

Tendai's Tour

Book & Exhibition Installation



Exhibition installation



Tendai's Tour book page

Tendai's Tour is a 16-year-old boy's walk from school to his house, and was part of a larger series of tours that I took with residents in Tower Hamlets and Hackney, East London. This is a small book, where images and the transcription of his tour are intertwined. Above, right, you can see a page from that book.

As exhibited, it has been shown as the book accompanied with a recording of Tendai's voice as he narrated our tour through his neighborhood, as above, left. Tendai's recorded voice guides one through this intimate book of still images, in such a way that the viewer plays the role of community confidante. This project allows you to understand this boy's movement through his world, as guided by the landmarks we each make to define and demarcate our individual communities.

This is where she used to dress me up as Michael Jackson. She was, like, my child minder. She used to pick me up from nursery. I can't remember exactly which house she used to live at. She doesn't live there no more, she lives in another place. And I remember she used to...It was one of these balconies, I think, or them balconies there. She used to dress me up like Michael Jackson and used to have these big Elvis Presley-type sunglasses you know those ones, and I used to have a big afro, so she used to um, put gel in it, so it would go all floppy. I always remember the weird things about my childhood. I remember coming out here with my mum, and showing my mum my muscles when I was about, like four, and obviously, I was just weak. Probably watching He-Man or something. I remember coming out and saying, every day I used to ask her if my muscles had grown any, any more than from the day before. I think it was that block of flats. I really do recognize just the opening.

I find it really weird, the way that when I was younger, when I was about, when I was in nursery, I remember nursery quite well, when I was in nursery, and like, cause it was in the same school as the primary school, and at playtime you could like see all the primary school people playing about cause ours was just a bit cut off from theirs, so we could actually play with them. There was one person who used to be child-minded by the same person and I used to look up to her so much, I used to think she was like the greatest person in the world, cause she was like, a big girl.