

*Oh, this land, this land is your land
Ah, this land, this land is my land
Yeah, this land your land*

Pelourinho: They Don't Really Care About Us (2019) opens with a letter from Du Bois to the U.S. Embassy of Brazil in 1927 concerning attitudes and discrimination towards Black American travelers, specifically a perceived policy of exclusion that discouraged their entry into the South American country. Pelourinho, the old historic centre of Salvador City, is the location of Owusu's film as well as the site in which Spike Lee and Michael Jackson filmed Jackson's controversial music video "They Don't Care About Us" (1996). The vestiges of Jackson's visit endure in the city, his likeness appearing in a number of bizarre, kitschy forms, such as an image of a young Jackson protectively holding a doll that resembles his post-plastic surgery adult self. The film implies, with melancholic irony, that there are sinister exceptions to exclusion, in which a Black person that aligns more closely with whiteness is not only granted permission and access, but can be a figure of everlasting celebration.

