



A Teachers Resource

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# Catalogue



# The Deliverance and The Patience commissioned by Peer.

**Mike Nelson**

Installation view, photography by Francesco Allegretto © Peer



## Biography

Mike Nelson was born in 1967. He studied at Reading University and Chelsea College of Art & Design. Nelson was short listed for the Turner Prize in 2001 and has recently exhibited in Sydney, San Francisco and Budapest. Mike Nelson is represented by Matt's Gallery, London.

## The Work

The Deliverance and The Patience is a large scale installation that was constructed in an old brewery for the 2001 Venice Biennale. The exhibition consists of a series of rooms that the visitor can walk through. The rooms are full of memorabilia and everyday objects, like furniture and ornaments. These objects can be used to make up a story about the people or person who may have inhabited these places. The name of the art work is The Deliverance and The Patience. These were the names of two ships that took slaves from an island in Bermuda to the Virginia plantations in 1609. Mike Nelson takes extracts from novels and stories from history as inspiration for his work, in this piece he also refers to a book by the author William Burroughs

This photograph shows one room from the installation and was used in the Catalogue exhibition.

## References

[www.peeruk.org/projects/nelson1.html](http://www.peeruk.org/projects/nelson1.html)

provides full description of the art work and the ideas behind it.

- Through the Keyhole. BBC 2. A TV programme that uses the objects in someones house as clues to the person who lives there.

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installation views photography by Francesco Allegretto and Kieren Beattie.  
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These photographs are telling us a story about the person who may have lived in them. Catalogues tell us stories about the way that we could live in our own homes if we choose to buy the products that are shown in them.

These images show other rooms from the installation The Deliverance and The Patience. They all have very different characters. The first looks like a scene from a bar, there are posters on the wall, there is a suitcase on the floor and what looks like a coat draped over a bar stool. This suggests someone has just popped out for the moment. The second image has a model ship and sea shell placed on the bar. What you first think is a mirror could also be a window. Through this 'window' you can see richly coloured paintings lit as though they were hung in an old art gallery. The smaller two seem empty. What is the story here?

## Activity

We have provided these images on the following pages at A4.

### Discussion

Give the students a copy of the photographs and ask them to describe who might have been in these rooms. You can help them by asking the following questions:

- List the objects they see.
- Who might have collected these things
- Why did they collect these things.

### Activity

- Ask them to pick a novel they are familiar with.
- Ask them to choose a character from their novel.
- Ask them to draw, collage, make a model or paint etc. a picture of a room that the person they are thinking of would live in.
- Ask their peers to guess/describe who their chosen character is.

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installation view, photography by Francesco Allegretto © Peer



- List the objects you see.
- Who might have collected these things?
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- List the objects you see.
- Who might have collected these things?
- Why did they collect these things?
- This room appear empty, what is the story here?
- What rooms would you enter if you went through the doors?

installation view, photography by Kierren Beattie © Peer



# The Deliverance and the Patience commissioned by Peer Mike Nelson

- List the objects you see.
- Who might have collected these things?
- Why did they collect these things?
- This room appears derelict. What could have happened here?

Installation view, photography by Keren Beattie © Peer

