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## The Arts — a review of the year



Previewing some of the Options exhibits (from left): Eileen Punch, South Circular Road; Mary Foley, Bruff, and Noel Tobin, Cappamore.

IN the difficult year of 1985, the Arts Council undertook an internal review of many of the arts disciplines resulting in a firmer and clearer articulation of policy.

The Council consulted with the public throughout the country as part of its preparation of a major submission to Government for the proposed

### White Paper on the Arts.

Five years after the publication of the Brinson report, the Arts Council changed the emphasis of its education policy from "arts in schools" to a more integrated approach. This, coupled with the ongoing dialogues with the curriculum and examinations board should have a significant impact on the role of the arts in Irish education.

The development of regional arts entered a new phase with the appointment of the first County Arts Officer in Co. Clare. The upsurge in interest in the arts by local authorities continued apace during the year.

### Modern

The publication of the Brinson report "The Dancer and the Dance", commissioned by the Arts Council, heralded a greater commitment to modern and contemporary dance.

ACE, a joint Arts Council/Gulbenkian Foundation experimental three-year project marked an important stage in the task of fostering role-model work in both community arts and arts education throughout the country.

The publication of "Services in Literature" confirmed the Arts Council's commitment to the development of our literature in both Irish and English.

The Arts Council was pleased to be closely associated with the success of European Music Year especially in the publication of the report "Deaf Ears" which gave disturbing facts and figures on the state of music in Irish education.

A seminar was held on the state of music in areas outside of Dublin which will have implications for 1986. The setting up of the Contemporary Music Centre will ensure the necessary professionalisation of services in music.

### Awarded

In 1985 the Arts Council toured an exhibition of the work of artists who had been awarded Council bursaries in previous years. The touring exhibition of Brian Bourke's work encouraged participation by children through the innovative "Young Heads" exhibition which accompanied this show. The work of four Irish artists was shown in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and the exhibition of Six Irish Artists visited ten European venues through the agency of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Douglas Hyde Gallery continued to bring major exhibitions to Ireland.

The Hop Store was established as a major venue in 1985.

CAN '85 made a huge impact on the visual arts scene in Cork.

The work of the Sculptors' Society led to exciting developments in Sligo and Dublin and initiatives with municipal galleries in Limerick, Cork and Kilkenny were consolidated this year.

A new Triskel Arts Centre in Cork was opened, Grapevine Arts Centre, Dublin, launched the huge new city centre project beside the Liffey, Garter Lane Arts Centre, Waterford, successfully pressed ahead with phase

two of its building programme.

Drama in 1985 saw the successful return of the Dublin Theatre Festival, the consistently high standard of achievements of the Gate Theatre, the acclaim won by Druid at home and overseas, the financial difficulties of the Abbey being addressed, and the flowering of new plays by Frank McGuinness, Tom Murphy, Tom MacIntyre and Graham Reid.

### Reduced

Touring of professional shows throughout the country, under the Arts Council Theatre Touring Scheme continued but at a reduced level due to shortage of funds.

The association of TEAM Theatre Company with the Grips Theatre of Berlin resulted in the highly praised "One, Two, Three, O'Leary".

The Arts Council's bursaries assisted a number of embryonic film and theatre projects.

1985 was primarily a year of reassessment, rationalisation and streamlining — a positive reaction to the dire shortage of funds which inhibited development in many areas of the arts.

The Arts Council hopes that the great achievement of the arts in recent years, including 1985, will not be jeopardised. The level of grant from Government for 1986 which has increased by a mere 1% over an already inadequate 1985 level can only have a depressing effect on the enthusiasm and vitality of the arts community.

## Tributes to city sports organiser by VEC

THE chairman of Limerick City V.E.C., Mr. Frank Leddin, has paid tribute to Mary Costello who recently received an national award for her outstanding contribution to sports administration.

At a recent meeting of the V.E.C., Mr. Leddin conveyed his personal congratulations and that of the committee to Mary, who has been awarded the joint Cospoir/Irish Mutual Benefit Building Society National Award for her outstanding contribution to Sports Administration.

Ms. Costello, who is a member of the committee's head office staff, was presented with her award by Mr. Donal Creed, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Education.

"To those of you who know Mary this award will come as no surprise, but seems like a just reward for her tremendous contribution, not just to badminton where she played a leading role, but to sport in general", he added.

### Secretary

Mr. Leddin said that Mary was also secretary of Limerick City Sports Advisory Body for many years and had also been closely identified with that body's successes including the Limerick City Sports Directory, Limerick City IOK, and the Limerick Sport Star Awards.

"She is also, of course, a member of the County Limerick Sports Advisory Body. The fact that her involvement in Sports Administration is carried out on a voluntary basis, and mainly in her own time, gives added weight to this prestigious national award", he added.

Mr. Leddin said that the award was not just a reflection on Mary's outstanding qualities, but is also a reflection on the Sports Advisory Body and also on the committee's administrative staff.

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