

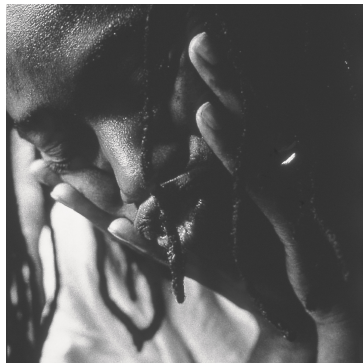
Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation 21 May-9 August 2025

Sonia Boyce

They're Almost Like Twins

1995/2025

Photo Print



Sonia Boyce was one of the first artists commissioned by Beaconsfield. In 1995, Boyce was invited to make a work for the outer gallery wall facing the Southwestern railway line. Her large-scale double photograph 'They're Almost Like Twins' on vinyl engaged with thousands of rail passengers as part of an exploration of various modes of art exhibition through home-based installations, site-specific writing and interlocking displays inside Beaconsfield's main space (*Cottage Industry* Kate Bush, Mikey Cuddihy, Siobhan Davies, Elsie Mitchell, Clare Palmier, Naomi Siderfin, 4 November-3 December 1995). The all-female show reflected on the responses of contemporary women artists to professional and domestic constraints and available spaces of exhibition thirty years ago. Marking this historic experiment, Boyce has chosen to reprint 'They're Almost Like Twins' on a smaller, indoor scale for *Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation*.

Dame Sonia Dawn Boyce is a British Afro-Caribbean artist and educator who lives and works in London and is a Professor of Black Art and Design at University of the Arts London. Boyce's research interests explore art as a social practice and the critical and contextual debates that arise from this area of study. Boyce has been closely collaborating with other artists since 1990 with a focus on collaborative work, frequently involving improvisation and unplanned performative actions on the part of her collaborators. Boyce's work involves a variety of media, such as drawing, print, photography, video, and sound.

In March 2016, Boyce was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts in London, becoming the first black female Royal Academician since the academy's founding in 1768. In February 2020, Boyce was selected by the British Council to represent Britain at the Venice Biennale 2022, the first black woman to do so. In April 2022, Boyce won the Venice Biennale's top Golden Lion prize with her work *Feeling Her Way*.

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