

From satisfaction to engagement –

Understanding how visitors relate to Museums

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Introduction

Our team of experts





Where we work





Immersed in the cultural sector

Rolling research for London consortium





National Portrait Gallery









Immersed in the cultural sector

An from smaller, regional venues...











Immersed in the cultural sector

...to international 'big hitters'

GUGGENHEIM









Museum of Modern Art



Understanding audience needs

Meaningful measures

Never Mind the Width

WHY do people visit museums?

Social

- 'It's a nice place to spend time together with friends and family'
- 'It's an enjoyable way to pass time'
- 'It's one of the major attractions in the area'



social interaction

entertainment

to see, to do

inclusion, welcome

access, comfort, security,
warmth, welcome

Intellectual

- 'I have an academic or professional interest in the subject'
- 'I have a special personal interest in the subject'
- 'To improve my own knowledge'
- 'To encourage children's interest in art / history / the world around them'





hobby interest

self-improvement

stimulate children

Emotional

- 'To see beautiful things in inspiring settings
- 'To see fascinating, awe-inspiring things'
- 'To have an emotionally moving experience'
- 'A strong sense of personal connection or identity'
- 'To experience what the past was like'



aesthetic pleasure	
awe and wonder	
moving	
personal relevance	Emotional
experience the past	
nostalagia	
sense of cultural identity	

Spiritual

- 'To escape and recharge my batteries'
- 'Peaceful, quiet contemplation'
- 'To stimulate my own creativity'
- 'To let my imagination take me somewhere else'



escapism

contemplation

stimulate creativity

Spiritual

MHM's hierarchy of visitor motivations and outcomes

isitors see venue as	: Have this driver:	And they seek this from a visit:
CHURCH	SPIRITUAL	Creative stimulation and quiet contemplation, they see the museum as an opportunity to escape and recharge their batteries, food for the soul
SPA	EMOTIONAL	May have a personal connection to the subject matter, want to see fascinating things in an inspiring setting, seek ambience, deep sensory and intellectual experience
ARCHIVE	INTELLECTUAL	Keen to encourage their children's or their own interest and knowledge, may have professional interest in the subject, seek a journey of discovery, to find out new things
ATTRACTION	SOCIAL	See museums as an enjoyable place to spend time with friends and family, seek ease of access and orientation, good facilities and services, welcoming staff



Measuring 'soft' factors

Visitors select from 20 statements of motivation and outcome

Spiritual engagement

ADRENALIN To get an adrenalin fix

REFLECTION To enjoy peace, tranquility or contemplation

ESCAPE To escape and recharge my batteries
AWAKENING To awaken the body, soul and spirit

CREATIVITY To inspire my own / children's creativity

Emotional engagement

AESTHETICS To enjoy the beauty of the place

AWE & WONDER To see fascinating, awe inspiring things

TIME TRAVEL To experience or be reminded of what the past was like CONNECTION To get a sense of identity, personal connection or empathy

MOVED To have an emotionally moving experience

Intellectual engagement

STORIES To learn more about the place and its stories

EXPLORE NATURE To discover or explore nature or wildlife

KIDS INTERESTS To encourage children's interest LEARNING To improve my own knowledge

INTEREST To pursue a hobby, academic or professional interest

Social engagement

NOVELTY To see/experience something or somewhere new

ENJOYMENT To pass the time in an enjoyable way

MUST-SEE To see one of the major attractions in the area
WELL-BEING To breathe fresh air and feel better physically
QUALITY TIME To spend quality time with friends and family

MOTIVATIONS: What did they hope to get out of their visit?

Spiritual engagement

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WELL-BEING To breathe fresh air and feel better physically

QUALITY TIME To spend quality time with friends and family.

They are first asked what motivated their visit

They can choose as few or as many motivations as they like

MOTIVATIONS: What did they hope to get out of their visit?

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Social engagement

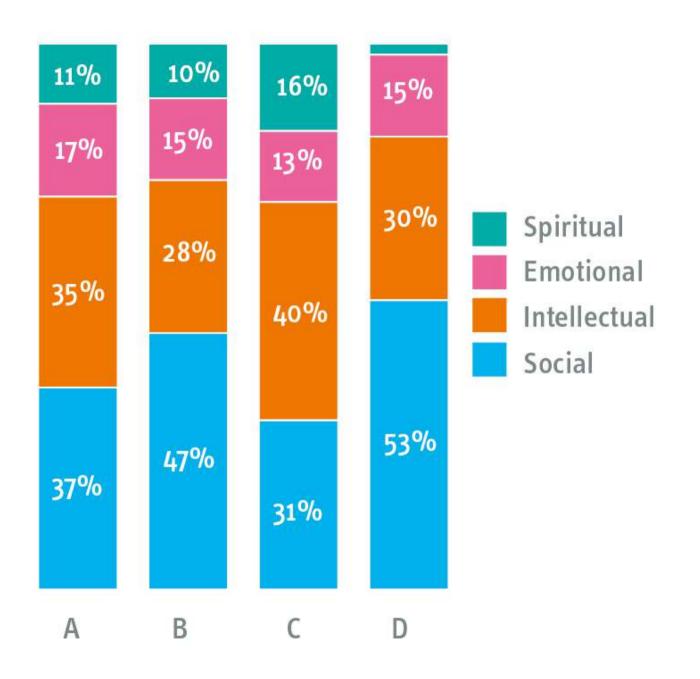
NOVELTY To see/experience something or somewhere new

ENJOYMENT To pass the time in an enjoyable way

MUST-SEE To see one of the major attractions in the area
WELL-BEING To breathe fresh air and feel better physically
QUALITY TIME To spend quality time with friends and family

They are then asked for their MAIN motivation

Example from national museums data



OUTCOMES: Later, they are asked what they actually got



Later in the survey, they are then asked to cite the outcomes they experienced

Again, they can choose as few or as many as they like

...and what was their MAIN outcome?

