, made during the 2012 Paralympics in London.</p>



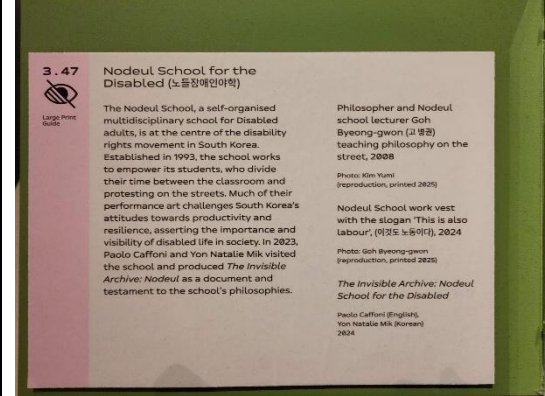
Disabled People Fight Back banner, 2014






Squeeze Chair (chaise longue), by Wendy Jacob, inspired by Temple Grandin, 1998. Someone steps on the pump to give you a squeeze.



Gaza Sunbirds t-shirt.
They are a team of disabled cyclists from Gaza in Palestine.

 <p>3.47 Large free guide</p> <p>Nodeul School for the Disabled (노들강대인아학)</p> <p>The Nodeul School, a self-organised multidisciplinary school for Disabled adults, is at the centre of the disability rights movement in South Korea. Established in 1993, the school works to empower its students, who divide their time between the classroom and protesting on the streets. Much of their performance art challenges South Korea's attitudes towards productivity and resilience, asserting the importance and visibility of disabled life in society. In 2023, Paolo Caffoni and Yon Natalie Mik visited the school and produced <i>The Invisible Archive: Nodeul as a document and testament to the school's philosophies</i>.</p> <p>Philosopher and Nodeul school lecturer Goh Byeong-gwon (고병권) teaching philosophy on the street, 2008</p> <p>Photo: Kim Yuni (reproduction, printed 2025)</p> <p>Nodeul School work vest with the slogan 'This is also labour', (이것도 노동이야), 2024</p> <p>Photo: Goh Byeong-gwon (reproduction, printed 2025)</p> <p><i>The Invisible Archive: Nodeul School for the Disabled</i></p> <p>Paolo Caffoni (English), Yon Natalie Mik (Korean) 2024</p>	<p>Poster explaining about the Nodeul School project in South Korea.</p>
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The exhibition was accessible and the museum staff were all very helpful. They had obviously thought about the layout of the exhibition and how it could be made more accessible. We did think they could have made the easy read explanations and audio descriptions easier to access, but these were available.

		
<p>Us going in to the exhibition. You need to book tickets in advance, though these are free for disabled people and carers.</p>	<p>A tactile map of the exhibition. They used different textures for each area.</p>	<p>The ramped entrance to the museum.</p>

Afterwards we went to the shop and the staff there were very lovely and helpful as well.

Section 1: Visibility



Section 2: Tools



Section 3: Living



We recommend visiting this exhibition. You can find out more here:

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/design-and-disability>

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/design-and-disability-exhibition-guide>

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/design-and-disability-exhibition-curator-tour>