

To place this exhibition in context of working with our school communities:

According to Ofsted, 'fundamental British Values' are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and respect and tolerance for people of different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith. Schools have an obligation to teach, explore and respond to these values, ones that, arguably, should be thought of as universal and not exclusively 'British'.

We know that a notion of 'Britishness' (although not necessarily Ofsted's) along with a discussion around what does, and does not, define it, who can influence it and how it has changed across recent history and how it might change in the future formed a large part of the Brexit debate during the referendum.

A report published in December 2016, confirmed that matters of identity, were more strongly associated with the Leave vote. Amongst other things, those who said that immigration had been negative for Britain, or that the EU had undermined Britain's independence or sense of identity were more likely to vote leave. (Kirby Swales Report)

*Disappearance at Sea*, directly explores the migrant crisis and, as all contemporary art should do, provides a lens through which to view the world, exploring individual artist issues or discontents and making them shared, and so, capable of redress or action. This exhibition is rich source material for artists, galleries and teachers to be civically powerful and offer an opportunity to discuss, debate and challenge these values of British identity that have been arguably more freely shared post-Brexit.

Working alongside Amnesty International, BALTIC will deliver a number of training opportunities and resources for gallery staff and teachers using this exhibition as a starting point for topical, but challenging, awareness, discussion and response for children and young people.

A free resource and CPD for teachers will use the artwork here as catalyst for encouraging awareness and understanding of the migrant crisis and immigration as a wider issue. How do teachers talk about this, encourage children to display empathy and tolerance with informed knowledge and understanding? How do they relate it back to their own communities and experiences and provide a tangible and relevant opportunity for debate in their classroom that children can use to challenge stereotypes and ill-thought out opinion in the wider world?

Free workshops for schools from reception through to post 16 students will introduce the exhibition and focus on specific artwork and their themes. Workshops will be lively and interactive and introduce participants to human rights and develop knowledge and understanding of democracy, legal and human rights and responsibilities, systems of justice, and skills in communication and working with others. They will explore what being a refugee, an asylum seeker and a migrant means, reflect and empathise with the experience of refugees and offer opportunities to recognise how our children can act in solidarity with

other children across the world. Workshops will explore stories and narratives relating to identity, beliefs and values; exploring how they are constructed, how they might change for a displaced person and why they are even more important in post-Brexit Britain.

As Brexit negotiations, strategies and policies develop and as our opinions as a society flux and change, so do our school communities, in physical diversity, cultural identity and moral association.

BALTIC believes that art, craft and design education has an opportunity to be a critical lens; to use visual, artist-made stimulus to reflect and discuss the changing nature of society, the tolerances we should exhibit, the democracy we are part of and the individual liberties we are afforded, by birth by, or through circumstance of, being British.

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