Spiritual engagement

ADRENALIN I got an adrenalin fix

REFLECTION Enjoyed peace, tranquility or contemplation

ESCAPE Escaped and recharged my batteries

AWAKENING Awakened the body, soul and spirit

CREATIVITY Inspired my own / children's creativity

Emotional engagement

AESTHETICS Enjoyed the beauty of the place

AWE & WONDER Saw fascinating, awe inspiring things

TIME TRAVEL Experienced or was reminded what the past was like

CONNECTION Got a sense of identity, personal connection or empathy

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Intellectual engagement

STORIES Learned more about the place and its stories

EXPLORE NATURE Discovered or explore nature or wildlife

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LEARNING Improved my own knowledge

INTEREST Pursued a hobby, academic or professional interest

Social engagement

NOVELTY Saw/experienced something or somewhere new

ENJOYMENT Passed the time in an enjoyable year

MUST-SEE Saw one of the major attractions in the area

WELL-BEING Breathed fresh an and reer oetter physically

QUALITY TIME Spent quality time with friends and family

Again, they then choose their MAIN outcome

OUTCOMES may not match MOTIVATIONS...

Spiritual engagement

To get an adrenalin for

To enjoy peace, tranquility or contemplation

To escape and recharge my batteries

To awaken the body, soul and spirit

To inspire my own / children's creativity

Emotional engagement

To see fascinating, awe inspiring things

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To have an emotionally moving experience

Intellectual engagement

To learn more about the place and its stories

To discover or explore nature or wildlife

To encourage children's interest

To improve my own knowledge

To pursue a hobby, academic or professional interest.

Social engagement

To see/experience something or somewhere new

To pass the time in an enjoyable way

To see one of the major attractions in the area

To breathe fresh air and feel better physically

To spend quality time with friends and family

Visitors may get exactly what they came for, they might not get what they came for and/or they might get unexpected outcomes.

Spiritual engagement

I got an adrenalin fix

Enjoyed peace, tranquility or contemplation

Escaped and recharged my batteries

Awakened the body, soul and spirit

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Emotional engagement

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Discovered or explore nature or wildlife

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Improved my own knowledge

Pursued a hobby, academic or professional interest

Social engagement

Saw/experienced something or somewhere new

Passand the times in an uniquality way.

Saw one of the major attractions in the area

Spent quality ime with friends and family

Their MAIN motivation may not match their MAIN outcome

By COMPARING their answers, we can measure 'success'

Spiritual engagement

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Pursued a hobby, academic or professional interest

Social engagement

Saw/experienced something or somewhere new

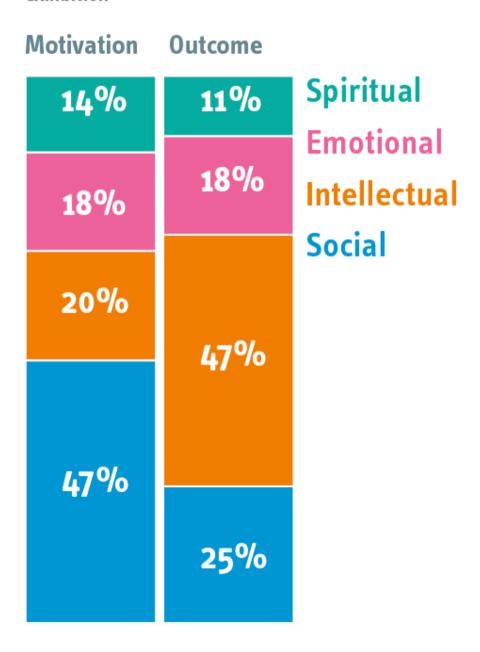
Passed the time in an enjoyable way

Saw one of the major attractions in the area

Breathed fresh air and feel better physically

Spent quality time with friends and family

Example outcome shift from a British Museum exhibition



Delivering unexpected visitor outcomes

Unexpected intellectual, emotional or spiritual outcomes are experienced. Understand the benefits of visiting the venue over other attractions.

Make deliberate return visits looking for those same outcomes again.

Postive brand equity accrued.

Intellectual

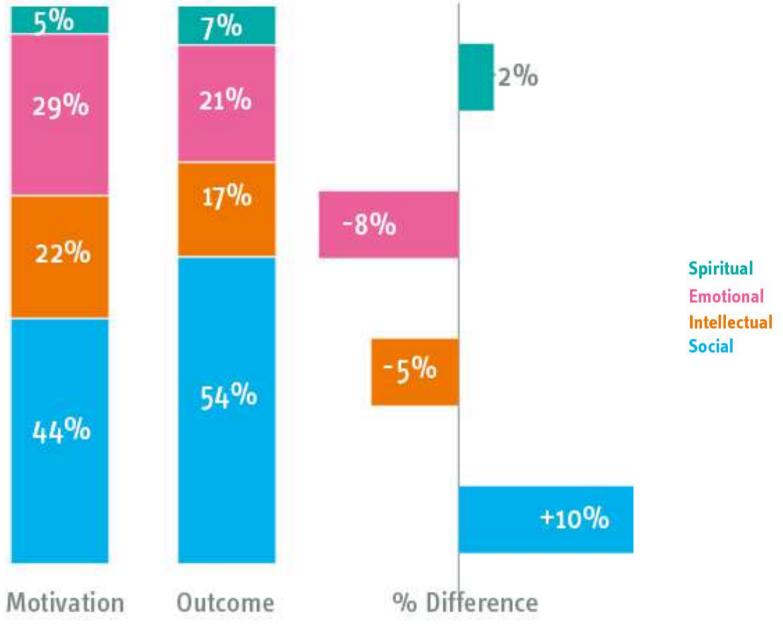
Spiritual

Social

Social needs aren't met. Highly unlikely to return. Run down the brand. Social needs are met, but they don't experience unexpected outcomes.

