

# ***Beyond the Visual***

## **Audio guide**

**HENRY MOORE  
INSTITUTE**

### **Stop 10. Track 2.**

#### **Jennifer Justice, *Bucket of Rain* 2021**

An ancient, rusty hoop hangs down on wires, suspended from brackets high up on the gallery wall. The hoop looks as though it might be part of some old farming equipment, maybe the rim or spout of something larger, but whatever it was attached to is long gone, corroded away by rust. And it is so rusty it is marking the white gallery wall as it brushes against it.

The hoop is tilted at an angle, and pouring from it are beaded chains of varying lengths that are looped around its edge. The chains are also rusty to different degrees, as though they could all be different ages. They are subtly different sizes and weights, some very fine like keyring chains, others feel more sturdy. You can run your fingers through the chains as though running your hands through long hair. At the end of each chain is suspended a wooden droplet, maybe ten in all, and they are all different. Imagine carrying a very full bucket, so heavy that the water is sloshing over the sides while you try to keep it level. Or maybe a shower.

The artist has used many different kinds of wood to make the raindrops, which are polished to such smoothness that you can barely feel their differences in texture. Cherry, maple, walnut, pecan: fruit woods of exceptional quality that sound delicious. The colours range from dark browns, warm tans to ochres. Every drop has a unique form. The largest drop, which is right at the centre of the arrangement, is the size and shape of a

pear, with an intricate surface pattern that is covered in veins and watermarks. It's as though the pear had been left at the bottom of a schoolbag for some time, and it's the only drop on which you can feel any trace of roughness to the wood.

The drops made of darker wood are all more elongated shapes, like stylised teardrops that have been stretched out, and are less uniform in shape than those made of paler wood. One has a second drop emerging from it, forming itself like the globules in a lava lamp. Another has a little drip emerging from its base, like a baby raindrop being born. The drops made from paler wood are rounder rather than longer and are smaller but heavier. The tiniest drop hangs from the longest chain, reaching about waist height, if you are standing.

The sculpture has the feeling of an old, beaded curtain, or perhaps a dream catcher with the round hoop and the falling chains. The drops on their chains are like multiple plumb lines or fishing lures hanging down the wall. As you run your hands through the chains and their droplets, the sound they make as they connect with one another is quiet and gentle, like the beginning of a summer shower. The faint shadow that the sculpture casts on the gallery wall is evocative of rain running down a window pane.

End of Stop 10, Track 2.

This is a transcript of an audio guide produced by Henry Moore Institute for the exhibition *Beyond the Visual*, on display from 28 November 2025 to 19 April 2026. For more information visit [henry-moore.org/beyond-the-visual](https://henry-moore.org/beyond-the-visual)