
Pair of glasses left on US gallery floor mistaken for art



Teenager leaves spectacles on floor of San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art as a prank, leading some to think they were an exhibit.

The feeling of slight dissatisfaction that can come with visiting a modern art gallery is a universal one, best articulated as "I could have done that".

A pair of US teenagers have beaten artists at their own game, pulling off a successful prank at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art earlier this week.

While Kevin Nguyen, 16, and TJ Khayatan, 17, were impressed with much of the art on display on their visit on Saturday, they questioned the artistic merits of some exhibits.

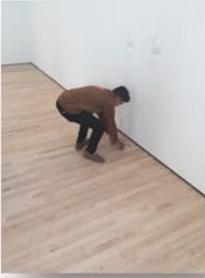
Could they do better?

Khayatan put Nguyen's glasses on the floor below an official-looking piece of paper to see how it would be received by gallery-goers.

The work seemed to hit a chord with the public, striking in its simplicity, yet – probably – a challenging commentary on the limits of individual perception.



Khayatan told BuzzFeed News that people gathered around the exhibit to view it and take photographs. He, in turn, took photographs of them admiring his work and later posted them to Twitter, where they went viral.



Nguyen shared images, too, noting the awkwardness of having to retrieve his glasses before they moved on in the museum.

Nguyen told Guardian Australia he and Khayatan were surprised by the reception.

“We thought it would only get maybe at most a couple hundred retweets, but hey, I have a pair of famous glasses on my face every day now!”

The “social experiment” immortalised in a Twitter moment – a commemoration of art in the digital age, you might say.

Nguyen said he had no intention of selling his now internet-famous eyewear – but he had an alternative idea.

“My glasses are Burberry, so a sponsorship would be nice,” he joked.

Asked how he interpreted the “art piece”, he suggested “the deeper meaning” could be about perception: “Anything in life can be art as long as you provide the insight and help people see what you see.”