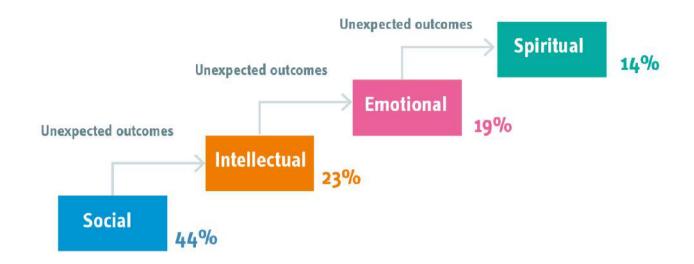
They may return, they may not. No positive brand equity accrued.

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Are seeking

Quality time with others; to see or 'do' famous places.

Have these To feel welcome; inclusion; needs warmth; comfort; relaxation; enjoyment; entertainment; levity; play; social interaction; overcome negative perceptions; ease of orientation and navigation; good facilities.

are met

If needs Might return; might relax into learning; might have emotional or spiritual outcomes.

not met

If needs Won't return; negative word of mouth; increase the lapsed market.

Self-improvement; fill gaps in knowledge; personal fulfillment.

Relevance; compelling stories; relatable facts and information: relate to other knowledge; develop critical response; familiarity and resonance; multi-layered information pitched at their level.

Deep fulfillment and satisfaction; new knowledge; anecdotes; positive WOM and repeat visits.

Frustration. Potential for lapsing.

Beautiful objects: inspiration; ambience; deep sensory experience.

Feast for the eyes; moving stories: narratives: personal connection; opportunities for 'time travel'; inspiring architecture; enough information to make connections.

Engaged imagination; soul food; emotional lift off: sustained or increased visit frequency.

Seek benefits elsewhere. Potential for lapsing.

Tranquility; escape from everyday life: transcendence.

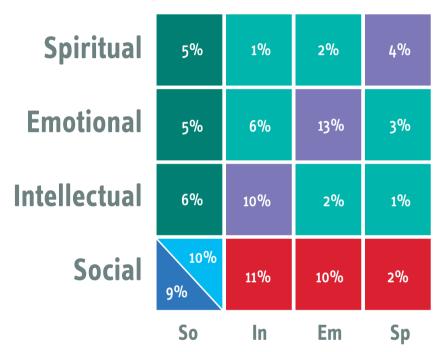
Peace and quiet: room and seating to relax and take their time with the art: outdoor spaces: external views: Revisit 'old friends' which take them to a happy place.

Introspection; reflection; escapism; sustained or increased visit frequency.

Seek benefits elsewhere. Potential for lapsing.

The extent to which unexpected benefits were delivered: Engagement States

Outcome (main) They left with...



Motivation (main) Arrived expecting to get...

Unexpected benefits (16%)

Mainly socially-motivated, but had an intellectual+ experience

Differently engaged (15%)

Experienced a different intellectual+ outcome than expected

Met expectations (27%)

Had their deep needs met

Strongly social (10%)

Stayed in social mode, but also experienced deeper outcomes along the way

Stuck in social (9%)

Stayed in social mode, and didn't really experience deeper outcomes along the way

Falling short (23%)

Were hoping for an intellectual+ experience, but left with mainly social outcomes **Engaged**

Unengaged



Some visitors leave less engaged than they hoped to be

The extent to which unexpected benefits were delivered: Engagement States

Outcome They left with...





We shouldn't think that social visits are 'bad'



Visitors who come in social mode and leave with mainly social outcomes should not be thought of as visitors having a 'bad' experience. They have an applied agenda, and the experience is perfectly suited to their needs.

However, by looking at the number of intellectual, emotional and spiritual outcomes they experience, we can create a sub category of more engaged 'Strongly social' visitors. Those visitors who only experience at most a couple of intellectual, emotional or spiritual outcomes are considered to be 'Stuck in social'.



We shouldn't think that social visits are 'bad'

20%

More than expected

Experienced a different intellectual+ outcome than expected

25%

Met expectations

Had their intellectual+ needs met

Strongly social

Stayed in social mode, but also experienced deeper outcomes

21%

10%

23%

Falling short

Were hoping for an intellectual+ experience, but left with mainly social outcomes

Stuck in social

Stayed in social mode, and didn't really experience deeper outcomes

Having high proportions of visitors leaving saying that the main thing they experienced was 'I spent time with friends and family' shouldn't be considered as a failure.

However, as demonstrated by the 'Strongly social' group, it is possible to provide these visitors with other outcomes along the way.

Those 'Stuck in Social' may report relatively high enjoyment or satisfaction ratings, but are not as engaged.



Deeper experiences have been proven to last longer in the mind

'A study from the National Research Council (2009) indicates that the degree to which we have an intense interest or emotional experience, influences our decisions, attention, and long-term memory about the experience.'

'Emotional mapping in interpretation planning', Emily Fry, The Peabody Essex Museum, taken from 'Interpreting the Art Museum, Edited by Graeme Farnell, Museum Etc., 2015.



