

**wellcome  
collection**

**Digital journalism  
to inspire social change in the  
museum**

**January 2019**

Digital journalism and  
arts/heritage organisations are  
usually two very separate things.

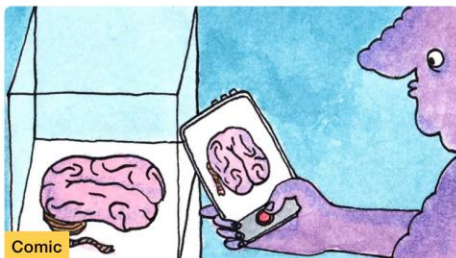
**Wellcome Collection has taken a journalistic approach to its digital content.**

**This content is part of the museum experience itself. It IS the museum, rather than ABOUT the museum.**

That means the editorial content we produce should deliver a Wellcome Collection experience—one of being challenged to think and feel differently about health by considering its social and cultural contexts.

## Articles

Our words and pictures explore the connections between science, medicine, life and art. Dive into one no matter where in the world you are.



Comic

### Art

Good or bad, high or low, art has been around as long as human beings.

Part of **Body Squabbles**



Essay

### The meaning of trauma is wound

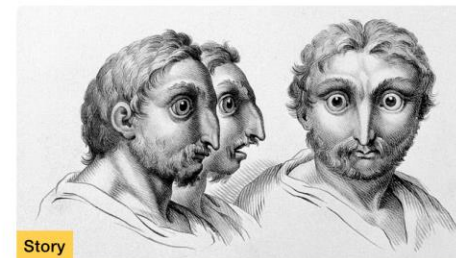
Daisy Johnson recalls her difficult journey to being diagnosed with vaginismus, and why women are



Essay

### London, city of lost hospitals

Come on the trail of hundreds of ghost hospitals, whose remnants hold clues to medical treatments of the past.



Story

### Drawing the human animal

We might try to deny our animal instincts, but this series of extraordinary 17th-century drawings suggests they are only too apparent.



Essay

### The sickness in the wellness industry

In recovery from anorexia, Gwen Smith began to realize how the wellness industry needs its



Story

### "Everybody desires a degree of independence"

I'm 26, and building a network of friends and my career. Unlike most people my age, I'm entirely

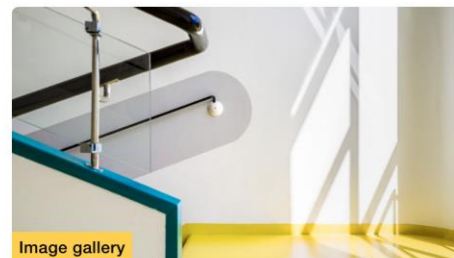


Image gallery

### Exploring Alvar Aalto's Paimio Sanatorium

Seemingly small features help to make Alvar Aalto's Paimio Sanatorium in Finland one healing



Story

### Dial 'S' for sex

In pre-internet days, phone boxes became a patchwork of 'tart cards' offering sexual services. Find out about the clandestine world they hint at.

**How can museums use  
journalistic  
approaches for  
positive social  
change?**

# In My Own Words

The voices of people with disabilities are often missing from histories of disability. This is certainly the case in the historical collections at Wellcome Collection. We wanted to break the cycle and ensure it doesn't continue to happen.



“The hidden housing crisis experienced by disabled people has left me living in a flat without the type of hoist that would lift me between chair and bed least painfully.”





“I’m not the stereotypical Asian woman that people would like me to be. And, because I’m disabled, they want me to be in the house and not go out to work. I should keep my energy for being disabled, and for being a carer.”





For my wife there are tasks that are never 'my turn'. It is always my wife that puts out the bins, lifts heavy objects and builds the flat-pack furniture. I know that I bring other strengths to my family, but there is no avoiding that a disability is never an individual diagnosis”

“I was going to have a PhD in art, and then I had a stroke and I can’t read or write now. I’ve talked about printmaking for ages with Michelle, the studio owner, but today was the first time after having the stroke that I have printed.”



“Each day brought a new obstacle I hadn’t considered, from sleep anxiety to IBS triggers and social burnout. There was also hope – a new space to be myself with far fewer restrictions.”



# Guest edited by Lionheart

Our [Living with Buildings exhibition](#) looks at architecture and health from a historical perspective, but what about on personal level for someone living today? We asked poet and spoken word performer LionHeart to commission five new stories from his perspective.



