



The Contemporary Art Space Project

Depths of our history

by Rudy Loewe

with Year 8 students from Holyhead School

This work is a mix of drawings and paintings by both the artist, Rudy Loewe, and students at Holyhead School, who explored the reasons for and the different ways in which people protest. The work is in the form of a giant banner that aims to celebrate the histories and years of resistance that have happened in Handsworth. The students came up with words and phrases that they felt represented their community, in languages that people in Handsworth speak. Its title came from Rhea (Year 8 participant).

What do you think?

Materials: Printed fabric (type)

Dimensions: Digitally printed waterproof canvas (1.4m x 6m)

Reflection text by Lyn French, psychoanalytic
psychotherapist and Director, A Space

Image by Anita Fazal

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REFLECTIONS

‘The depths of our history’ reminds us that there are stories to tell which echo back in time, stirring up deeply felt emotions. Family and community histories aren’t just about facts: we can have strong feelings about what took place many years ago.

- What stories have you heard about the lives of older generations?
- Has discrimination or social alienation played a part?

Every family and community will have uplifting stories to pass on as well as painful ones.

- Give an example of something from the past which might make us proud of who we are.

We all have to decide when it is important to stand up for ourselves or something we believe in rather than following the crowd.

- What values or beliefs are essential for all of us to live by?
- What should we be most committed to standing up for?