

Ask anyone who knows anything about Letterkenny in County Donegal and they will mention two things, one that Letterkenny is the fastest growing town in Europe and two, we are home to Oatfield Sweet Factory!

This was a three part Public Art Project with and about Oatfield Sweet Factory, Letterkenny.

About the Project

1 Internationally renowned Irish photographer Abigail O'Brien (<http://www.abigailobrien.com/index.shtml>) was commissioned to be in residence in the Oatfield Sweet Factory from October to December 2007. A show of her remarkable photographs taken during the residency exhibited at the Regional Cultural Centre in Letterkenny followed by a tour to Berlin. A beautiful, limited edition, colour hard-back coffee table book of the photographs was also produced as part of the commission.

Due to personal circumstances Abigail's Book was not launched on December 6th. However Donegal County Council produced a multi media trailer about The Photographer in Residence Project at Oatfield Sweet Factory as part of the launch.

2. Chicago based theatre and art troupe Redmoon Theater were commissioned (<http://www.redmoon.org/about/contact/>) to come and work with in some Letterkenny schools as part of the outreach project. Again the theme was about childhood and sweets. This project culminated in a beautiful public spectacle of the works made by Letterkenny schoolchildren with Redmoon Theater - multi-coloured shadow puppet projections about the myth and fantasy world of sweets and their flavours travelling the world, and indoor creations which referenced the creatures and characters brought to mind by the names of sweets like - Eskimo Mints, Emerald Chocolate, Cherry Drops.

3. Finally Donegal County Museum hosted a historical exhibition on Oatfield Sweet Factory, which included the establishment of an old sweet shop in the museum for the duration of the exhibition. The oral histories of current and past Oatfield workers and the role for the factory in the town was explored (many a person remembers using the Oatfield Factory opening siren as an alarm clock!)

Overall this was a multi-disciplinary Public Art Commission.