



## *Burning Bright With Not Much Sight*

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### **Blind Burners - A Race Against Time for Accessibility In The Metaverse**

Blind Burners is launching the world's first VR experiences to experiment in playfully navigating 3D spaces through innovative use of spatial audio.

Their first group art exhibition 'Burning Bright With Not Much Sight' showcases photography, art and performance by Ebony Rose Dark, Marimuthu, Fenbi and Dust Devil, and musical sound cues by Jamie Perera.

'Playa Experience' features music by ambient musician Dave Leo Baker.

The experiences are available for the next two weeks on Microsoft's Altspace platform – ending March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Click [here](#) for Blind Burners Art World (code: ZRA343) and [here](#) for Blind Burners Playa Experience (Code: ASU435).

On March 10th, Microsoft will sunset the Altspace product to focus on its business-oriented Mesh platform. Therefore, Blind Burners is now in a race against time to evaluate alternative VR platforms to host their vision of inclusive VR.

The group is ramping up its onboarding activity, focused on blind and low vision users. Blind people face significant barriers when trying to log into most VR software, create avatars or find events, let alone create their own world. Platform holders assume VR is a visual medium, and so do not cater for blind people, despite the importance of VR technologies to the future of education, work and social lives. Equally, many people in blind and low vision communities assume that their needs will be ignored. Blind Burners exists to address this market failure, and to catalyse change across the digital creative industries, doing so through traditional Burning Man tactics of Art, Innovation and Play.

## **About The Experiences**

**'Art World'** includes photography and video performances by blind artists Marimuthu and Ebony Rose Dark, as well as hard-of-hearing artist Fenbi. All artworks are audio described in the words and voices of the artists. Visitors navigate by following directional prompts and ambient music inspired by 90s Ibiza electronica.

**'Playa Experience'** is an evocation of one day at Burning Man, from trying to leave camp, to visiting a 'Temple of Accessibility', and tracking down the "must see" art piece that dominates half the playa.

**A Galactic Sound Trail** featuring no visual assets, and music by blind musician Dave Leo Baker. Paying homage to [Studio Drift](#)'s drone shows, Blind Burners have taken over half of the Black Rock Desert with a piece of monumental sound art. Put on your headphones, follow your instincts and spatialised sound to navigate this unique sound trail. Cross the line, and enter the zone. Just be careful of those hot springs! Inspired by the artists who place intricately detailed fragments of tactile worlds to explore out there in deep playa. How can we conjure that immersive world of possibilities and serendipity through sound? The journey culminates in a visit to the Sun, whose energy is represented by an interactive 3D gong bath.

Initially motivated to poke fun at the 'radically inclusive' Silicon Valley-Burning Man tech nexus, 'Blind Burners Playa Experience' sees the group move confidently into shaping their own world, giving sighted and non-sighted people an opportunity to take a deep dive together into the possibilities of sound.

## **Contact**

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