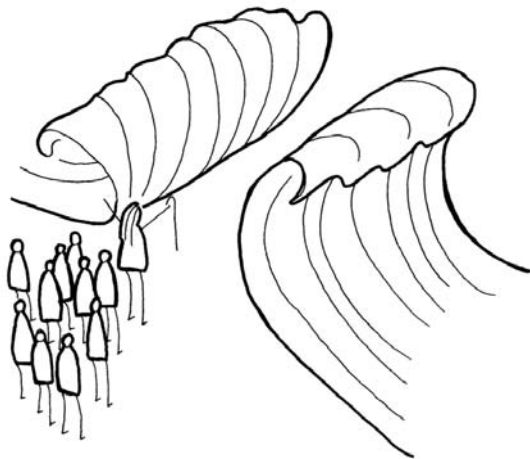


Visual literacy in RE teaching and learning

Rachel Woods

Case study 3

Calvary: RESEARCH: Context



Sample responses from applying the remaining stages of the 3 Rs toolkit to this case study are provided on the website www.rethinking.co.uk as a reference and to demonstrate the value of developing the investigation with pupils. Teachers can select distinct sections, related key questions and activities to suit their teaching and learning objectives. Key questions relating to looking at sculpture and sample responses to this section can be viewed on the website:



Extending RESEARCH: **Context**

Key questions: When and where was the artwork made? Who made it and who was it made for? What country is the artist from? How did the artist imagine his role? Can we make any connections between

the work and the place and period in which it was made? How do people view the work today and how is this different from how it might have been seen and interpreted when it was first made? How has opinion changed and why?

Sample responses: This work of art was commissioned by Truro Cathedral to fit into a series of blind arches above the altar in the Chapel of St Mary, inside the cathedral in a public worship setting. It was made by Craigie Aitchison between 1996 and 1997. Craigie Aitchison was born in Scotland in 1926. He initially trained as a lawyer at Edinburgh University but then trained as a painter at the Slade School of Art. He was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts in 1978. He is well known for his use of strong colours and a series of symbols that appear in many of his paintings. These include Bedlington terriers, birds, and the Arran landscape. His principal subject since 1958 has been the Crucifixion and related themes such as Calvary, but this was the first commission he had received from a church. Craigie Aitchison's painting style is unique and doesn't fit neatly into one genre. He could be described as a modern narrative painter, which means someone who uses pictures to tell a story. The Bedlington terriers look quite sheep-like, perhaps a deliberate symbolic link with Jesus the Lamb of God. This is the title Christians use of Jesus when they think of him as a sacrificial lamb, being offered to redeem the sins of the world.