

Five sculpt new Limerick landmarks

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMAL OPENING on Tuesday by the Mayor, Ald. Tim Leddin, marked the completion of the work created during the Limerick Sculpture Symposium, organised by the Sculptors Society of Ireland and funded by Limerick Corporation and the Arts Council.

This is the seventh symposium which has been held by the society; previous symposia have been held in Arklow (1983), Sligo (1985), Celbridge (1985), Cork (1985), Dun Laoghaire (1986) and Letterfrack (1986). The sculptures from the Limerick Symposium have been sited in public places around the city centre.

Five sculptors participated in the symposium: Vincent Browne, Tracy McKenna, Eileen McDonagh, Tom Fitzgerald and Jim Flavin. They were selected from open submission and the pieces were made on the premises of the Limerick School of Art and Design between July 20th and August 28th.

Sweeney's Throne by Tom Fitzgerald, Limerick, has been executed in limestone and steel and deals with the notion of a seat or throne for the mythical king. It attempts to evoke Sweeney's presence by his absence: the seat has been hollowed out and on the ground an imprint of a pair of bare feet is topped by a quotation from

Seamus Heaney, "bare to the world, here came Sweeney". The work is sited on Rutland Street beside the new entrance to Custom House Park.

Eileen McDonagh's Poised Portal is sited within the Custom House Park and is a limestone portal, under which one can walk. It is entirely circular in section and looks out from the park onto the Shannon.

Aristotle's Lantern, by Tracy McKenna, an invited guest sculptor from Scotland, is an organic, almost fossil-like form which has been fabricated in steel and has been painted black. It too is sited in Custom House Park.

Georges Quay

Facing the Limerick School of Art, on the river at Georges Quay, stands Vincent Browne's Anti-War Memorial. Two busts, made of welded copper and brass stand on 10 ft. high plinths. One figure represents the "unknown soldier", the victim, wounded and suffering. The second figure is an ironic portrayal of the general, pompous, unscathed, and wielding a tyrannical power over the hapless soldier.

The final sculpture is a bronze abstract work, entitled Wave Form by Jim Flavin. It stands on a limestone base, and the form evolved from a pelvic bone of which Flavin made a plaster cast. The process of making the

piece in bronze is as important to the sculptor as the form: on close examination, the various stages from polystyrene through wax to bronze, can be detected and Flavin has deliberately allowed the surface to reflect this. Wave Form is sited at Merchants Quay, on a corner which has been refurbished by the Limerick Civic Trust.

The promotion of public sculpture in Ireland is one of the long term aims of the Sculptors' Society of Ireland and the symposia have been organised to produce a body of large scale public work, to give individual sculptors an opportunity to work on a large scale and to enable the public to enjoy sculpture that might not otherwise be available. Symposia also provide the local authority with a number of pieces of sculpture (at a fraction of the going rate), which contributes significantly to the enhancement of the urban environment.

The Limerick Symposium is an important element of the Cultural Agreement between the Arts Council and Limerick Corporation which was formally signed on March 7th, 1987. Under the agreement, which is the first of its kind in Ireland, the Arts Council and Limerick Corporation have made a commitment to a partnership which will result in a number of specific cultural projects and developments in the city over a two year period, from January 1987, to December 1988.



Presentations were made by Mr. Liam Skelly, Ald. Michael Griffin, and Mr. Vincent Feehan, Mayor of Limerick. From left: Mr. Vincent Feehan and Mr. Feehan.

Shannon a summit

IN TOWN



remember their origins, the reason the company was first established. Shannon is their cornerstone. They must build on that and face the future with courage and confidence."

She said that Shannon Development had had some failures in the past and indeed recent years had not seen a spectacular performance by the company.

Dog tattoo

□ TATTOOING dogs by freezing on the lip—a practice known in the "horsey world" as lip freezing and costing in the region of £100—was suggested by Cllr. P. O Ceallaigh as one way of solving the problem of Shannon's canine population.

Dismissing Cllr. Jimmy Nagle's ear-ring suggestion of a tattoo on a dog's ear, Cllr. O Ceallaigh explained that the freeze branding method had been tried on other animals.

Cllr. Patricia McCarthy, who wanted to know how many dogs were seized in Shannon since the Control of Dogs Act came into force, complained that there was no apparent effort to control the animals by owners. They still had dogs roaming wild around the town. At the beginning there was a great start but now the dogs were roaming in packs and there was a danger to children.

Cllr. Sean Hillery concurred. The ISPCA has informed the council that it is intended that the dog warden will patrol Shannon at night on a regular basis in future as it is easier to contact people at night to ascertain owners of the dogs.

Cllr. McCarthy, was also informed that the dog warden had patrolled the Shannon area at least once a week and since the commencement of the service some 43 dogs were impounded in the area. Subsequently 16 of these dogs were reclaimed by their owners.

Tom Browne the question of a vardnadze (right) this week.

in the region in a short time when so many are involved.

Madeline Taylor Quinn the take over would not be an act as first Sean Hillery said he had in the Development they came in very relaxed a little. They watched. Shannon Development had a great record. a hasty political decision Cllr. Martin Even they themselves they were not aware of

Patricia McCarthy stated welcome the Government decision to give Shannon additional responsibility they must, however,



The Mayor of Limerick Alderman Tim Leddin speaking at a ceremony to mark the completion of work by five sculptors.

Doctors discuss a private clinic

