

Every picture tells a story of city's main street

By LAURA RYAN

LIMERICK art students have chronicled the city's main thoroughfare with a 54ft long pictorial history of O'Connell Street. The collage of thousands of photographs is part of the Lives Less Ordinary exhibition, which is on display at City Hall.

The brainchild of LSAD lecturer, Peter Morgan, the pictorial history was created by 32 third year graphics students. It took three months to complete

and consists of thousands of photographs of every inch of O'Connell Street.

"With my colleague Grainne Smyth, we worked together on the idea and divided both sides of O'Connell Street into five sections," said Mr Morgan.

"The 32 students involved took photos from Matthew Bridge all the way up to the Daniel O'Connell statue at the Crescent and took photographs at different times of the day and night. Then they went back and kept adding to it and taking pictures at different

levels of the street."

The portrait of O'Connell Street is being exhibited as part of the Lives Less Ordinary display which was officially opened by Mike Byrne.

Lives Less Ordinary is a book of 32 Irish portraits compiled by Mr Morgan and writer Judy Kravis. The people who talk about their lives and are photographed in the book are artists, writers, map-makers, weavers, water-diviners, teachers, environmentalists, farmers, woodcutters, gardeners, travellers and monks.

Some continue ways of life that have existed for generations while others have chosen to live and work in ways that are experimental and exploratory.

The 32 portraits in words and images provide an alternative view of the possibilities of life in Ireland.

"I wanted to include the student's work in the exhibition as a theme of collaboration," Mr Morgan continued. "My collaboration with Judy Kravis on the book and also with the students on the project." Peter Morgan teaches photogra-

phy and video at LSAD and is an artist whose work is in many public and private collections, including the Arts Council of Ireland, UCC and the Tate Gallery, London. He has also made and commissioned video projections for the UCC Gamelan orchestra and UL based, Daghdha dance company. It is hoped that the students project may remain in the city as a pictorial record of O'Connell Street.

Lives Less Ordinary is on exhibition in City Hall until February 29.



● Lily with Red Hot Poker; one of Peter Morgan's photographs in the Lives Less Ordinary exhibition currently on display at City Hall, and the Crescent, as seen as part of a 54ft long collage of photographs by the graphics students of Limerick School of Art and Design