

*The Hate Factory*

Having been in prison for more than two thirds of my life now, I have witnessed dramatic changes in most prisons at least. However the essence of prison - a mixture of loneliness, grief, pain, self pity and violence - is still there, simmering below the surface. 'The Hate Factory' represents that essence of prison to me.

The meeting of dark and light colours is representative of that meeting of old and new. Reform clashing with retribution. Prison to me is the ultimate melting pot, not just of every colour and creed but of every other class or division. The great leveller. The Hate Factory is meant to represent how prison for many is destruction and an end of everything they hold dear, whilst for a lucky few it is a new beginning. The representation of the cockroach sat on the slop-bucket, the recurring keyholes, the fat rat and the shadows of the bars are all to remind us that the past still lurks beneath.

Gary Critchley, 2007