

SANDRA BREWSTER BLUR, 18, 2017



Sandra Brewster. *Blur 18*, 2017. Photo-based gel transfer on archival paper, Overall: 101.6 × 88.9 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Georgia Scherman Projects.
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GUIDED OBSERVATION

ELEMENTARY

- Look closely at this image and describe what you see?
- If you could ask the artist five questions, what would they be?
- Why do you think the photographs are blurry?

SECONDARY

- What do you find intriguing about this work? Why?
- Consider the meaning of “belonging.” What does belonging and/or home mean to you?
- If you were going to photograph five people in your community, who would you choose, and why?



CONTEXT

In her *Blur* series, Sandra Brewster evokes the layered nature of identity. The artist directs her subjects to move while she takes their picture. Then, using a gel medium, she transfers her image to a new surface, capturing changes in the creases and tears and empty spaces where the ink does not adhere. These layered works capture the experience of existing in a state that defies easy categorization. They convey a sense of motion in both time and space, suggesting the way in which stories pass down from generation to generation, and hinting at the possibility of forging new relationships among different people and cultures.

BIOGRAPHY

Sandra Brewster is a Canadian visual artist based in Toronto whose work has been exhibited nationally and abroad. Through her community-based practice, she engages with themes including identity, representation, and memory, centering a Black presence located in Canada. The daughter of Guyanese-born parents, she is especially attuned to the experiences of people of Caribbean heritage and their ongoing relationships with back home.

CREATIVE RESPONSE

- Take a close look at Brewster’s photograph and write a creative response to express how the artwork makes you feel.

Here is one example: this poem by I.M.F. was written in response to Brewster's work, and was performed at the AGO.

LITTLE BLACK GIRL

by I.M.F.

They tell you to straighten your hair
Cause it's easier to do
They tell you how to live
But I got news for you
They don't know how to work with you
They're just so damn confused
They tell you to conform to
What they're used to

Little Black girl don't listen to them
You know you're beautiful, you are a gem

These western standards we don't fit into them
So stand out little Black girl little Black girl

Your hair is beautiful it is not a mess
Look at you're fro and watch them obsess

Look at your beauty and all your melanin
And never change yourself, little Black girl little Black girl

Don't let them put you in a box
Be whatever, you rock

You strong, courageous and brave
You strong, courageous and brave

Little Black girl, little Black girl, little Black girl

I.M.F.

My name is Freda Bizimana and my artist name is I.M.F which stands for "In my Feelings." I am a new artist who is ready to embark on this musical journey. I am a singer/ songwriter and I've been singing since I was a child. Music has been my passion and I've always had a love for performing. For the longest time music was just a hobby but in the recent years it has become my therapy. I'm an open book who's forever in my feelings and I am ready to share my work. I performed this piece at the Art Gallery of Ontario.



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