

A GUIDE TO THE ARTS IN LIMERICK

by Sheila Deegan, City Arts Officer

New Developments

Limerick City is developing in more ways than one. Not only are we witnessing the rejuvenation of the inner city, but the birth of new arts groups, companies, community groups and Fas Projects, are helping to contribute to the new vitality of Limerick City. Most recently we have witnessed the setting up of a theatre in education company, Midas, based in Mary Immaculate College, aimed at bringing theatre to primary schools.

Jazz enthusiasts have been treated to the first regular programme of Jazz in the city, organised by Limerick Jazz Society. The second season has just got under way, with a

new regular venue, Jury's every Monday night.

Limerick now boasts one of the largest pieces of public sculpture in the country, "The Wounded King". A 20ft mythical figure was created by artists, Ronan Halpin, Sculptor and Paki Smith, Painter, with the help of young adults from the Weston Community.

City Gallery of Art.

The more established institutions have also been working hard during this Treaty 300 year. The Limerick City Gallery of Art was host to many leading contemporary artists including Anne Madden, William Crozier, Grace Weir, David Lilburn, Coilin Murray, Limerick Contemporary Ceramics and Thomas Ryan, PRHA. Two artists received commissions during the year, "Figures on the Facade", created by Mike Fitzpatrick and "Flag Drawings" by Noreen O'Dwyer. These commissions are in an effort to have examples of the permanent collection meet their audiences outside the confines of the Gallery. The permanent Collection was enhanced by the donation of Limerick

Contemporary Arts drawing collection.

Many other activities and events have been coordinated throughout the year by the City Gallery, which continues to be an active agent for promoting and assisting the arts in our city.

Belltable Arts Centre

The Belltable Arts Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. The birthday celebration included the original performers on the opening night in 1981, "Stocktons Wing". Also on the bill was comedian Jon Kenny.

The gallery in the Belltable has taken on a new look which enhances the space greatly and many local artists have had the opportunity to exhibit throughout the year. The box offices have shown record attendances during 1991, which can only be due to the consistently high quality of the programme on offer.

Limerick School of Art and Design

The Limerick School of Art & Design was granted degree status in 1991. For many years L.S.A.D. have awaited

this recognition. Congratulations to all concerned. The school of Art & Design have also, as part of Treaty 300 and with the assistance of Limerick Corporation, put together a series of free public lectures on "The History of Art", every Wednesday night for the month of October and November in the City Gallery.

University of Limerick.

The University of Limerick supports many of the arts including, provision of a venue for the Limerick Music Associations' annual programme of Classical Concerts, dance studio space for Daghda Dance Company, support for Plassey Arts Days, the National Self Portrait Collection and the University Film Club.

Schemes & Residencies Fas / Limerick Corporation Arts Project

This is the second year of the Fas/ Limerick Corporation Arts Project where artists are employed to work with groups or individuals on designated projects. Schools, hospitals, community groups and the library have benefited from having artists work

for them, as a result of the scheme.



Sheila Deegan

Adapt House Residency

Ceramic artist, Fiona Burke, worked with the women and children of Adapt house as part of and Arts Council "Artist-in-the Community" scheme. Work produced was then exhibited in the Belltable Arts Centre, where the exhibition was opened by President Robinson.

Annual Arts Events

Kate O'Brien Weekend

An annual literary event which saw record attendances in 1991 and included such speakers as Paul Smith, Polly Devlin and David Norris.

EV+A91

The annual exhibition of visual Art open-submission competition was curated in 1991 by Germano Celant, Curator of Contemporary Art at

the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Over 4,000 people visited the exhibition.

Young EV+A91

Residencies in seven schools city wide, too place and worked towards an exhibition of their work in the Belltable Arts Centre.

Many organisations and groups remain unmentioned in this short overview including, Island Theatre Company, All + 10 Sorts, Anthology of Limerick Writers, by Fourfront Poets, the Treaty 300 Pageant by Eamon J. Murphy, The City Arts Calendar, The School of Music, Limerick Poetry Broadsheet, Limerick Museum Kings in Conflict Exhibition, New Image Drama Group, Weston, The Riverrun Gallery.

For further information on any of the above or future plans, contact :

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