|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Artist | Sonia Boyce |
| Title | She ain’t Holding them up, she’s Holding on: Some English Rose |
| Date | 1986 |
| Medium | Crayon, chalk, black pastel and ink on paper |
| Scale | 218cm x 99cm |
| Scope | Identities in 2D |
| Patron |  |
| Location |  |
| Function |  |

Historical context/subject of work:

* The work depicts a young girl who is holding up her family above her.
* This work was done in a time where black artists were just starting to gain some prominence enabling them to group together and create a movement for change.

Critical text quote:

“In those early works I was always the central figure and I was addressing the audience, so the performative element has always been there in my work.”

How does this example fit the scope of work:

It represents Black identity and how Black people felt living in Britain at the time.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | |
| Composition | A main central female figure with four more smaller figures placed above and behind her, making the central figure the main subject. |
| Colour or texture | The use of harsher materials comparative to paint creates a rougher texture over the work that has been layered up more over the figures |
| Light & tone | Shadows are played with to highlight specific sections like her arms being a main element |
| Space & depth or relief | A flat image with little depth done by using a background behind the figures |
| Line or brushwork | Harsh pastels and crayons are used to create thick strong lines and outlines |

Cultural/social factors:

* This work was created as part of the up and coming British black arts movement where a community was created for change to give equality to black artists.

Political factors:

* The artists fight for political change to improve the lives of black people in Britain

Artist’s involvement:

* Boyce created the work after visiting the first national conference of Black artists in 1982 which inspired her due to discovering a welcoming community of black artists in a similar position to her, distancing her from the isolation and disconnection she previously felt.