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Ship 'legacy' sculpture by artist Yinka Shonibare is unveiled on Victoria street



Artist Yinka Shonibare at Wilcox Place, and his sculpture in the background

A SCULPTURE by the acclaimed artist Yinka Shonibare was unveiled on a street in Victoria this morning.

Shonibare, who was awarded an MBE in 2004, revealed the six-metre fibreglass structure in Wilcox Place.

It resembles a ship's sail swaying in the wind and was intended to provide a "legacy" of Shonibare's Ship in a Bottle that stood on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square in 2012.

The installation is part of a deal between the property developers who built the offices and luxury flats in nearby Howick Place and the council.

Westminster Council last year raised concerns that the sculpture would provide shelter for rough sleepers. But documents filed at City Hall subsequently quelled the council's concerns. They read: "There will be no canopy or canopy effect. There will also be no areas for seating or ledges with the design which would allow shelter.

"The council's rough-sleepers unit has confirmed they are reassured that the sculpture will offer no further opportunity of anti-social behaviour."

With the council's fears allayed, permission was granted last month.