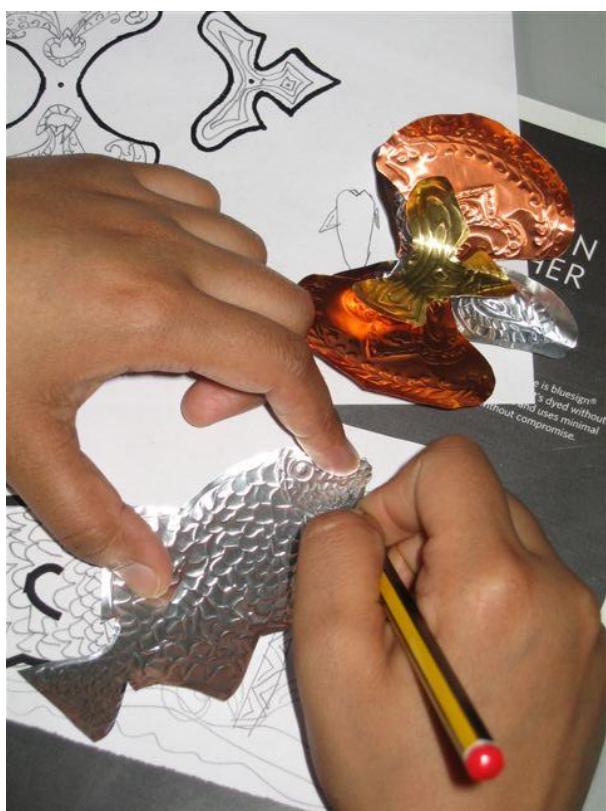


Great Court, 11–25 October 2013



This art installation, *Colombian gold*, took inspiration from the national treasures of Colombia, while exploring the ancient cultures, the sacred gold and the myths of El Dorado before the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century. The installation considers in part the cultural diversity and identity of Colombia, the richness of the northern Andes, and the extraordinary works of art that are considered marvels of an ancient culture of 'golden people'. It is related to the Museum's major exhibition *Beyond El Dorado: power and gold in ancient Colombia*, which runs from 17 October 2013 to 23 March 2014 in Room 35.

The installation forms a mountain of personal and symbolic treasures for the members of the community who have spent eight weeks creating it. It is a mountain inspired by the natural world while overflowing in richness with its figures, vessels, gifts, symbolism and spiritual wealth. The mountain of 'Colombian gold' employs a variety of creative techniques such as papier-mâché, wire work, metal embossing, and print making, textiles, alongside model making, construction and collage work.

The Mary Ward Centre led the project, working with several groups in Camden, Islington and Tower Hamlets: Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre, British Museum community arts group at the Mary Ward Centre, Chadswell Healthy Living Centre, the Calthorpe Project, Latin American Elders Project, CSV/RSVP, Christopher Hatton Primary School, October Gallery, PAN Intercultural Arts and Amies, Islington Bangladesh Association, Crisis Skylight, and Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre.

The Mary Ward Centre is a college for Adult Education located at 42 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3AQ and 10 Great Turnstile, London WC1V 7JU. The college delivers a wide variety of courses within the 2 buildings as well as providing an exciting offsite programme, in partnership with local organisations, to provide courses which widen participation.