

# Hopes and Fears for Art

Jackie McManus

# Widening Participation

- Key policy discourse in UK and internationally
- Underpinned by the assumptions and values of neo-liberalism
- Foregrounds national economic competitiveness and globalisation
- Largely driven by utilitarian and economic imperatives and concerns
- Adopts a meritocratic view, concerned with individual aspirations.
- Burke and McManus (2009)

# Deficit Model

- Promotes a deficit model constructing certain class and ethnic groups as lacking aspiration for themselves, and their children (Burke, 2006)
- Opening access led to anxiety about lowering standards, draining resources (Archer, 2003) and generally 'polluting' the academy. (Morley, 2003).

# Non-participation

- Complicated and multi-layered (Gorard, 2006)
- Class - main determinant of 'Who goes where to do what in higher education' (Reay, 2005)
- Self de-selection 'not for people like me' (Bourdieu, 1984)



# Choice and information

- Working class students have less access to 'hot' and 'cold' knowledge and advice than their middle class counterparts (Ball and Vincent, 1998)
- That application to art and design is complicated and requires a good portfolio (McManus, 2006)
- Institutional practice of mystery (Lillis, 2001, cited in McManus, 2006)

# Admissions

- Key discourse in WP policy
- Research 'Every Word starts with 'dis'  
'(McManus, 2009) and 'Art for a Few' (Burke  
and McManus, 2009, 2011)

# Theoretical Framework

- Habitus: a set of socialised dispositions which unconsciously incline people people to act or react in certain ways in certain social spaces (fields) (Bourdieu, 1993).
- A form of knowledge, an internalised code or a cognitive acquisition which equips the social agent with empathy towards, appreciation for or competence in deciphering cultural relations and cultural artefacts' (Bourdieu, 1993:7)
- Feminist concepts of power and subjectivity

- 'Polarising discourses' (Williams, 1997) 'in which students are constructed as normal or abnormal, acceptable or unacceptable' (Burke, 2002:85)
- Notion of the ideal student and the 'other' (Burke and McManus, 2009)

# Potential and Ability

- New IQism
- Substitute term 'ability' (Gillborn, 2008)
- 'Creativity' in art and design academy

# Influenced by hip hop

- Interviewer: What influences your work?
- Nina: I'm influenced by hip-hop
- Interviewer: hip-hop or the history of hip-hop?
- Nina: The history of hip-hop

Black and migrant urban culture - styles, fashions, music, arts, cultural productions - are in so many places a driving force, among other factors, in the so called 'Renaissance' of culture in metropolitan areas - New York, London, Paris, Tokyo etc. Notions of urban 'cool' and 'hipness' as in the Jazz age are being redefined around the global traffic in Black culture fuelled by the phenomenal rise of hip hop and it's related industries. Yet at the same time, Black communities in these same cities are living in on-going conditions of squalor, extreme poverty and social and economic marginalisation. Goodwin, 2009 cited in Burke and McManus, 2009:43).

- Admissions practices privilege the habitus and cultural and linguistic capital of those who tend to come from white, middle class backgrounds



The function which Plato attributes to the waters of forgetfulness falls, in our societies, on the University which in its impartiality, through pretending to recognise students as equal in rights and duties, divided only by inequalities of gifts and merits, in fact confers on individuals degrees according to their cultural heritage and therefore according to their social status.  
Bourdieu (1993:235).



