

West End Extra
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A sail... or a cheese & onion crisp packet? Mixed reactions to Wind Sculpture in Victoria



Cool reception: Wind Sculpture by Yinka Shonibare in Wilcox Place

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by JACOB MIGNANO

A SCULPTURE unveiled on a Victoria street this week has drawn mixed reactions from members of the public.

The six-metre tall fibreglass Wind Sculpture, designed by the acclaimed artist Yinka Shonibare, is intended to resemble a ship's sail swaying in the wind. But not everyone was taken by the nautical theme, and Nicholas Grinyer wrote on Twitter: "I know art is subjective but that is flipping ghastly. Looks like a giant Cheese & Onion crisp packet blowin' in the wind."

Sarah Holmes, 24, who saw the sculpture on Wednesday, said: "I think it looks like a stingray. What's it's purpose?"

It is planned to provide a "legacy" of the artist's Ship in a Bottle which stood on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square two years ago.

Bernard Hannah, 55, said: "I think it looks vaguely like a fish. It's completely out of place with the surroundings."

The sculpture was installed as part of a deal between Westminster Council and developers who built luxury flats and offices in nearby Howick Place.

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Not all the reactions were negative and Shaun Healy, 46, said: "I think it's nice. It's a nice feature, nice colours; it doesn't look out of place, put it that way."

Isobel Walker, 14, said: "It's bold, colourful and abstract. I like it because it stands out."

Other critics of the sculpture said the decision to put up the artwork was not environmentally friendly.

Justin Woodington, 36, said: "I'm really pleased to see they've taken down a tree and replaced it with a fibreglass monstrosity. Very ecologically-minded."