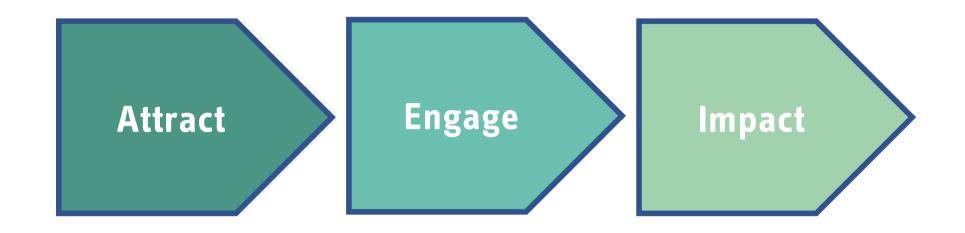
Those Stuck in social and Falling short also least likely to...

- Have fun
- Feel that the place had a great story
- Feel that the story was communicated well
- Feel that the visit had a real emotional impact
- · Have expectations exceeded
- Rate service as excellent
- Rate the arrival experience as excellent
- Feel relaxed
- Rate visitor information and signposting as excellent
- Rate presentation as excellent
- Feel fascinated by the buildings (see following slide)



Applying this insight across the organisation





WHY?
Motivation

HOW?
Behaviour
& Meaning
making

WHAT?
Outcomes

Visit modes provide a structure for visitor provision

By combining the motivations of visitors with some key profile information (family, knowledge level, visit frequency) we can determine a more granular 'mode' of visit:



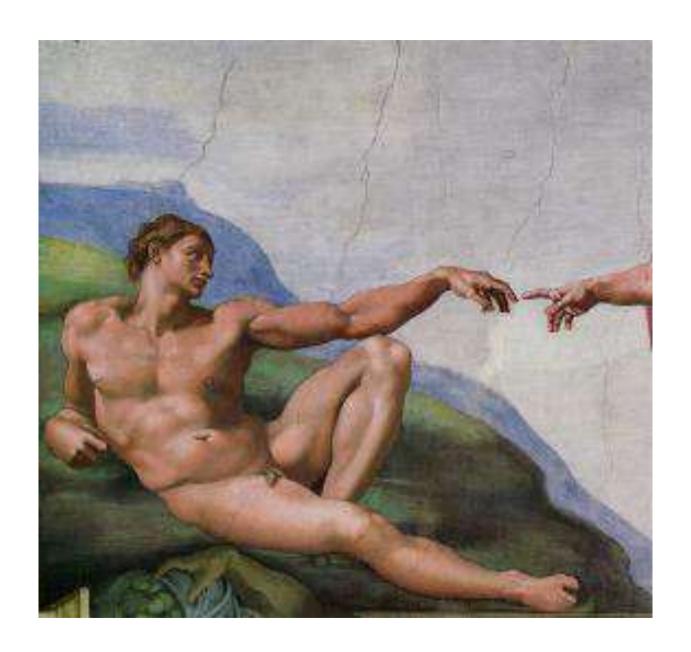
This illustrates the needs of audiences in these different modes. When appropriate, and when differences in the visitor journey are noteworthy, we have pulled our visit mode specific findings and recommendations.

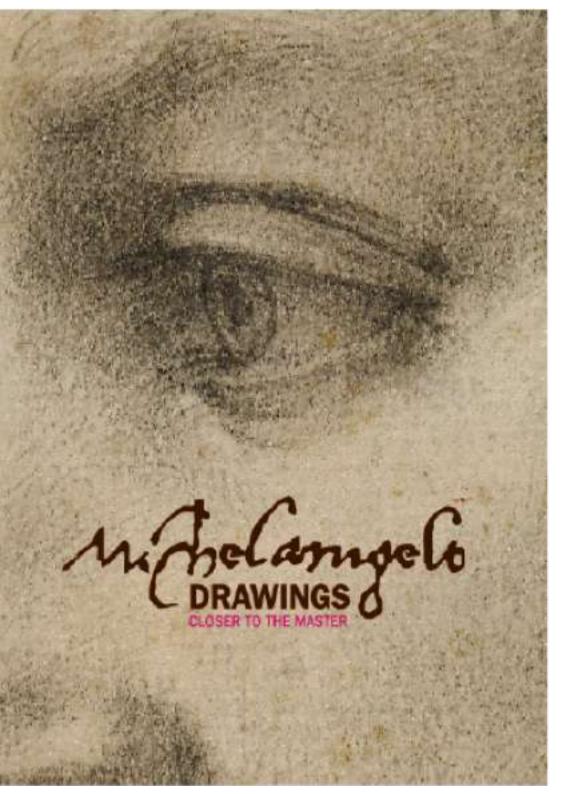
	Families	Third Spacers	Siteseers	Self Experts Developers	Culture Vultures Aficionados
Are seeking	Quality time together; child development	Quality time with others in a familiar space	To see or 'do' famous places.	Self-improvement; fill gaps in knowledge; personal fulfillment.	Beautiful objects; inspiration; ambience; deep sensory experience; tranquility; escape from everyday life; transcendence.
Have these needs	Practical access and hygiene; social interaction; overcome negative perceptions; ease of orientation and navigation; good facilities; assistance when needed; trails.	Ease of orientation; comfort; warmth; familarity; deals, loyalty rewards.	To feel welcome; inclusion; warmth; enjoyment; entertainment; levity; play; ease of orientation and navigation; translation; plain language interpretation; good facilities; high value.	Relevance; compelling stories; relatable facts and information; relate to other knowledge; develop critical response; familiarity and resonance; multi-layered information pitched at their level.	Feast for the eyes; moving stories; narratives; personal connection; opportunities for 'time travel'; inspiring architecture; enough information to make connections. Peace and quiet; room and seating to relax and take their time with the art; outdoor spaces; external views; Revisit 'old friends' which take them to a happy place.
If needs are met	Might return; might relax into learning; might have emotional or spiritual outcomes.	Increased frequency; brand evangelists.	Might return; might relax into learning; might have emotional or spiritual outcomes.	Deep fulfillment and satisfaction; new knowledge; anecdotes; positive WOM and repeat visits.	Engaged imagination; soul food; emotional lift off; sustained or increased visit frequency. Introspection; reflection; escapism; sustained or increased visit frequency.
If needs not met	Won't return; negative word of mouth; increase the lapsed market.			Frustration. Potential for lapsing.	Seek benefits elsewhere. Potential for lapsing. 49

