

Critical Studies in Art, Disability and Access

Series Accessibility Statement

This book series is committed to accessibility as a core editorial, ethical, and scholarly principle. Grounded in disability-led perspectives on art and culture, the series treats access not as an afterthought or technical requirement, but as an integral part of publishing practice, knowledge production, and readership.

Standard Accessibility Measures

All titles in the series are published and delivered in compliance with current accessibility legislation and standards, including European Accessibility Act (EAA) requirements and the recent update to ADA Title II.

Key measures currently in place include:

- **Fully accessible digital formats:** All titles are available in accessible PDF and EPUB editions via the publisher's content delivery platform, manchesterhive, with optimisation for screen readers, mobile devices, and multiple screen sizes.
- **Alt text for all images:** Images in digital editions include alt text, meeting recognised accessibility standards.
- **Accessible design practices:** Digital editions follow WCAG-guided principles for colour contrast, font choice, layout, and zoom functionality.
- **Optimised image rendering:** Images are sized and formatted to support accessibility and usability across devices.
- **Print and digital pathways:** Library editions are followed by a paperback edition after three seasons, with additional formats possible subject to funding.
- **Open Access options:** Open Access publication is available for a fee, improving accessibility for readers, while acknowledging that this option is not equally accessible to all authors.

What else can we offer?

In addition to standard compliance measures, the series supports and has already implemented practices that remain unusual in academic publishing:

- **Alt text in print captions:** Where feasible, image alt text may be included directly in print captions. Where length or layout makes this impractical, shorter alt text may be used in captions, with extended descriptions provided elsewhere.

- **Supplementary long-form image descriptions:** Extended or long-form image descriptions can be hosted as freely available supplementary material on manchesterhive, linked clearly from print and digital editions. These materials are accessible regardless of whether a reader has access to the full book.
- **Flexible supplementary materials:** The manchesterhive platform allows for a wide range of supplementary content formats, including extended descriptions, glossaries, and other accessibility resources.
- **Gallery functionality:** Manchesterhive supports image gallery features that can improve navigability and engagement for digital users.
- **Audio-based supplementary content:** Recorded author introductions, playlists, or related audio materials may be hosted on publisher-managed platforms (e.g. blog or SoundCloud) and linked from manchesterhive to support multimodal engagement.
- **Inclusive Contribution Formats:** The series supports a range of contribution formats, including co-authored and co-produced work that enables the direct voices and perspectives of learning disabled individuals to be included.

Other and future offerings

Recognising that accessibility is an evolving practice shaped by disabled expertise, the series makes the following aspirational commitments, subject to resources and ongoing consultation:

- **Author-supplied image descriptions:** Authors may be invited to provide extended image descriptions with editorial guidance to ensure descriptions support scholarly intent and critical interpretation. Guidance on prompt language and responsible use of AI-assisted tools may be offered where appropriate.
- **Expanded supplementary accessibility materials:** Where relevant and feasible, the series will explore hosting additional materials online, such as extended descriptions, glossaries, or other non-standard accessibility resources, made freely available via manchesterhive.
- **Audio formats:** The series aims to explore audio editions or expanded recorded content where funding, rights, and production capacity allow.
- **Ongoing review and dialogue:** Accessibility practices will be reviewed regularly in dialogue with authors, readers, and disabled practitioners, recognising access as a shared and evolving responsibility rather than a fixed checklist.