

We have everything we need

By Selina Nwulu

We have each become a small world,
spinning from one collision to another.
We scrub cities off our skins and watch
its roads leave tracks in the bath.

Damp rises, rent rises, high-rises.
Look how the cities silhouettes grow
new forests for us. What new constellation
of stars guides us home?

We are tower block lights flickers
come evening, crammed into shoe boxes,
basements, living room-come-bedrooms.
Stretch out our feet to turn the TV on.

We reach for our phones, our faces made radiant¹
by its birdsong. Someone somewhere is mining²
for the next iPhone but we can't be sure,
we are compassion in 280 characters.

We are lying lonely next to each other
between paper thin walls. We know
our neighbours' shouts and moans,
an echo chamber of coughs and scrapes.

Rent rises, heat rises, sea rises.
Put the kettle on, scald³ dinner in microwaves.
Droughts⁴ happening somewhere, but we can't be sure,
Tesco⁵ fluorescence - open 24 hours

I wonder what will this all look like in 50 years' time.
How will our cities exhale then?
How will we wear our loss?
How will we sleep when we cannot turn off the alarm?

¹ strahlend

² abbauen

³ verbrühen

⁴ Dürren

⁵ Supermarket im Stadtzentrum

Biography: Selina Nwulu

Selina Nwulu is a writer of Nigerian heritage. Her poetry and essays have been translated into a number of languages and widely featured in a variety of journals, short films and anthologies, including the critically acclaimed anthology *New Daughters of Africa*.

Her first chapbook collection, *The Secrets I Let Slip* was published in 2015 by Burning Eye Books and is a Poetry Book Society recommendation. She was Young Poet Laureate for London 2015-6, an award that showcases literary talent across the capital, and was shortlisted for the Brunel International African Poetry Prize 2019.

She is also a 2021 Arts Award Finalist for Environmental Writing. Her debut full length collection, *A Little Resurrection*, also a Poetry Book Society recommendation, was published with Bloomsbury in 2022 and is an Irish Times book of the year.



Selina Nwulu © Paul Heartfield

Denkanstöße für dein Gedicht:

- Was sind deine Antworten auf die Fragen am Ende des Gedichts?
- In einer Welt, in der Schnelligkeit und sofortige Ergebnisse immer häufiger erwartet werden: Wie erreicht man Zufriedenheit?
- Hast du Theorien für die Zukunft?

**Schlüsselthemen**

- Unsere Beziehung zu der Welt um uns herum
- Sinn des Lebens
- Communities, das Gefühl von Heimat und das Leben in der Stadt
- Kollektivismus und Individualismus
- Technologie