How do we use it?

Helps staff understand and meet on-site visitor needs:

- Interpretation
- Visitor services
- Communications
- Merchandise
- Catering
- Exhibition design

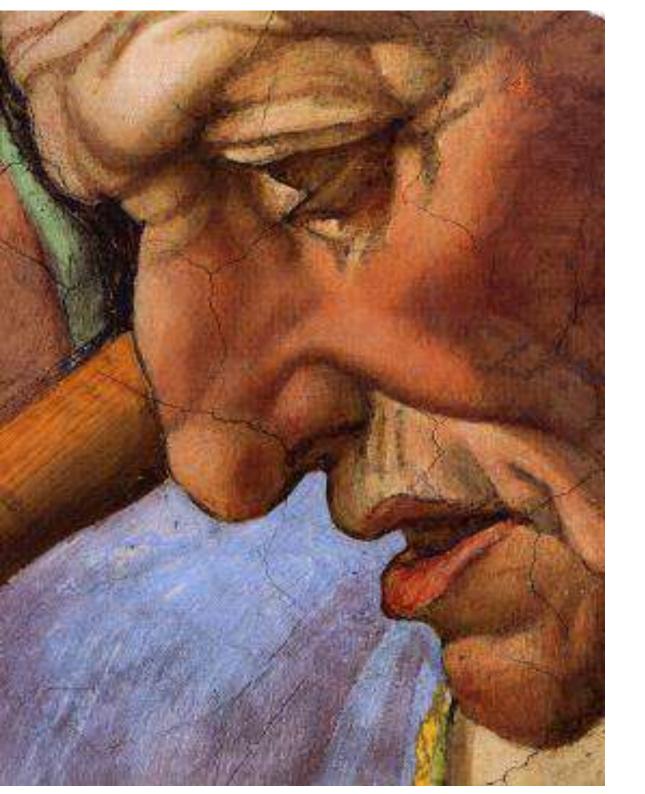




Michelangelo the draftsman – drawings only

Michelangelo the artist

Michelangelo the man and his world



An emphasis on facts or presentation of the debate

Welcomed innovative presentation style

Desire for time travel experience



Public expect BM to be cutting edge

Expectation that BM will facilitate engagement for less confident visitors

Aspiration that BM will take risks

The exhibition could re-position the BM – shift brand perceptions

Evaluation

Exit surveys – profile, motivations, outcomes Focus groups Tracking and observations Vox pops

Motivation Outcome 5% Spiritual 34% 66% 16% Emotional 76% 19% 60% Intellectual 16% 46% 39% 19% Social **→** 7% 17% 39% 36%



Massive level of recommendation

There were rave reviews about it in the newspaper as well the write up was fantastic and 5 star and it was the seminal exhibition this summer Current visitor

Lots of friends raved about it and said that you had got to go and see it Current visitor

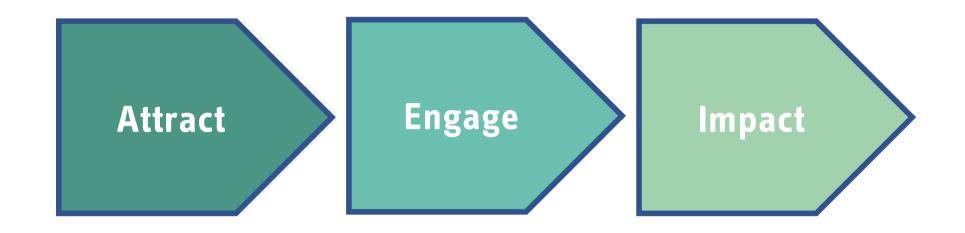
• 70% said it had made them more likely to visit special exhibitions at the British Museum

• 63% said it made them more likely to visit the British Museum generally

- 87% learnt about Michelangelo's drawings:
- 74% learnt about Michelangelo's character
- 56% learnt about the time in which Michelangelo lived
- 34% learnt about conservation and research into Michelangelo's work

145,000 attenders (target 50k)
25% 1st time attenders
31,000 new visitors
86 mins - ave dwell time





WHY?
Motivation

HOW?
Behaviour
& Meaning
making

WHAT?
Outcomes



Other ways of measuring engagement

Arrival modes – information required



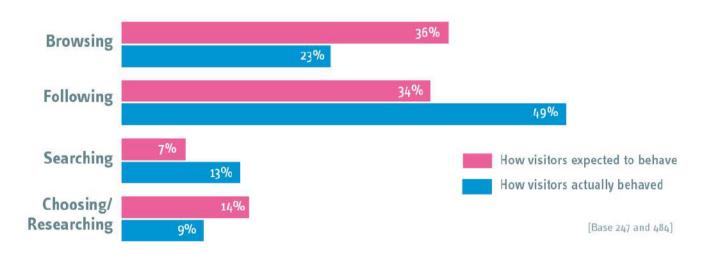
Categorising how visitors behave in art galleries

