

Giving art a look in

Bored of the sales and the weather and you want something different to do - then why not pay a trip to the Limerick City Gallery. The Limerick Leader went along to see if it can be enjoyed by the ordinary punter in the street.

Gone are the pictures of Lord Whoever with his wife, one child and three dogs staring down their noses at you - today it is modern art. Squiggles and lines you may think but some of it can be interesting.

One of the exhibitions 'It Takes All Types' is a joint show of prints by John McHarg and poetry by Gerry Murphy is enjoyable. At first glance at the prints it is nonsensical colour - but it is like staring at patterned curtains you eventually make a face or a shape out of it.

Who couldn't find themselves in a print of grey smudge, with a red dash and letters splashed through it, especially when it was accompanied by the following poem: "Head like a football, heart like a barrel of thickening blood, seventeen stones, irritable out of love," by Gerry Murphy.

Another print seemed at first glance to be similar to a child's water colour impression of a sliced potatoe, but at a closer look there is more than meets the eye. There are impressions of a soldier with a gun, St Patrick, a shoe and Ireland. It is accompanied by a poem: "Bang, Finally sold out, exhausted but happy the balloon

seller leans for a breather on the roof of the car bomb."

One visitor to the gallery from Dundalk said that it was his first time visiting and the building was nice. He enjoyed the exhibition by John McHarg and Gerry Murphy but was critical of another exhibition.

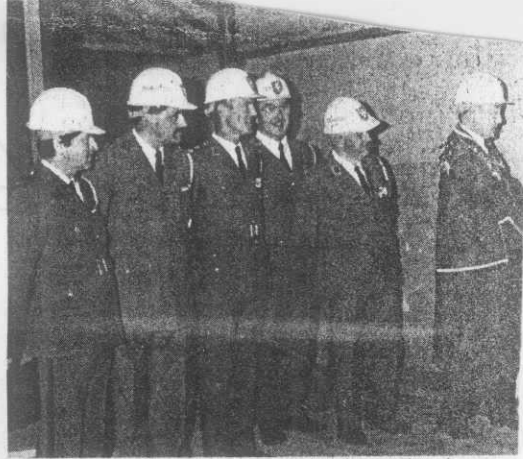
He didn't like an exhibition of photos of different types of chandeliers. He said that there was as much Art in a chair as there was in the chandeliers. You would have to agree unless you were a chandeliers enthusiast.

Another exhibition the Dundalk visitor was impressed with was 'Images of Light' a display of 10 glass sculptures by a famous Italian artist Livio Seguso. The round pieces of glass on steel did nothing for me but the visitor found them 'calm' and 'soothing'.

However, people who do not like modern art there is an exhibition 'Selections from the Permanent Collection' which consists of portraits. Also there is something there for the soccer fans; a number of photographs of people involved in football from around the Liverpool districts.

All in all if you have an hour or two to spare and want a bit of peace then you should pay a visit to the Limerick City Gallery after all it is free. There isn't a coffee shop there but the man there is helpful and will point you in the right direction.

-MAIRE CARMODY



Dr. Pat Fitzgerald, Lt. Don McCarthy, Comdt. I Comdt. Tom Hanly, Comdt. Denis Dwyer, Director Quinn and Kathleen Quinn and Tom Sheahan, architect stone at the new headquarters of the Limerick U Corps this Tuesday

