

# Easy Read Exhibition Guide



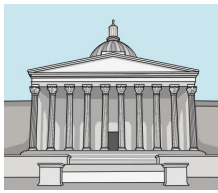
**words  
matter**



## What is in this guide?



Before you visit ..... Page 3



What is the exhibition about? .... Page 6



Who made this exhibition? ..... Page 10



What you will see ..... Page 14



Hope and healing ..... Page 17

## Before your visit



This is an Easy Read guide for the exhibition **Words Matter**.



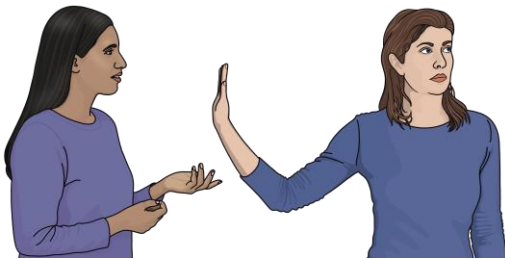
You might find some parts upsetting.



You can read it with someone you trust. Or stop reading at any time.



Some artworks might make you feel sad or angry.



They talk about:

- **Racism** – when people are treated unfairly or seen as less important because of their skin colour, race, or where they come from.



- **Ableism** – when Disabled people are treated unfairly or seen as less important than non-disabled people.



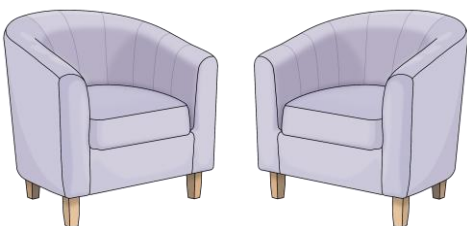
- **Sexism** – when people are treated unfairly because of their sex or gender. This often means thinking men are better than women.



- **Homophobia** – when people are treated unfairly or badly because they are gay, lesbian, or bisexual.

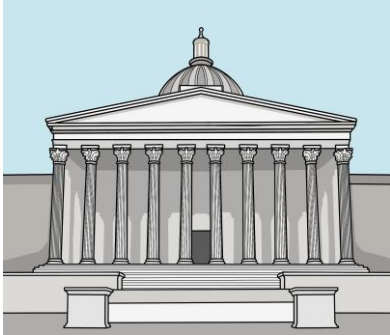


- **Colonialism** – when one country takes over another and its people. The country in power controls the land, money, and resources. It often stops people following their own culture and traditions.

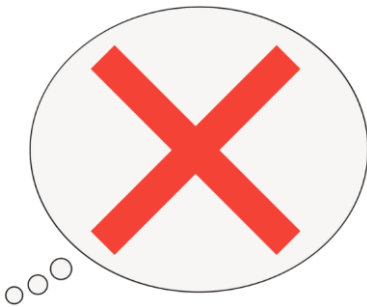


If you feel upset, you can take a break in the quiet seating area.

## What is the exhibition about?



This exhibition looks at the history of **eugenics** at University College London, or **UCL**.



**Eugenics** is a false science.



People who believed in eugenics thought they could make humans 'better' by deciding who should or should not have children.



Eugenics caused a lot of harm, especially to:



- Disabled people



- Black and Brown people



- Working class people



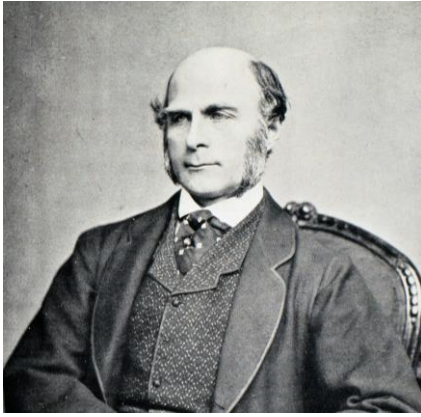
- **Queer** people. **Queer** means people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.



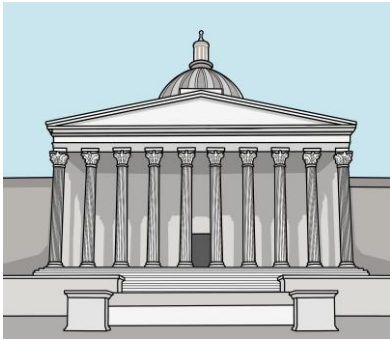
- Anyone seen as different.



These ideas still cause harm today.



The word **eugenics** was invented by **Francis Galton** in 1883.



Galton worked at UCL and gave money to start research in eugenics.

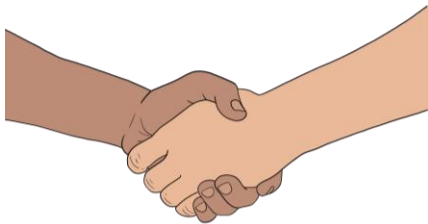


UCL once supported these ideas. But now knows they are wrong.



In 2021, UCL said sorry for its part in promoting eugenics and began work to face this history.

## Who made this exhibition?



UCL worked with 4 arts groups:



- **Brownnton Abbey**  
celebrates Disabled and queer people of colour.



- **CRIPtic Arts** supports Deaf and Disabled artists.



- **The New Black Film Collective** promotes Black-led film and TV.



