

Belinde lays the blankets on the ground as EV+A goes international

By AIDAN CORR

IF you are wondering why nine Bell containers stand precariously in the centre of Arthur's Quay park, it is all part of the city's EV+A which began on March 11 and encompasses 25 different venues around the city.

The giant x-like object is the work of Belgian artist, Luc Deleu, a native of Antwerp who trained as an architect and has a passion for cranes, containers and ready-made objects that he dislocates into contexts that

astonish and amaze.

Among the large number of artists from Sweden, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, Spain and the United States is New Yorker, Jessica Diamond, who has some very striking wall paintings on display in the Dolmen Gallery in Honan's Quay, run by Helen O'Donnell, while Swedish-based artist, Steven Bachalder has been busily adorning the walls of King John's Castle with ivy, as well as erecting a beautiful, blossoming cherry tree in the grounds.

Belgian sculptor, Wim Delvoy, also has some of his work on public display, and his four bronze statues can be viewed in the grounds of Shannon Rowing Club on Sarsfield Bridge, while adding welcoming colour to both the People's Park and St Mary's Cathedral grounds is Berlinde de Bruyckere, through artistic distribution of colourful blankets.

Limerick artists are also featured, with David Lilburn, Michelle Keating, Don MacGabhann and Michael Canning all exhibiting, while Dorothy Cross' work involving a

Guinness bottle is on view in Slatery's Pub in Edward Street.

Local firms have made a generous financial contribution to this year's exhibition which, according to the organisers, will cost in the region of £200,000 to stage.

The Arts Council have pledged £45,500 toward the project, while contributions of £5,000 and £10,000 have been donated by Shannon Development and Limerick Corporation respectively.

Walsh Western have agreed to transport and store all the works

while a new trading company, Irlasto Plc, which does extensive business in Russia, has promised £10,000. John Sisk & Son Ltd. have provided assistance with building materials while Duggan Glass have pledged £3,000 worth of sponsorship in kind and Don Reddan is covering all insurance costs.

According to chairman of EV+A 94, Hugh Murray, this year is an important one in the evolution of the exhibition, and their ambitions are to add a significantly broader international dimension to the event.

"EV+A hopes to become an important event in the calendar of contemporary art activities in the world.

We feel we have made a significant step on the road to achieving this goal through the addition of Invited EV+A to this year's programme.

"The support of so many people and organisations has been most encouraging and reinforces the perception that the cultural life of the city is rapidly evolving in a diverse and exciting way."

Limerick opens its art to EV+A

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

A CROWD of 800 thronged the city gallery for the opening of the international EV+A which cost £200,000 to stage.

The city has been transformed over the past week with works of art placed at 25 different locations, including City Hall, King's John's Castle, Arthur's Quay Park, St Mary's Cathedral, the Dolmen gallery and numerous other sites.

Speaking at the opening, Belgian adjudicator, Jan Hoet, said Limerick is now a forum for international contemporary art, and that the EV+A exhibition was one of the best he had ever adjudicated.

Artists from the US, Canada and all over Europe are in Limerick for the exhibition.

According to Mr Hoet they found working in the city extremely stimulating and invigorating.

"Limerick is a fantastic city, and an amazing experience for a visitor," he declared.

The intention of the artists, he explained was not to take over the city, but to

show but to bring art and people together in a European context.

Mayor O'Sullivan welcomed the exhibition, and described it as an important part of cultural life in the city.

"It brings art onto the streets to challenge the people," he said.

With the Hunt museum, city museum, city gallery and the concert hall, she said there was no reason why the city could not become a capital of art.

Hugh Murray, chairman of the organising committee, thanked everybody involved in the organising of the event including the artists and the sponsors.

Prizes in the open EV+A category were awarded to artists Felim Egan, Dublin, £1,000; Kevin Kelly, Dublin, £1,000; Eithne Jordan, Dublin, sister of film director Neil, £500, and Sharon Kelly, Belfast, £500.

Gary Phelan, Mark McLoughlin and Brendan Bourke, cousin of Cllr Jack Bourke, were rewarded for their exhibit entitled Hero, which is on display in the exhibition area in City Hall.

Young EV+A at the Belltable Arts Centre, was opened by Kieran Walsh, Arts Council education officer.

The exhibition runs until the end of April.



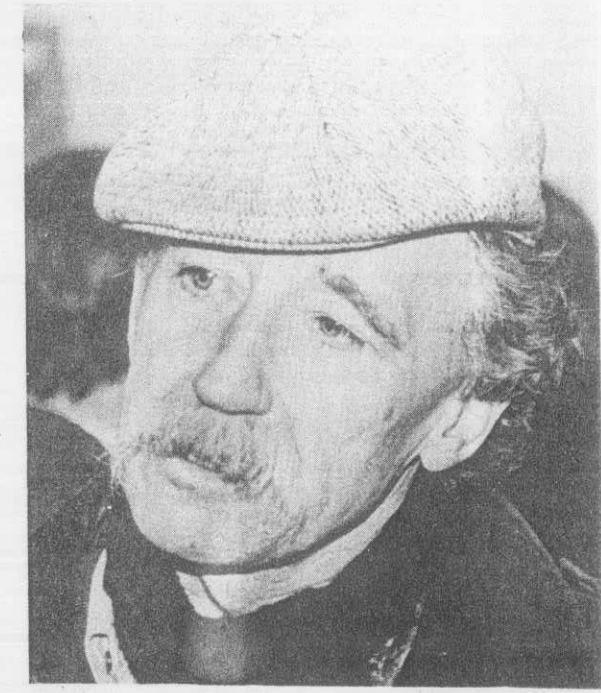
Cllr Jack Bourke at the opening with Cian O Carroll and Mary Coll, administrator, Belltable Arts Centre. (LL)



Brendan, Miriam and Gareth Woods, Limerick, at the opening. (LL)



Members of the Boherbouy Band perform at the opening of EV+A at the City Gallery.



(LL) EJ Peter, Tipperary, was at the opening. (LL)

