

## Dorothy Cross

*Red Road*, 2021

hand-carved Damascus Rose

Courtesy the artist, Frith Street Gallery, London and Kerlin Gallery, Dublin

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## Education Resource (K-6)



*Red Road* 2021

Image courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London

## Overview



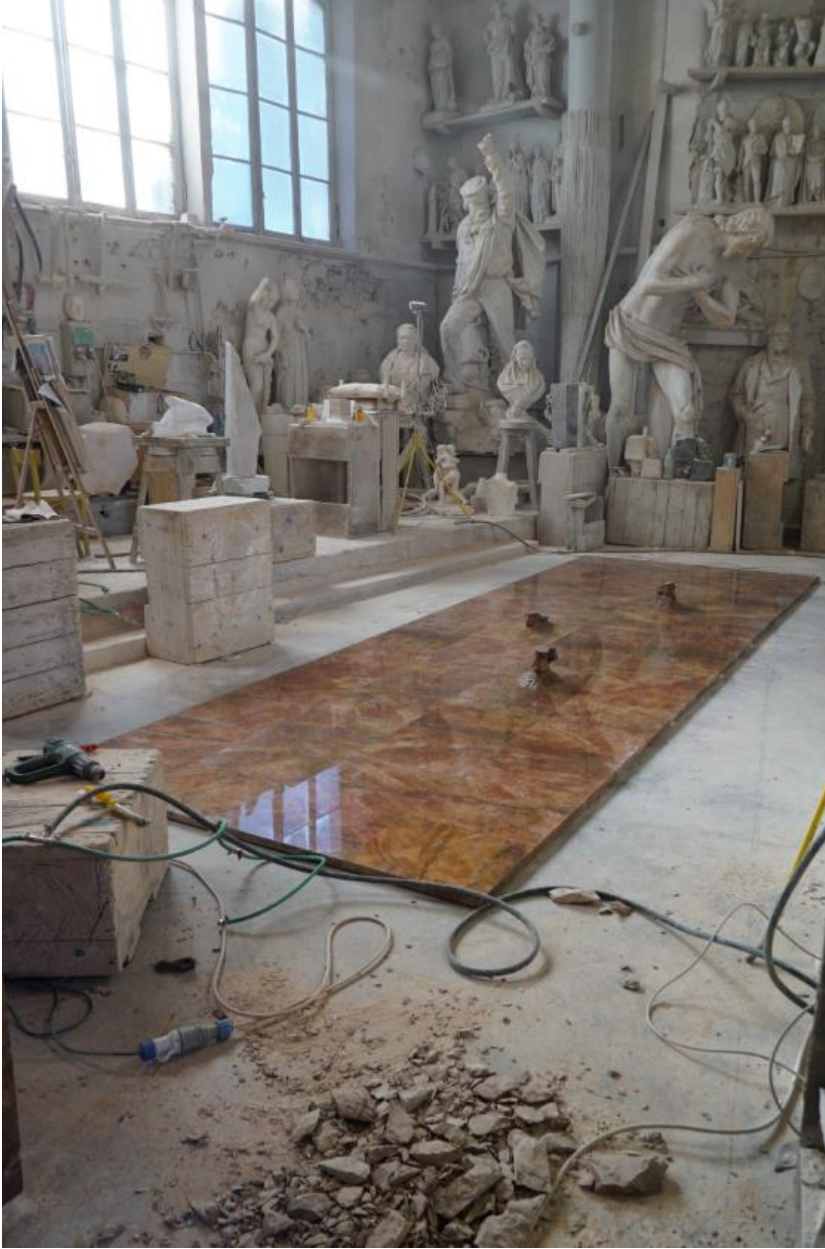
# biennale of sydney

Imagine a path made of stone that looks like it is made of soft, pink skin. This is *Red Road*, a sculpture stretching across the floor created by the Irish artist Dorothy Cross. At your feet, you will see something incredible: rows of human feet carved into heavy marble. It looks as if a line of invisible people are walking right through the room, leaving their mark behind as they travel toward a new home.

Dorothy is an artist who searches the world for special treasures from nature. For this artwork, she found a rare stone called Damascus Rose marble. Even though it is a rock that is hard and heavy, she polished it until it glowed with a warm, skin colour, making the stone feel almost as delicate as a person. This marble travelled thousands of miles to be here; it comes from a country called Syria. Dorothy carved this path to tell the story of people forced to leave their homes and take long, brave journeys across oceans and lands to find a safe place to live.

The title *Red Road* links these modern journeys to an ancient story about a man named Paul who was traveling to the city of Damascus. On that road, his eyes were opened in a new way, and he learned to see the world with more kindness. By placing these feet on the floor, Dorothy is asking us to do the same: to look down, see the path others have walked, and think about their journey with our hearts.





In the studio  
*Red Road*, 2021, Damascus Rose marble  
Image courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London

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## Discussion Questions

When you **look** at these feet, Dorothy wants you to **imagine** the people who are walking. Are they walking fast or slow?

Does the journey **look** easy, or does it **look** hard?

We can **see** the feet, but we cannot **see** the people's faces. How does **not seeing** their faces **change** the way you **feel** about them?

Dorothy uses an old story from the Bible about a man named Paul to help us **understand** the **difficult** journeys of **migration** many people have to make today.

If you went on a long journey to a new country, what is one thing you would hope to **find** there?

Why do you **think** she chose the **colour** red for a road that is about **danger** and **leaving home**?

## Practical Activities

### Activity 1

Start by drawing a very large outline of a foot in the centre of your page. You can look at your own shoe for the shape or copy the shape of the feet in the artwork.

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine you are going on a very long journey to a new country, just like the people in the story we heard.

You can't take your whole room; you can only take three very special things that fit inside your shoe. Think about what would make you feel safe or happy. Is it a photo? A toy? A favourite snack?

Open your eyes and draw those three items inside your foot outline.

Add colour or patterns to the outside of the shoe to show us what kind of ground you are walking on (grass, sand, or water?)

### Activity 2

Dorothy has left the ending of the story up to us. Use your imagination to finish the road. On your paper, start by drawing the end of the red path, and then draw what you think is waiting for the travellers.

Where are these feet walking to? Is it a bright, sunny safe house on a hill? Is it a boat waiting on the edge of a blue ocean? Or is it a magical forest where they can hide? Don't worry about making it look real, make it look like the place you would want to arrive at if you were tired.

Add as many details as you can to show us if this is a happy place or a mysterious place.

Pick a partner and share this with them.



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