



H.E.A.R.T Public Art Trail

H.E.A.R.T. (Heritage, Environment, Art and Rural Tourism), is a cross-border initiative managed jointly by Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council which assisted a total of twelve towns and villages undergo significant heritage and environmental regeneration. In Donegal the towns involved are: Ardara, Ballybofey / Stranorlar, Ballyshannon, Lifford, Moville, Ramelton and Raphoe. In Strabane, the towns / villages involved are: Castleberg, Donemana, Newtownstewart, Plumbridge and Sion Mills.

1 The Matrimonial Tree
Location Ballybofey/Stranorlar close to bridge linking both towns
Commissioned Artist Cod Steaks Ltd



Artist's background
In 1982 Cod Steaks was established in a dockside shed with just 2 employees. An exciting, positive and challenging culture has forged an extraordinarily high standard of design and construction, making Cod Steaks one of the most significant forces in the British creative arts industry.

Inspiration
Local folklore indicates that when a couple were engaged to be married two different varieties of tree would have been planted next to one another. At the time of the wedding these would have been grafted together, and left to grow from thereon as one.

Description
The artwork takes the form of a real Matrimony Tree, but has been abstracted to give a unique ident for the town. Embedded into the 'bark' are foundry cast handprints, taken from local schoolchildren in Ballybofey.

Materials used
Constructed entirely from sheet metal, every inch of the tree has been hammered, rolled and formed into shape by hand, using traditional techniques.

2 Earth Mother
Location: The town of Raphoe, in the grass area of the Diamond
Commissioned Artist: Maurice Harron
Installation Date: Monday 16th June 2008



Artist's background
Maurice was educated at St. Columb's College, Derry and Ulster College of Art & Design, Belfast. Specialising in Graphic Design and Sculpture and Maurice qualified as an Art Teacher in 1969.

Inspiration
The theme chosen was the Beltany Stone Circle, a 6,000 year old megalithic monument, connected with ritual worship of the Sun.

Description
Raphoe - A bronze sculpture of a young woman from pre-Celtic era, standing on a low rock. She faces north, so that her shadow at mid-day falls on a rock positioned a little distance away.

Materials used
Modelled in clay over a steel armature, silicone rubber and fibreglass moulds were made of the forms. Wax versions were made using the moulds. The wax patterns were dipped in a silica slurry over a few weeks to build up a thick ceramic shell.

3 Three Coins
Location: Centre of main roundabout in the town of Lifford
Commissioned Artist: Cod Steaks Ltd



Inspiration
The artwork is a celebration of Lifford's past, but has captured something fresh, proclaiming hope for the future.

Description
The three Coins are a good humoured, bold and iconic piece of artwork that contain within them many references to Lifford's past, present and future. Each coin looks as though it has literally been pushed into the ground, and each faces one of the three entrance ways to the town.

Materials used
Constructed entirely from steel, the Coins received final art working to replicate bronze. This was achieved using industrial standard paints, to endure the test of time and all weathers - from blizzards to blazing hot summers!

4 The Flax Spinner
Location: Sion Mills, at the top of Mill Lane
Commissioned Artist: Eamonn O'Doherty
Installation Date: Monday 30th June 2008



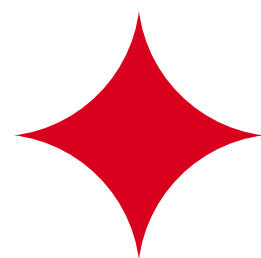
Artist's background
The artist works from his studio in Co. Wexford and has completed more than thirty large-scale public sculptures in Ireland, England, the USA and Europe.

Inspiration
Sion Mills grew up around Herdman's Linen spinning factory located on the picturesque river Mourne. The history of the village and its inhabitants was inextricably linked to the mill until its recent closure.

Description
The bronze statue is one of a female flax spinner, as she works at a spinning machine. She wears an apron and is barefoot as was the tradition in the damp atmosphere necessary for successful spinning.

Materials used
The work is fabricated and cast in bronze with an overall dark antique green patination, the flax flowers being patinated in a blue colour.

5 Starfields
Location: The pieces of art can be viewed at the following schools all located in the town of Castleberg: Castleberg High School / St Eugene's High School / Edwards primary School / St Patrick's Primary School.
Commissioned Artist: Locky Morris



Artist's background
Locky Morris was born in Derry and studied in Belfast and Manchester. His work has been exhibited widely including "Directions Out" at the Douglas Hyde Gallery in Dublin 1987, the British Art Show touring Britain in 1990, New North 1990 and Strongholds 1991, both at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool, Kunst Europa in Germany in 1991.

Inspiration
A witnessed shower of meteoric stones that occurred along the Derg Valley in the direction of Killeter, near Castleberg at 3:30 pm in the afternoon of the 29th April 1844

Description
Four Sculptural relief's made from stainless steel and stainless steel bar taking the outline mathematical Asteroid shape. Each element has been installed on a main wall of the four schools in Castleberg.

Materials used
Stainless Steel

6 Rivers and Castles
Location: A5, Newtownstewart By-pass (GNR Way)
Commissioned Artist: Denis O'Connor
Installation Date: Thursday 31st July 2008



Artist's background
Sculpture Works is based in Wirksworth Derbyshire, it is made up of Denis O'Connor, Sculptor, Bernadine Rutter, Printmaker / Arts Education worker and Andy Mc Callum, Blacksmith. The company has worked with the medium of sculpture for over eighteen years in a variety of Public, and Studio based contexts.

