‘All the world is now richer’

An arresting sculptural artwork by Southwark artist Sokari Douglas Camp which is patiently awaiting permanent public art space in the borough.

The locally created work will be on display at

Southwark Council Offices
160 Tooley Street
London SE1 2QH

from

3rd April – 18th April 2019

The purpose of this exhibition is to initiate a conversation with local councilors and town planners, developers and cultural ambassadors in order to find a permanent venue for the sculpture, in Southwark.
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sokari Douglas Camp, CBE has been living and working in Southwark for the last thirty years. She is a Nigerian born artist whose steel sculptures are equal part politics, culture and fashion.

“As a resident of this borough, I feel very strongly that the memory of a life lived, should not be forgotten. BAME experience is important within the city of London, particularly within Southwark. The siting of a public sculpture, commemorating the abolition of slavery, and depicting both female and male figures, will be a bold and positive endorsement of Southwark’s vibrant and culturally diverse community, and a poignant reminder that people of slave heritage have dignity and strength.”

The artwork consists of six life-size figures, each representing successive stages of the slavery saga. It was inspired by the former slave William Prescott who said, “They will remember that we were sold but they won’t remember that we were strong; they will remember that we were bought but not that we were brave.”

For more information about the artist visit: www.sokari.co.uk
ABOUT THE ARTWORK

The installation represents the bravery of people of slave heritage and their contribution and participation in the world. The line of figures starts with a man dressed in indigenous robes. Then come two figures representing trans-Atlantic slave labour: a plantation worker with a machete and a domestic serving woman. These are followed by three figures representing the post-liberation era: a Sierra Leonean woman in nineteenth-century Creole dress, a man in a twentieth century executive suit and finally a contemporary figure relaxing in casual trousers and a tee-shirt.

Each vertical figure has a literal, horizontal element consisting of words which are designed to be inlaid in the surrounding ground space. The messages are; dignity, strength and a positive outlook.

- “From our rich ancestral life” – Figure clad in indigenous robes
- “We were sold, bought and used” – Plantation worker
- “But we were brave” – Domestic serving woman
- “We were strong” – Creole woman
- “We survived” – Executive
- “All the world is now richer” – Youth in T-Shirt

The artwork already has a relationship with the City of London. A bronze prototype was exhibited in Potter’s Field (2010-11), the House of Commons (2012) and St Paul’s Cathedral (2014). “All the world is now richer” has also been exhibited at Bristol Cathedral, the Greenbelt Festival, St Georges Hall Liverpool and Norwich Cathedral.

Interested parties are invited to get in touch by emailing sokari@sokari.co.uk

This campaign is supported by the PMSA – Public Monuments and Sculpture Association | www.pmsa.org.uk | office@pmsa.org.uk |