

THE
TWO
COINS





The Two Coins - Graeme Mortimer Evelyn

The Two Coins is a site specific visual sculpture and moving image installation which seeks to reclaim narratives of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and reinterpret histories and cultural hierarchies from the four perspectives of a European Merchant Trader, an African Slave Trader, a European Worker and an African Slave.

The Two Coins revolves around Edward Colston's bronze statue on the island site of Colston Avenue, situated within the heart of Bristol's busy city centre, erected in 1895 and currently owned by Bristol City Council.

The monument and the memories it evokes of Colston's trading of Africans, is frequently used as a point of reference on Bristol's contribution to the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Therefore, The Two Coins inspires reassessment of monuments erected to celebrate forefathers of 18th century British trading. As a result, the Abolition200 bicentenary becomes essential to Bristol's and Britain's reconciliation.

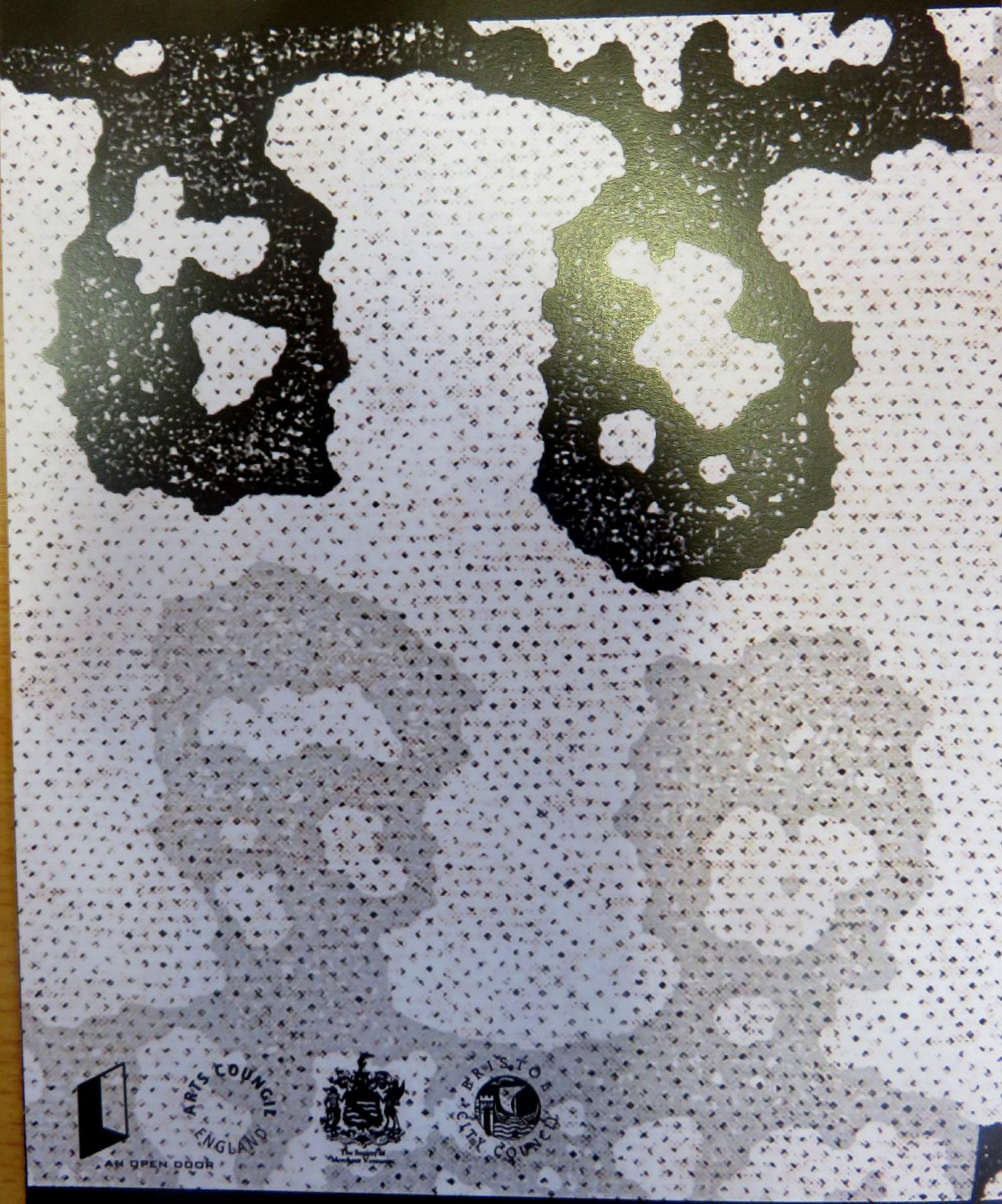
The Two Coins aims to challenge the memories and the many historical myths of the Trade. Presenting reclamation of history via the introduction of strong visuals, thought provoking moving imagery and balanced narratives, based from the rediscovery of its unfamiliar stories.

The intention of The Two Coins is to present an unprejudiced historical legacy while highlighting our collective responsibility to prevent negative forms of 21st century trade, which produce new forms of modern slavery.

Through the experience of The Two Coins, viewers of the Colston monument will confront its presence in a different way, redefining the memory of the statue's place within the context of reconciliation and responsibility.

Scheduled installation Colston Avenue:
September – October 2007

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