Mode	Object selection	Needs	
Researching	Specific objects	Focussed, specialist visitors select works themselves based on their in-depth knowledge of the subject area, want access to expert information	
Choosing	Specific objects	These users confidently pick individual works of interest and become quickly immersed in them, using their own knowledge.	
Searching	Classification/ collection	Have good general understanding of the topic, consume all the information available on that subject, want gallery to select and present works	
Following	Narrative theme	Require a narrative explanation, want the gallery to select and present works which illustrate themes to follow	
Browsing	Random objects	Select works by browsing the exhibition, will wander until they find a 'gateway' work that catches their attention, require explanation of their selected works	

Visit experience

Engagement with the collection

How visitors expected to behave and how they actually behaved



NOTE: As part of the arrival survey, visitors were asked 'What type of visit do you foresee yourself having today?'. As part of the exit survey, visitors were asked 'What type of visit did you have today?' The data in this chart is therefore taken from two different surveys, and therefore uses two different bases.

The definitions of behavior are not directly comparable with those used in slide 85 which describes gallery behavior.

Summary presentation of 'The complete picture'

Browsing: I just looked at whatever caught my eye, making my own route **Following**: I made a general visit, loosely following a recommended route **Searching**: I made a very applied visit, searching the collections and galleries on a planned route

Choosing or Researching: I knew exactly what specific objects / galleries I wanted to look at, I didn't deviate from my course

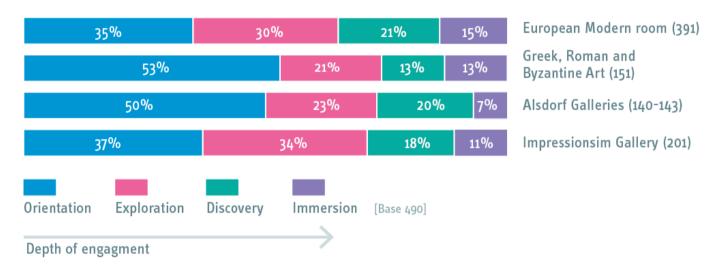
Measuring Engagement



Visit experience

Engagement with the collection

How visitors engaged in galleries



ORIENTATION: The visitor glances at an object and moves on. They may not even stop. (Unsuccessfully engaged).

EXPLORATION: The visitor stops for a small period of time at the object, looks it over in no great detail and moves on. (Unsuccessfully engaged).

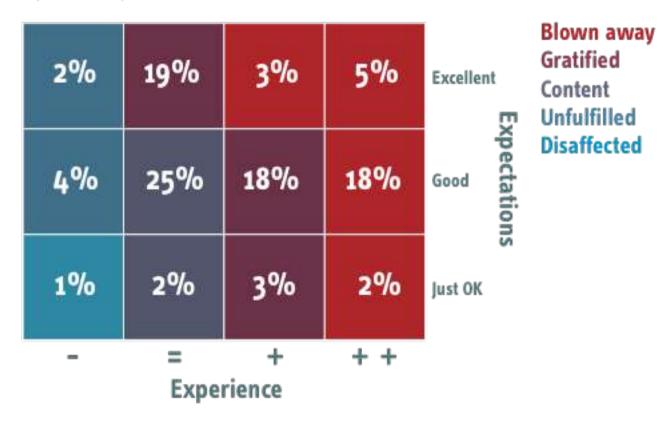
Summary presentation of 'The complete picture'

DISCOVERY: The visitor engages with an object by stopping and looking at it for a period of time, they may read the information provided before moving on. (Successfully engaged).

IMMERSION: The visitor is engrossed in the object and is likely to stay so for a significant period of time. They may read the information or discuss the object with others. (Successfully engaged).

