Ingrid Pollard: Carbon Slowly Turning Belonging

Belonging is a strong theme that runs throughout Ingrid Pollard's work. Using different techniques to communicate her ideas, Pollard looks at and questions issues of race, sexuality, identity and what it means to be British.

What does belonging mean to you?

People have travelled to and from Britain for hundreds of years. This is called migration.

- Belonging: to feel accepted and included without needing to change yourself.

Belonging in Britain – Father's Hands is a film portrait of Pollard’s parents' journey from Guyana to the UK during the 1950s. It explores the meaning of family and home.

In the film a woman says she felt like a “stranger in a strange land”.

How would you feel to move to a new country?

Happy  Scared  Anxious  Excited  Unknown  Curious  Confused  Strange

What object would you take with you to remind you of home?

Sculpture  Photo  Plant

Throughout history, we have used paintings and photography to represent certain moments in time. What would you document today to show people in the future?
People Dem Collective is a community organisation based in Margate. Founded by members of the Black, Brown and Diaspora communities (People of cultural heritage other than the place they were born). The collective was born out of a lived experience of lack of space, engagement and inclusion for these communities and a desire to encourage healing and transformation.

The Lived Experience Crew is an advisory board (ship-steering-go-to-crew) within People Dem Collective. We are a real mixed bag, and have representation across generations, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class, education, profession, neurodiversity, and physical ability.

The Selection:

As a collective we delved deep into what belonging meant to us, how it made us feel, how it showed up in our respective lives, and quickly discovered it was vast and complicated. We realised no aspects of our lives were untouched by its effects.

Belonging is a multi-faceted, moving, living, breathing concept. It spans beauty, pain, love and rejection, and everything in between.

We hope you enjoy our selection, and that it provokes you to think about your own sense of belonging, and that of the people you meet but do not know.

Much love

People Dem Collective - Lived Experience Crew
Ingrid Pollard: Carbon Slowly Turning

Introduction

Ingrid Pollard is a British artist who makes artwork using lots of different techniques such as photography, film and sculpture.

This exhibition shows a collection of artworks Pollard has made throughout her career, from the 1980s to the present day.

She is one of the four nominees for the 2022 Turner Prize, an art prize for British artists who have put on an exceptional exhibition in the last year.

As an art critic I think ....

Look at the exhibition as an art critic (someone who gives their opinion about art). Use the prompts in the resources to help you form your own ideas about the different artworks on display.

SEE

What things do you notice? Try looking at the same artwork from different angles.

THINK

What are you thinking about as you look at the artwork?

WONDER

What does the artwork make you wonder?

Create your own routes around the exhibition. Follow your own way.

Which artworks are you drawn to?
How many different artforms can you spot as you go around the exhibition?

Pollard was born in Guyana in South America and moved to England when she was four years old. Her artwork often questions what it means to be British and explores this through these themes:

- **Identity** - A collective of people, objects or customs that you belong to.
- **Race** - A categorization of people who share the same physical or social qualities.
- **Migration** - Movement of people from one place to another.
- **Landscapes** - Defining an area based on certain aesthetics (e.g. mountains, sea).

Lots of her work involves landscapes, including the coast. Pollard is interested in Britain’s sea border as a place for arriving and leaving and the reasons for this.

What are some of the reasons someone might move from a different country? Is it always their choice?
Ingrid Pollard uses portrait and landscape photography to ask questions about the relationships we have with each other and the natural world.

Pollard researches and explores the English countryside, often meeting people who live and work there, to uncover hidden stories and histories.

Pollard created *The Cost of The English Landscape* by combining original photographs and text with postcards and walkers’ maps of the Lake District, to form a collage piece.

*If you look closely, you’ll find warning signs from a nearby nuclear power station. Does this change how you feel about the places in these photographs?*

**Collage:** when you stick multiple materials, images and text together to form one artwork.

How many collages can you spot in the exhibition?

### Prompts

**Be a thinker.** What landscapes do you feel most comfortable in and why?

Mountains  
Coast  
City  
Countryside

**Be an observer.** Find an artwork and look at it closely. What sounds might the landscape make?

**Be a maker.** Collage is a good way to show contrasting ideas and thoughts. Can you create your own with materials you find today?
Ingrid Pollard experiments with scale to help us look at things differently. As you move through the gallery, notice the different heights and sizes of the artworks.

Slow down, and examine a photograph for 3 minutes. Does it look any different?

What catches your attention and why?

Can you find the Seaside Series?

Pollard has used seaside souvenirs, self portraiture and text to create photo collages. When making these artworks, the artist was thinking about history of the seaside; looking at tourism and migration.

What souvenirs do you find at the seaside?

What do you think souvenirs are for?

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Be an explorer, borrow a microscope from The Hinge and examine artworks and objects in the gallery.

Can you find the series of photographs ‘Landscape Trauma’?

What do the images look like to you?

Do they change if you look at them up close or far away?

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