

Elliott Flanagan

A piece of something bigger

Video, colour and sound (7 min)

2018

A piece of something bigger explores contemporary masculinity through the prism of package holiday culture. Flanagan looks at the ideas entrenched in the male gender stereotype that saturated his youth as a way of disentangling himself. Misunderstood and under pressure to conform and perform, he studies a tension from his own experience between one's own consciousness and social expectation. The traditional form of masculinity and its lack of complexity is subverted, as the viewer is party to glimpses of real honesty in the chaos. The film discusses the camaraderie that exists in relationships between men and the value of the communal experience therein.



Music by William Brown and Ashley Snook

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Where in the North are you based ?

I am from Burnley and based between my hometown and Manchester where I work. When I am away, the solid bond to the North and my birthplace deepens with time spent away and the yearning to return to my town grows even greater. It is a feeling of perpetual homesickness and homecoming, forever living in this state.

What does living in the North mean to you ?

I have lived in the North all my life. The region has birthed and raised me. My lifetime's experience that has shaped me has been predominantly set here. I interpret everything in the world around me as a result of where I am from. The universal truths that I share with the rest of humankind mine have their origins in the North.

What inspires you ?

My hometown and where I am from is an inspiration, a common theme in my practice and totally central to my work. In response to the usual tropes and clichés that reoccur in the media, I have re-imagined ideas about the North. Part reverence and reinvention, I have portrayed a positive representation aligning modern Northern identity and culture with more progressive thinking.