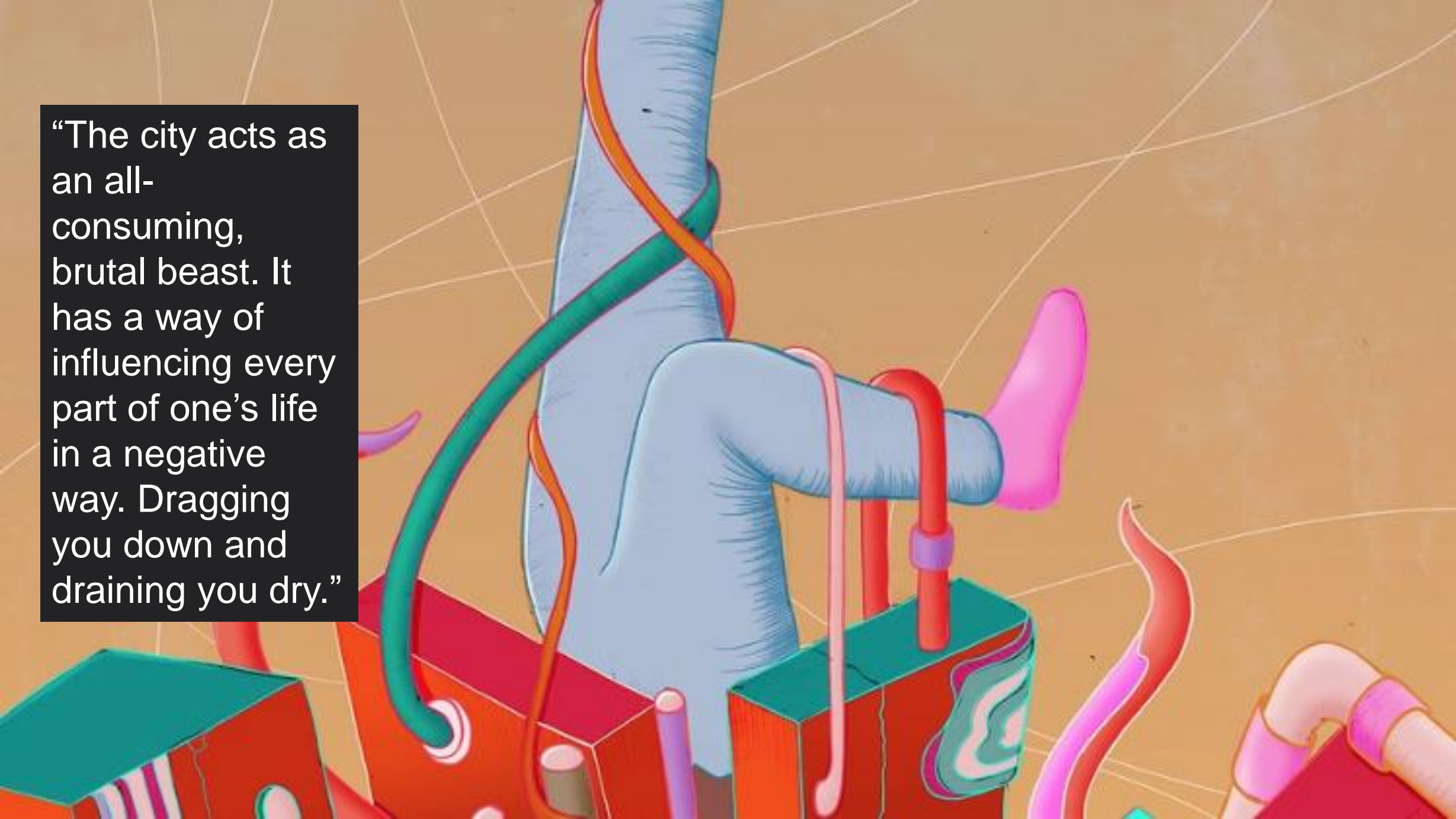
”One evening, as the first lyrical notes of the sunset prayer began to fill the mosque, my mother, already a convert who had fought to be part of the Muslim community, did the unthinkable. She marched into the men’s area, a line of women behind her. They took their place behind the men and joined the congregation in worship.”





“I am a refugee with a British passport. Can you have a home and be homeless at the same time? This statement is a question of belonging, and for most people, you either belong or you don't. However, for refugees and displaced people, it is tacitly true that you are both, and sometimes neither.”

