

Ten true stories of Dutch colonial slavery

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

The Rijksmuseum is the national museum for art and history in the Netherlands. The museum aims to shed light on all aspects of Dutch history. Slavery is an integral part of this history. By delving into the past and providing a more complete history, we can better understand today's society. In 2021 an exhibition - called Slavery - was presented on Dutch colonial history. The Rijksmuseum is honored to present this exhibition in a special edition for display around the world.

Ten true stories

This exhibition is centered on ten true stories from people who were involved in slavery in one way or another: people who profited from the system, people who were enslaved and those who raised their voices against slavery. What were their lives like? How did they relate to the system of slavery? Were they able to make their own choices?

The exhibition is based on objects, as well as archival and oral sources, each providing us with distinctive information. In combination, this allows us to get a closer look at how individuals responded to the circumstances they encountered. Via the QR codes you can listen to ten people living in the Netherlands with different backgrounds. They speak about the central historical figures and their personal relationships to these stories - stories that are part of international history and that might have a connection to your history or experience as well.