# Portfolio Advice Day

Tate Britain  
Tutor leading workshop





# PAD

Tutor giving portfolio advice











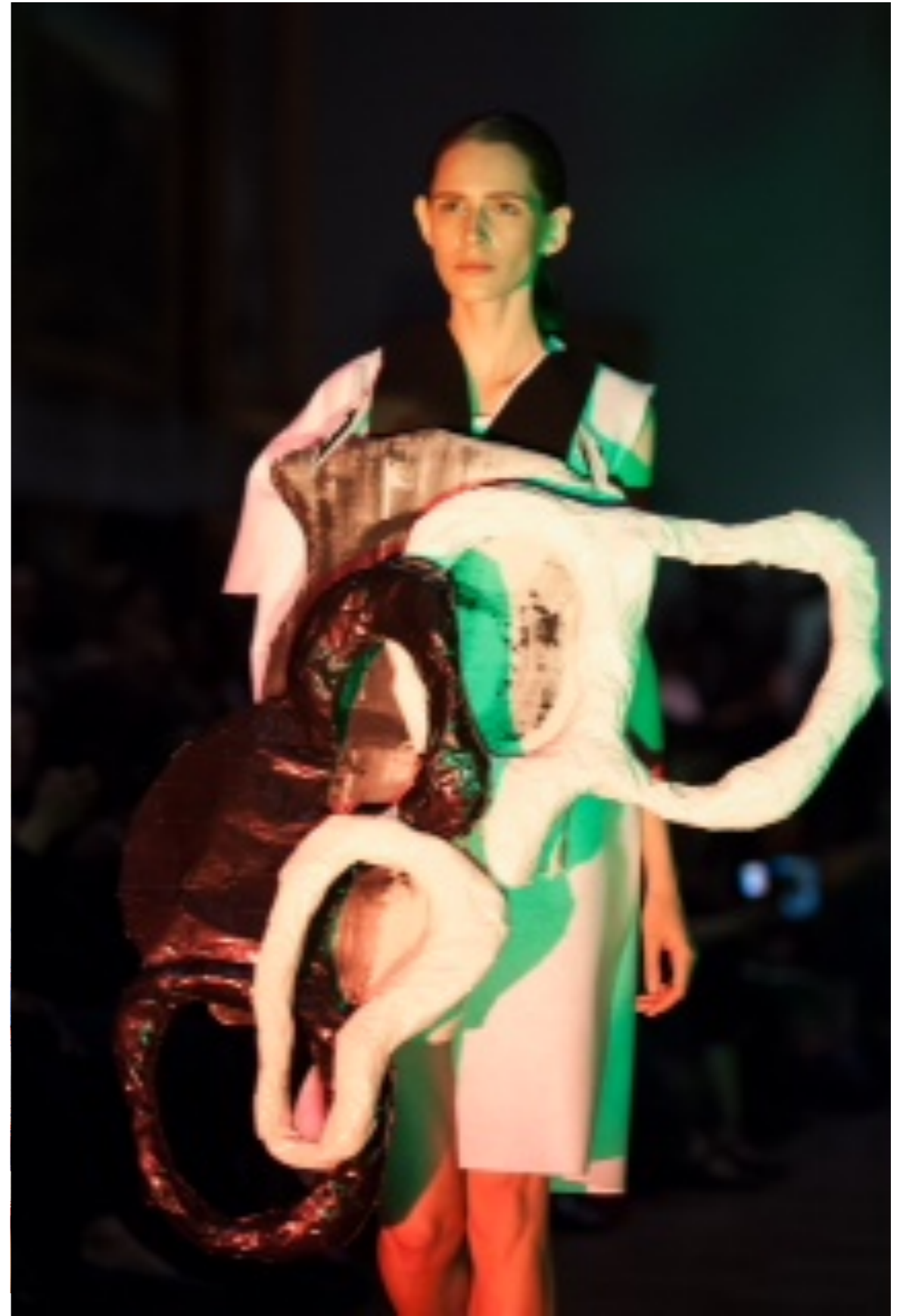


# Construct Fashion Show Late at Tate

Tate June 2014



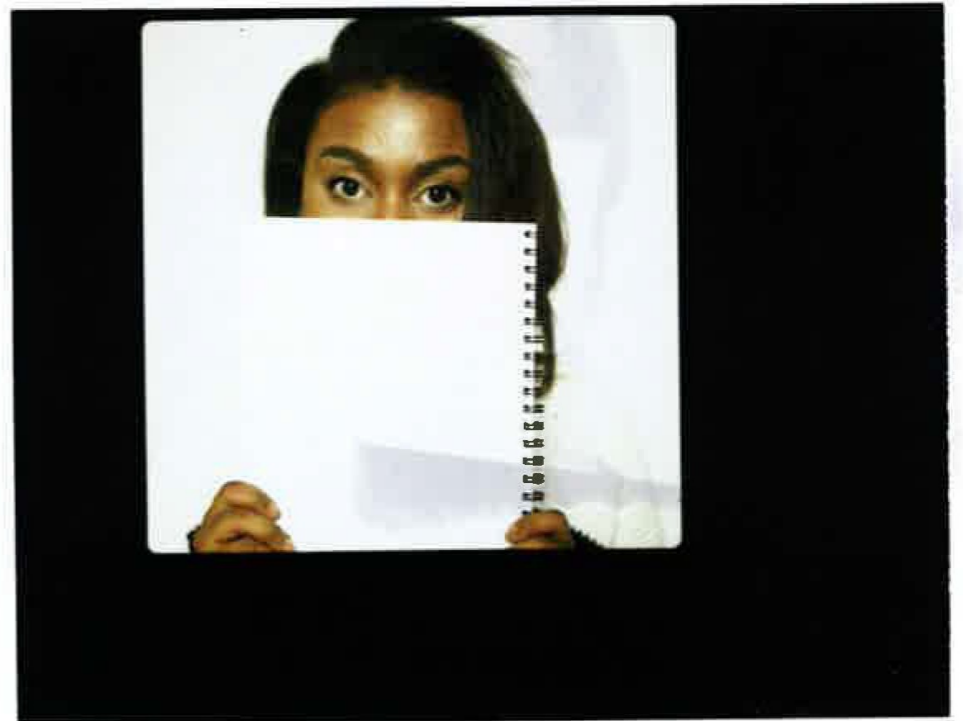












# HE 2015

- Government funding only for STEM subjects
- £9,000 fees
- Stratification of institutions and subjects by class, 'race' and gender
- Marketisation of Higher Education

David Bowie is...One of  
Us