Experience compared to expectations

Expectation vs experience matrix

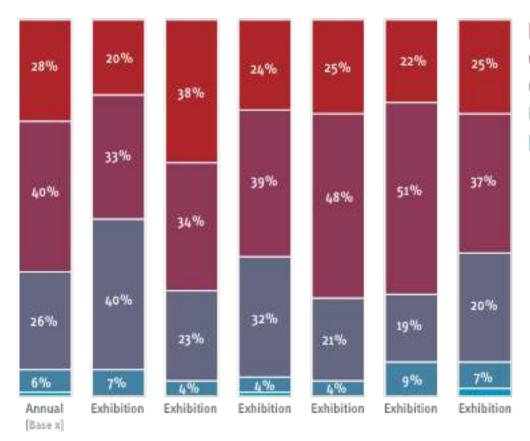






Experience compared to expectations

Expectations vs experience by exhibition

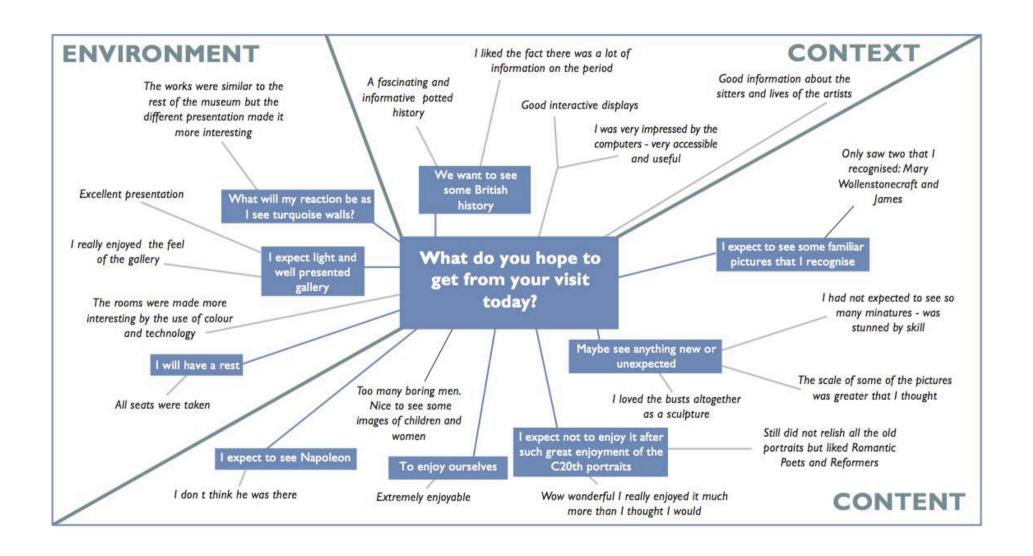


Blown away Gratified Content Unfulfilled Disaffected





Expectations of visit experience



Case Study: Art Institute Chicago

Issues identified:

- Alternative entrance developed with a new Modern Wing which housed the Modern Collection
- First timers use the Modern Wing entrance because it is spacious
- More relaxed and balanced in use.
- But low proportions of visitors exit to the modern and contemporary galleries.

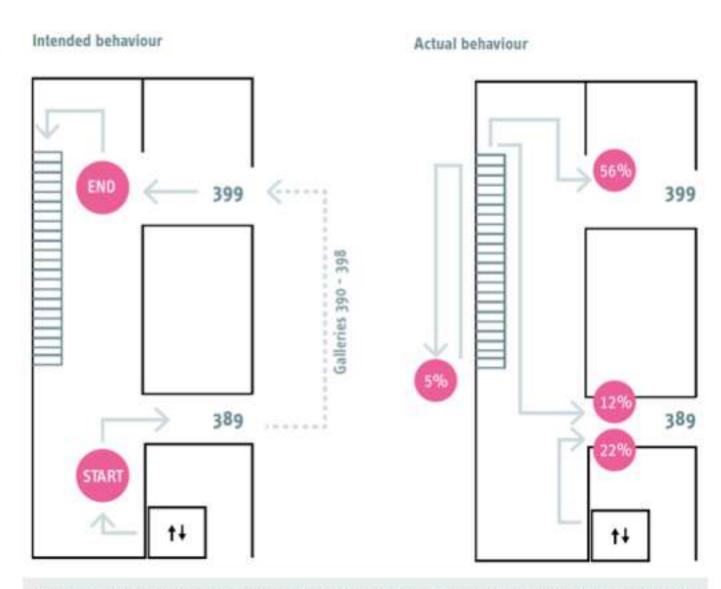


Intended and actual behaviour

Observations at the Art Institute of Chicago

Our observational research with the Arts Institute of Chicago provoked a fundamental rethink to their visitor journey; including the approach to interpretation and messaging.

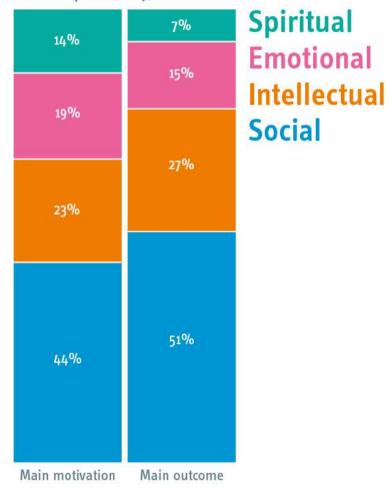
We conducted multiple layers of visitor observations in arrival spaces and within the galleries. Our findings have resulted in a full rehang of the Modern Wing of the museum, along with the development of a new interpretation scheme.



A year simple but affect regulation tracking method Jahouel used at an art gallery found that due to counterintuitive

Visitors not achieving desired outcomes

Main motivation and outcome - total audience (phase 1 only)



Summary presentation of 'The complete picture'

Key changes made

- Red banners for room signs
- Orientation panels by stairs
- Orientation panels by lift

Desired impact:

To drive more visits to the Modern Art Galleries by lift or stairs



Little change reported

- People still not coming up in the lift
- Those that reach 3rd floor enter galleries in wrong door



Phase 2 – more changes made

- Clearer directional signage on 3rd floor
- Entrance and Exit signs on the gallery doors
- A timeline of C20th art along the corridor to provide context





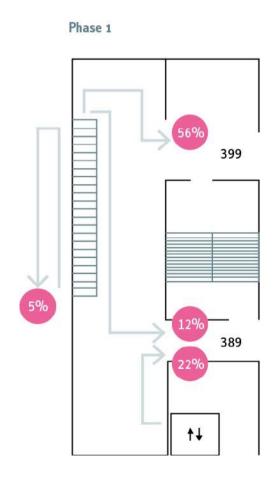


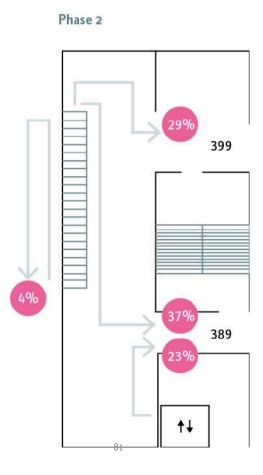
The impact of changes made to visitor experience

Signage on third floor Modern Wing

Impact of changes made:

- 60% entered the galleries through room 389 (the correct chronological order).
 This compares with 34% from phase one.
- This represents almost twice the proportion of visitors entering the European Modern Art galleries in the direction in which is curatorially designed.