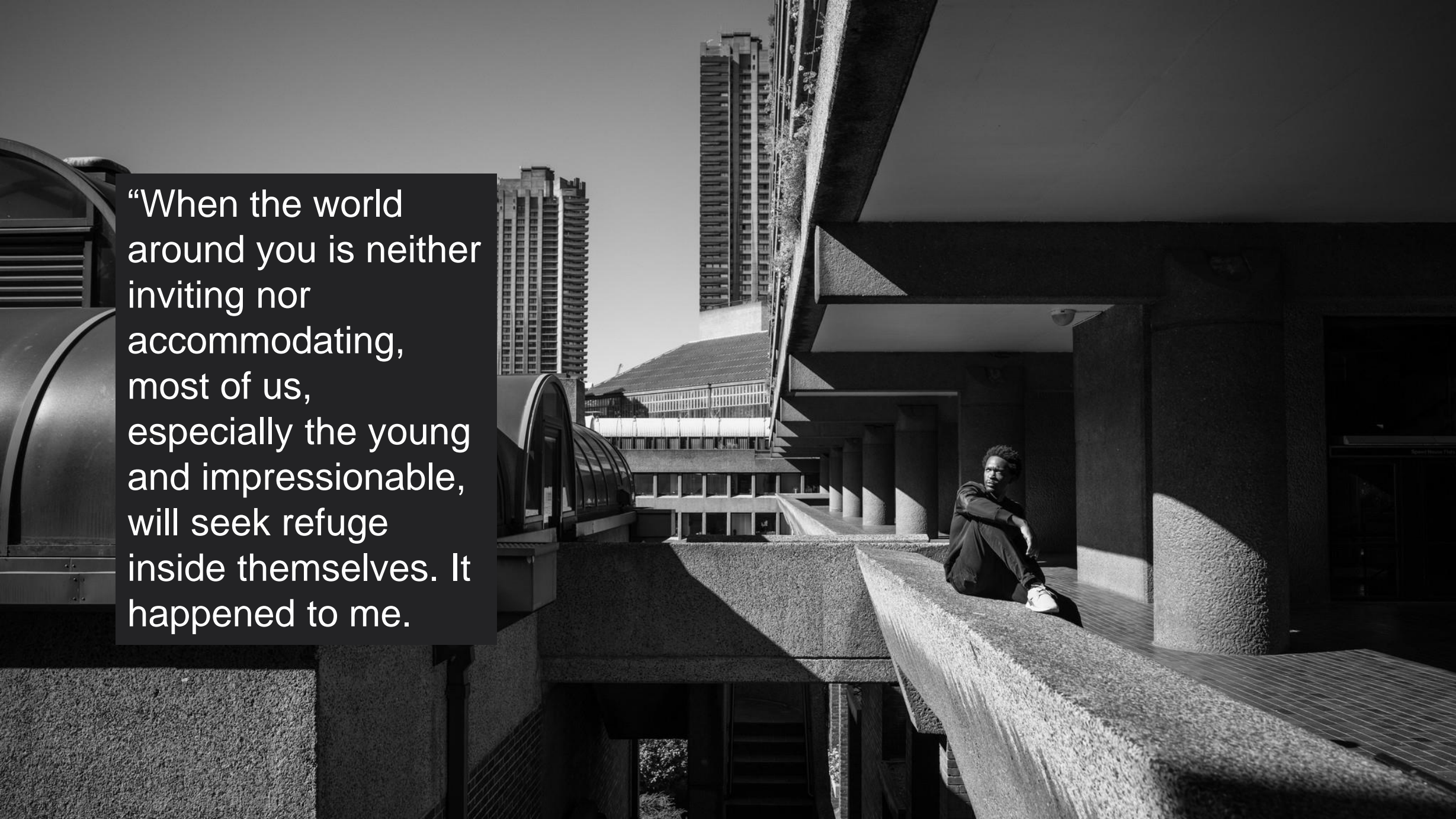
“The city acts as an all-consuming, brutal beast. It has a way of influencing every part of one’s life in a negative way. Dragging you down and draining you dry.”



“Until recently, professional teams typically comprised male colleagues, clients and suppliers, and it felt that mentioning the word ‘emotions’ would mean that I was on my period and would be behaving ‘unprofessionally’.”







“When the world around you is neither inviting nor accommodating, most of us, especially the young and impressionable, will seek refuge inside themselves. It happened to me.

# Keep telling stories

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