- **UD Music** supports new talent in Black music.



Together they chose 12 artists who use words, sound, performance, and film.



The artists spent 6 months exploring UCL's history of eugenics.

They asked:

- How can art help us understand the harm caused by eugenics?
- How can we include the voices of people who were hurt or excluded?
- How can we make these stories open to everyone?



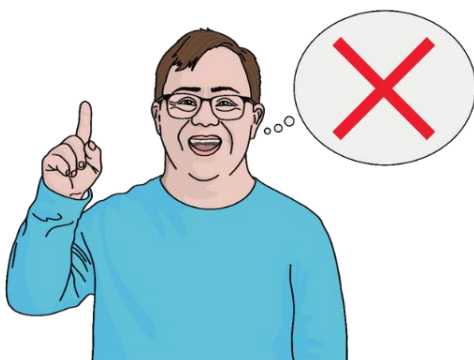


They met UCL staff and saw old photos and objects from eugenics collections. For example, early photos used to sort people into ‘types.’

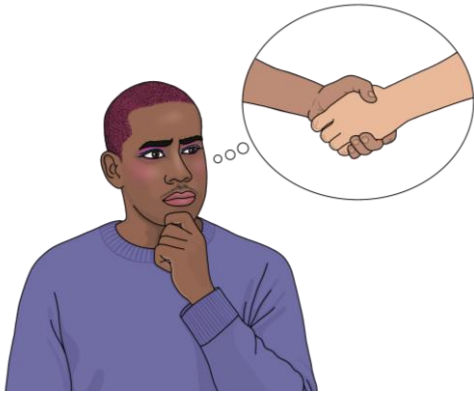


They asked:

- Should we still keep these objects?
- What can we learn from them?
- How can we tell these stories in a better way?



Some artists speak out against these ideas.



Others imagine fairer futures that include everyone.

## What you will see

The exhibition includes:



- **Films**



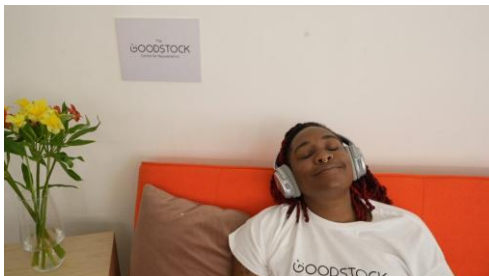
- **Poems**



- **Soundscapes** – art made from sounds to tell a story or show what a place is like.



- **Performances** – art made with the artist's body, voice, or actions.

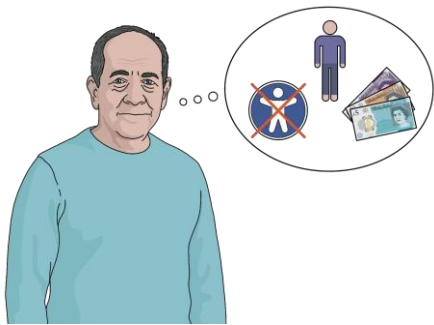


- **Installations** – artworks that fill a space using sound, light, video, or objects.



## The artists invite you to:

- Question old ideas about who and what is 'normal.'



- Think about the things in your life that might make it easier than for other people.



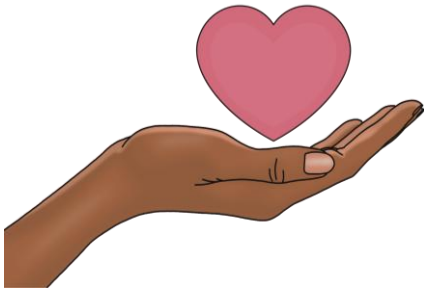
- Notice when you make quick or unfair judgements.



- Enjoy what makes each person special.



- Value people for who they are.



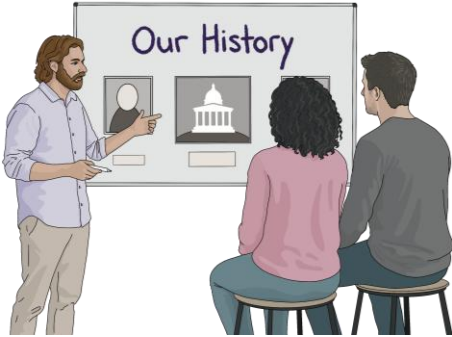
- Think about hope, healing, and the future.

## Hope and healing



This project is not only about the past. It is also about building a hopeful future.

Art can:



- Help people talk about difficult history



- Bring hidden stories into the open

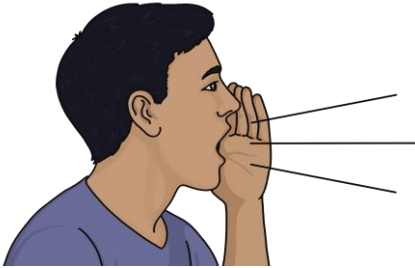


- Show new ways to understand and connect

The exhibition includes joyful works about:



- Pride and identity



- Sound and voice



- Freedom and community



- What it means to heal

As you explore, you might ask yourself:



- What kind of future do I want to see?



- What can I do to help create a fairer world?

## Who made this into Easy Read?



Door in the Wall Arts  
Access CIC made this into  
Easy Read in November  
2025.