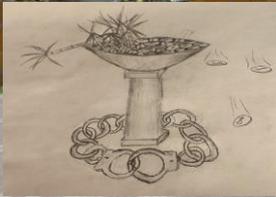


# Cartagena de Indias



To start out, this memorial depicts a pedestal which is supporting a wide pan of sugarcane and gold coins. At the bottom of the pedestal is a set of handcuffs that are wrapped around the pedestal. This memorial relates back to the overall project as it is a figurative representation of slavery within Colombia. Gold and sugarcane were both some of the most valuable resources that enslaved Africans were forced to gather inside the country of Colombia. When looking at the drawing, the gold and sugarcane are high above the chains symbolizing that they were far more important and valuable when compared to the lives of the hard working enslaved Africans. The choice of using handcuffs that were locked together opposed to simply drawing slaves makes this have more of an impact, as it shows the darker nature of the cold and lifelessness iron handcuffs that the enslaved Africans were bound to, along with showing that they were bound to their work. Another symbolical choice was the falling coins and sugarcane which goes back to the idea that those who are higher are more important and powerful, which leads to the present day where material goods are viewed as being much less important compared to human life. Overall, this memorial is supposed to be a rather simple and tame memorial that is dedicated to the enslaved Africans who were brought to Colombia and used to gather these two goods. The goal of this memorial is not to be direct and in your face. The memorial is going for the opposite effect by having people see a seemingly innocent memorial, read about the backstory, and then begin to piece together the overall meaning of the memorial.



## Thinking about Place

The location of this site is the Plaza de los Coches in Cartagena de Indias in the country of Colombia. This site is historically significant as it was used as a market that involved the gathering and selling of enslaved Africans. The ports of Cartagena de Indias received many shipments of enslaved Africans in which many of the Africans were sold in slave markets such as this one. Due to the diverse geography with features such as beaches, mountain ranges, and rain forests, there was many different types of resources that the enslaved Africans were forced to harvest and gather. Some notable resources in which enslaved Africans were tasked to collect included gold, pearls, and sugar cane. However, the enslaved Africans did not only gather resources, they also had jobs such as being domestic servants, blacksmiths, and cowboys.

## Gender

Cartagena de Indias was a central point of the slave trade in South and central America. Buyers and agents were coming from far away to buy slaves. This is why men and women were brought to Cartagena. It was a sugarcane producing and precious metal mining area (especially gold). In Cartagena de Indias, over 1.1 million captive Africans entered the docks to be presented in some markets. The choice of gender was made during the market.

## Age

An estimated 12 million Africans crossed the Atlantic to South America and America in the slave trade and Plaza de los Coches became an authorized center for the children slavery. Adults and children were unwilling participants within the slave trade that had a variety of sources. Children found themselves enslaved as prisoners of warfare and in some parts, kidnapping was a very popular recruit method for children. The recruiters did not really care about the age, as they recruited whoever they could.