

IRISH EMIGRATION REPRESENTED IN ART

ART AND THE GREAT HUNGER EXHIBITION, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY



WILLIAM MAGRATH (1838-1918), *THE FAREWELL*, N.D.

1. Are there any details in this image which indicate why this woman is emigrating?

2. Does the artist capture the emotional experience of emigration? Explain your answer.

JAMES BRENAN (1837-1907), *THE FINISHING TOUCH*, 1876

1. Can you figure out the destination of the person who is emigrating?

2. Identify which of the figures in the painting is the one emigrating.

3. Does this painting help the historian to identify the types of people who emigrated in the 1800s? Explain your answer.



CHARLES BEHAN (b.1938), *FAMINE SHIP* (2000)

1. Study carefully this image and the information above. How is this image different from the previous two?

2. Examine the sculpture closely. What message do you think the artist is trying to convey about emigration?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Choose from one of the following activities:

- Imagine you are the man in the painting, *The Farewell*. Write a **diary entry** that the man might have written the night after the departure of the woman in the painting

or

- Imagine you are the woman emigrating in *The Finishing Touch* and you have arrived in New York. Write a letter home describing the journey to America.