The impact of changes made to visitor experience

Interpretation on third floor of the Modern Wing

Key changes made:

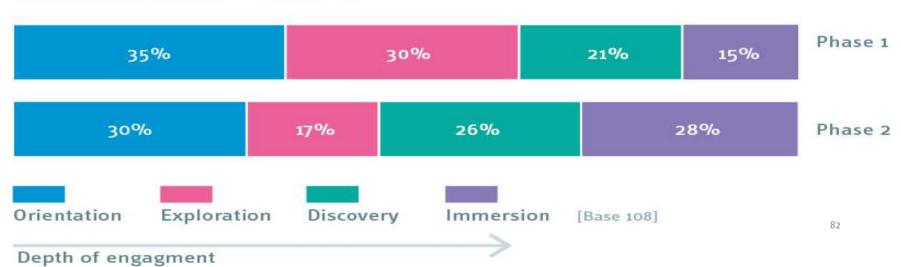
- Timeline outside galleries.
- Introduction panel outside galleries.

The impact of these changes:

How visitors engaged in gallery 391

Desired impact of these changes

Deeper engagement within the galleries'



The impact of changes made to visitor experience

Interpretation on third floor of the Modern Wing

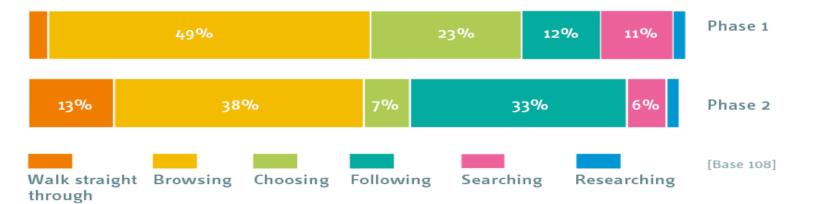
The impact of these changes (cont.):

- The more visitors read, the deeper they engaged.
- Timeline especially valued in providing context.
- Longer dwell time.

- More requested throughout the museum.
- Less likely to 'browse' gallery, more likely to 'follow' the narrative (see below).

83

How visitors behaved in room 391



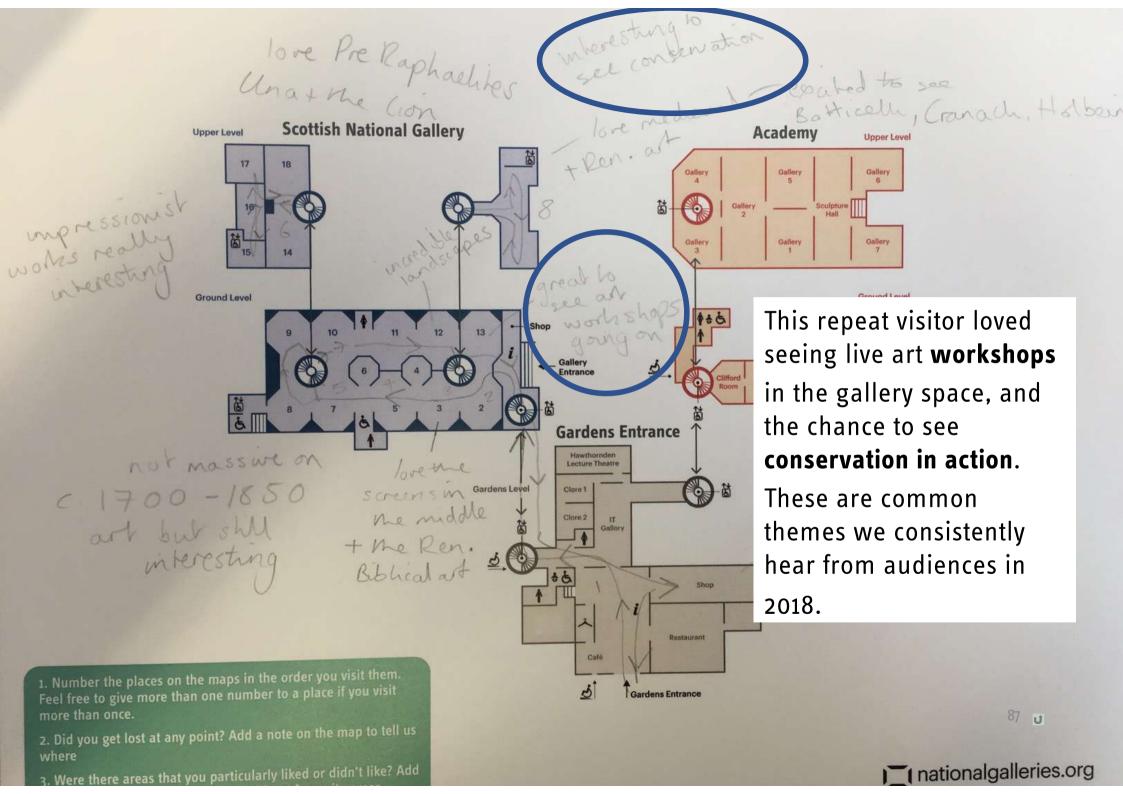
New tools, new models

In-the-moment, mobile ethnography app and platform

Three things visitors want more of

- 1. Information on the artist and process
- 2. Meaning and symbolism
- 3. The background and context of the work

'Some of them left me wanting more. I usually look at it myself and do my own interpretation... then I'll read the text, the fun facts they provide.' **Intercept interviews**





Thank you