

Hackney Windrush **Artwork Commission**

On National Windrush Day, 22 June 2020, Hackney Council announced that artists Veronica Ryan OBE and Thomas J Price had been commissioned to create two new public artworks celebrating and honouring Hackney's Windrush Generation, the first permanent public sculptures to do so in the UK.

Consultation on the development of the new artworks began two years earlier in 2018, the year that Hackney became the first local authority in the UK to pass a comprehensive motion regarding the Windrush Generation, pledging to oppose the criminalisation of Windrush families, calling for an end to the 'hostile environment' policies and for support for those who have been affected by them.

Residents, cultural experts, Windrush campaigners, artists, architects, local councillors and school children were invited to provide feedback on artwork proposals from a range of artists that aimed to celebrate and commemorate the Windrush Generation, before Veronica Ryan OBE and Thomas J Price were finally selected as the winning artists.

The completed artworks can now be found in Hackney Town Hall Square and beside the historic St. Augustine's Tower - settled effortlessly into the local landscape and representing the shared history of local communities.

Hackney Council commissioned these artworks as a permanent symbol of honour, respect and commitment to the Windrush Generation, their legacy and contribution to life in Hackney today. The artworks were curated and produced by Create London and the commission was made possible by Art Fund and Freelands Foundation support.



Custard Apple (Annonaceae), Breadfruit (Moraceae) and Soursop (Annonaceae)

Narrow Way, Hackney, E8 1HR

The large marble and bronze sculptures of Caribbean fruits by artist Veronica Ryan OBE are inspired by the artist's memories of visiting Hackney's Ridley Road Market as a child. The sculptures, which represent themes of movement and migration, are on permanent display next to St. Augustine's Tower in Hackney.

"It's wonderful to be making permanent sculptures that represent a community in ways that are visible. I hope people love it. I hope they feel happy that it's there, that it belongs to them and that it's in their community to represent part of the local and wider culture of people who have travelled on the Windrush. I want different age groups to feel connected and to recognise themselves in the public work" **Veronica Ryan OBE**

The sculptures were unveiled during Black History Month 2021 and in 2022 Veronica won the prestigious Turner Prize for her work.

About the artist: Veronica Ryan OBE creates meticulously handcrafted work using a wide range of materials, including bronze, plaster, marble, textile, and found objects. Her sculptures and installations examine environmental concerns, personal narratives and memories, as well as the wider psychological implications of history, trauma and recovery.



Warm Shores

Hackney Town Hall Square, Hackney, E8 1EA

The two 9 ft bronze sculptures by artist Thomas J Price were unveiled to the public on National Windrush Day 2022.

In May 2021, Thomas issued an open call to Hackney residents, inviting over 30 members of the local community with a personal connection to Windrush to a studio in East London. Participants, ranging from 20 to 91 years old, were then digitally photographed using a 3D scanning device, capturing their stature, stance, clothing, features and posture to inform the two final sculptures.

“Over a course of three days, I met them, talked to them and took photos and scans of them. I got an understanding of how they feel about Windrush and how they are connected to the incredible Windrush story. I wanted to get a sense of what it’s like to be here now, and have that legacy, which is underrepresented. It is an amazing opportunity to raise awareness of Windrush to the people of Hackney and elsewhere.” **Thomas J Price**

About the artist: Price’s work across media, encompassing sculpture, film and photography, is engaged with issues of power, representation, interpretation and perception in society and in art. From his early performance piece, “Licked” (2001) to more recent large-scale “abstract” bronzes, Price has always utilised methods of presentation, material, scale, and detail in order to challenge viewers’ expectations and assumptions.





For further information visit
lovehackney.uk/windrush-generations-festival

What do you think of the Windrush artworks?

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