Inspiration
The company has designed and fabricated a piece of artwork, which makes reference to; the historical importance of the town's castles, Harry Avery's castle and Turlough O'Neill's castle.

Description
"Conceptually we have designed a sculpture that makes a symbolic link with the areas past histories. The work forms a type of 'Signage' for the town, highlighting the architectural gems of Newtownstewart".

Materials used
Grade 314 Stainless Steel combined with local Limestone

7 Sculptured Bench
Location: Beside Children's Play Park, in the town of Plumbridge
Commissioned Artist: Brian Connolly
Installation Date: Monday 21st July 2008



Artist's background
Brian Connolly was born in Ballymoney Co. Antrim in 1961 and was awarded an M.A. in Fine Art at the University of Ulster in 1985. He is currently an Associate Lecturer in Fine & Applied Art, Sculpture, at the University of Ulster, Belfast.

Inspiration
The work relates to the history of Ireland and the context of Plumbridge through the ages from pre-Christian era to the present day.

Description
Six horizontal slabs of Limestone are placed together to form a bench six meters long and one meter wide. The six stone panels depict imagery based on six periods of history, from the pre-Christian era to the present day.

Materials used
Cut Limestone slabs with Shot-blasted imagery.

8 Sport Sculpture
Location: Donemana, Junction of Longland Road and Berryhill Road
Commissioned Artist: Maurice Harron
Installation Date: Monday 23rd June 2008

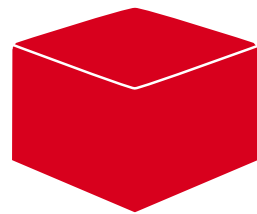


Inspiration
The work illustrates the areas two proud sporting traditions, cricket and gaelic football and contains both male and female figures.

Description
Ten bronze figures, male and female, representing cricket and gaelic football, arranged in two spirals. Height approx 3 metres, fixed on a 600mm high plinth.

Materials used
Modelled in clay over a steel armature, silicone rubber and fibreglass moulds were made of the forms. Wax versions were made using the moulds. The wax patterns were dipped in silica slurry over a few weeks to build up a thick ceramic shell.

9 Movable Benches
Location: Moville Green, at the Seafront close to the Pier.
Commissioned Artist: Michael Disley
Installation Date: Friday 22nd August 2008



Artist's background
Michael has an office based in a quarry in Yorkshire where he produces a range of large scale figurative artworks. His work is easily understood, humorous and well crafted.

Inspiration
The artist has produced a total of 15 stone benches for Moville Green all sited on the sea front. A number of the benches have local input as these were carved by the local community who took part in a number of workshops and local historical and cultural research group sessions.

Description
Two very distinct types of benches are provided. The workshop benches are Limestone cubes which are topped with granite. The larger benches are constructed of grit stone and topped with granite.

Materials used
Limestone and granite slabs, and grit stone are the materials used.

10 Ramelton Art Benches
Location: The Public Amenity Area, in the centre of Ramelton Village
Commissioned artist: Brian Connolly
Installation Date: Friday 29th August 2008



Inspiration
This work takes the form of six pieces built into a park design, and these are based on differing eras of Irish and local history from the Pre-Christian era to the present.

Description
Six separate Limestone slabs form a series of benches, within the new park in Ramelton. Each bench measures two meters by one meter. The six stone panels depict imagery based on six periods of history, from the pre-Christian era up till the present day.

Materials used
Cut Limestone slabs with Shot-blasted imagery.

11 The Three Fates
Location: Herron's Field, Ardara, County Donegal
Commissioned artist: Elizabeth Caffery
Installation Date: Tuesday 24th June 2008



Artist's background
Based in Sligo, Elizabeth Caffery has exhibited in group and sole exhibitions throughout Ireland, the UK and Europe, and was artist in residence in the Portuguese Azores. She has been widely recognised for her work, winning numerous awards.

Inspiration
"The impact of Ardara within its surrounding environs can never be understated. It's living landscape, the surrounding district, is a vital resource. However the inter-dependency between its need to attract tourists and that of carefully monitoring our impact is a delicate balance. We too will become the catalyst for its demise unless this is carefully governed. To consider this space / place in a meaningful sense there were two aspects which I was drawn to, both of which are essential and both are intertwined. It is that of the Owentocker river and the weaving heritage of Ardara, each of which serves as a life line to the area.

Description
The work is composed of three welded bronze rod forms, each approximately two to three metres high, the lines and movement of which are reminiscent of botanical forms.

Materials used
Hand altered and welded bronze rod.

12 Morning Star
Location: The Mall, Ballyshannon
Commissioned artist: Denis O'Connor
Installation Date: Friday 8th August 2008



Inspiration
"The artwork celebrates the area's rich industrial/social history and culture. The Mall Quay, Ballyshannon's port with reference to its shipping heritage, was the first port in Ireland to import coal. It also was a port of departure for immigrants fleeing the famine.

Description
The sculpture is of a 'landmark' scale, 6.5 meters in height, it is made up of a number of forms, such as the flowing 'water line' which makes reference to the Assaroo falls and River Erne.

Materials used
Grade 316 L. Stainless Steel and Limestone



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