

Juginder Lamba

The Cry

1992



This sculpture was created for a series of exhibitions in 1992, *Trophies of Empire*, and shown in the gardens of both Bluecoat and Wilberforce House in Hull. A rectangular prison cell made of wood and metal chains is the focus of the work, and arms reach through the locked door in despair. Carvings in wood of faces and figures also appear.

The Cry is a reflection on the human tragedy of slavery. Lamba conceived the work to be a shrine to people all around the world who suffered, or continue to suffer, because of slavery.

The Cry reminds us of Liverpool's connections to slavery, and – constructed from old ships' timbers - the ships that sailed from the Old Dock, close to Bluecoat, to transport enslaved African people across the sea.

THINK ABOUT

- How does this artwork make you feel?

TALK ABOUT

- Why do you think the artist chose to use these materials?
- What do you think the artist chose to use these particular shapes?
- Why do you think the artist wanted this work to be displayed outside?
- What do you think people thought of this art work when it was exhibited at Bluecoat in 1992?
- Does this artwork tell you something about transatlantic slavery? Why is it important for us to remember this?

FIND OUT ABOUT

- Has this artist done any other works on a similar theme?
- Can you find out information about different shrines. Why do people build them and what do people use them for?
- What is the legacy of Transatlantic slavery?

Activity

Poets have used works of art for inspiration for hundreds of years. *Ekphrasis* means writing that has been inspired by art.

You will be using Juginder Lamba's art work, *The Cry*, as a starting point for your own poem which will reflect upon the horrors and ongoing legacy of Transatlantic slavery.

To do this you will have to think about the five different senses, and how you might react if you were trapped inside *The Cry* listening to all the people who had come to visit the shrine:

- Hearing
- Smelling
- Seeing
- Touching
- Tasting

Lesson aims and outcomes

The children will:

- learn about what life was like for people in the past
- learn about the Transatlantic slavery, and the 'triangular trade'
- learn about how artists explore difficult topics and emotions
- be challenged to portray emotions and imagine how people in the past might have felt in traumatic and tragic situations
- explore writing poetry