Made in Jamaica
Maureen Salmon
Guest Curator

My story

I was born and had my formative education in the newly independent Jamaica in a culture of optimism. The Jamaica national Pledge was part of the school curriculum.

‘Before God and All mankind I pledge the love and loyalty of my heart. The wisdom and courage of my mind. The strength and vigour of my body in the service of my fellow citizens.

I promise to stand up for justice, Brotherhood and Peace, to work diligently and creatively. To think generously and honestly, so that, Jamaica may, under God, enjoy beauty, fellowship and prosperity, and play her part in advancing the welfare of the whole human race.

In spite of its colonial past, Jamaica on gaining independence was thinking of its place in the world in advancing the welfare of the whole human race. Today, Jamaica one of the most recognisable brands through its culture and peoples’ creativity.

The Pledge has influenced my philosophy. It is the spirit of who I am, being of African Caribbean decent, sensibilities woven into European cultures to create my personal global image, brand that is evolving constantly.

I arrived in England on 14 February 1972. Among my most treasured belongings was my school report which guaranteed me a place in a top stream class at Aylestone High School in north west London. Although, I achieve a good academic education, I was acutely aware that this was not enough, the world beyond Aylestone was different. I created my own five year manifesto! I operate in an international arena.


This was update in my article ‘The Dance of Leadership’ published in ‘Black Women in Dance: Stepping of the Barriers’ 2016. A personal perspective, based on a thirty-year journey, captured through different roles in dance, cultural sector and wider society.

I am currently a Senior Lecturer in the Design School at London College of Communication (LCC) and a researcher on the Creative Lenses Project. I also teach on the MA Arts and Cultural Enterprise at Central Saint Martins and EMBBA (Fashion) at London College of Fashion (LCF).

I am the founder director of Freshwaters Consultancy which offers fresh thinking, new ideas, perspectives and approaches to helping individuals and organisations create sustainable futures. I design, develop and deliver programmes in leadership, entrepreneurship, professional practice and strategic development.

freshwatersconsultancy.co.uk


This display is the first stage of my practice-led research project. It is a collection of artefacts, books and articles marking significant tipping points in my career and leadership practice that illuminates why we need a ‘decolonising of the curriculum’. The exhibition is in line with one of the LCC Design School’s manifesto pledges: ‘We believe in the value of interrogating the past to shape our future.’

It demonstrates how I have exercised personal and position power as a student and throughout my career to help achieve greater social, economic equality and prosperity in society. I have also shared some of the people and books that have influenced me.

I hope these stories inspire collective thinking, emotional responsibility and actions to create different futures. There is no quick fix, culture change requires mindset shift and a deeper understanding of individual personal power to effect change.

Decolonising the curriculum is a journey, not a destination that requires transformative educational leadership strong in emotional capital. In the words of the late South African President Nelson Mandela, ‘Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world.’ I am a visiting professor at Madiba Leadership Institute, ISM Group Senegal.

As we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Windrush, let us envisage and create the future for the next 70 years and beyond!

For my mother, Pearl Salmon, my late father Patrick Salmon, and the Windrush generations. The future, Charlie Battaglia, my nephew.

Maureen Salmon
15 October 2018.