

FEEL YOURSELF SENSING

Visual art is a powerful mode of expression and story telling. But for those with impaired vision that experience is not accessible. It is possible, however, to employ different senses to create a similarly powerful experience. This installation utilizes the affective power of touch in the form of textured tiles that are moveable to allow individuals to construct their own "narrative" or otherwise emotive piece.

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1 Enhancing Meditated Interpersonal Communication through Affective Haptics Naoki Kawakami; Susumu Tachi.
2 Nonverbal Communication in Human Interaction by M. L. Knapp.

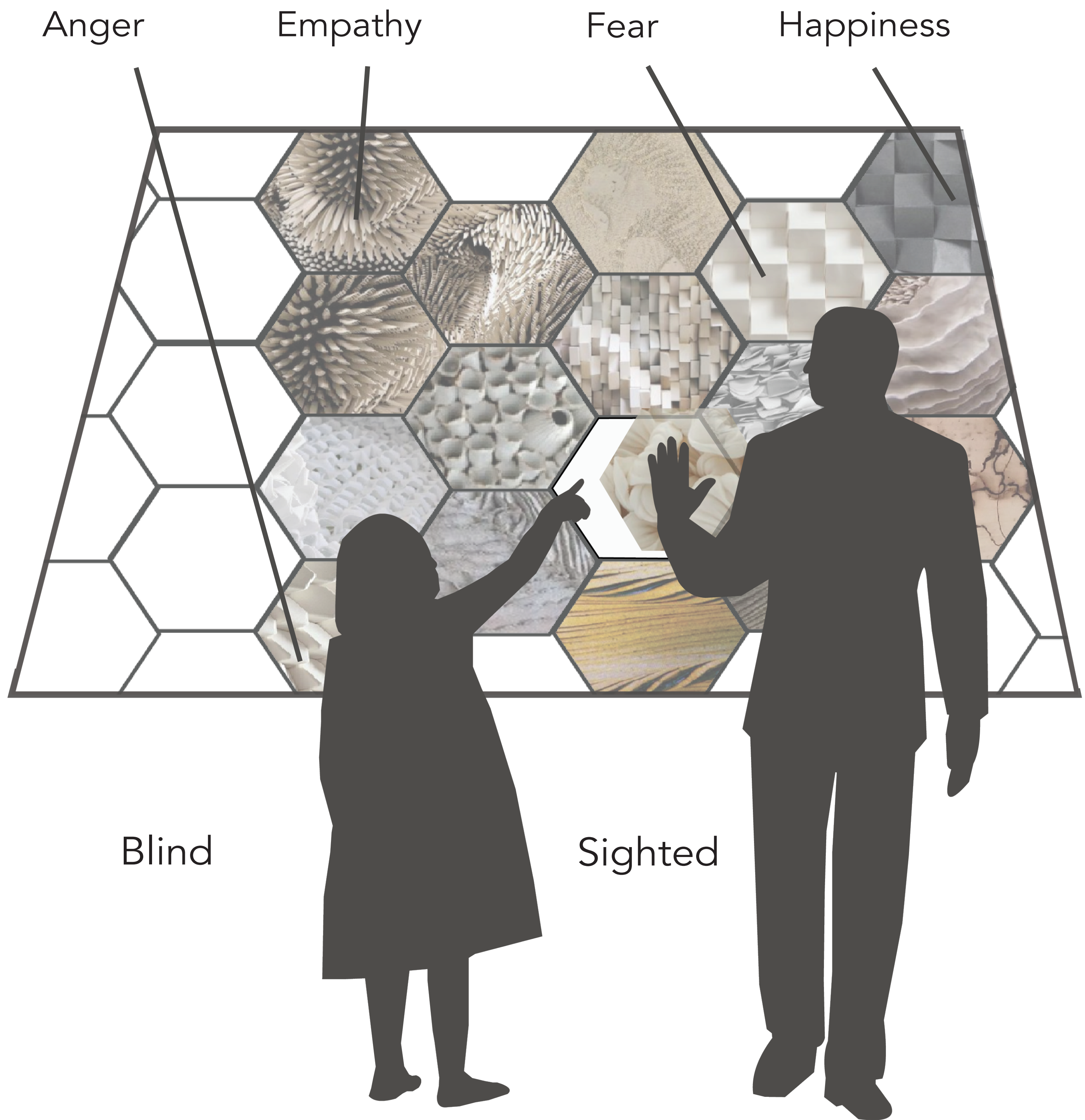
"Affective haptics is an emerging area of research which focuses on the study and design of devices and systems that can elicit, enhance, or influence the emotional state of a human by means of sense of touch."¹

"A haptic object/device might help a blind person or someone with autism understand the emotions of the person they are with."²

An ability to interact with one's space is pivotal in empathizing and communicating for the blind.

When textures are grouped they can communicate feelings offering a new opportunity for communication between the sighted and the blind.²

Happiness and fear = more surface area than sadness or gratitude. Empathy = more "force" than anger or fear.



Anger

Empathy

Fear

Happiness

Blind

Sighted