

A beautiful journey through time

Limerick Post reporter Alexandra Ryan, is enthralled at the Permanent Collection at Limerick City Art Gallery

THE Limerick city gallery possesses a treasure that many locals might not know about. The 'Permanent Collection' in the east gallery of the premises, holds not only tributes to Irish artists but also to Limerick heritage and history.

The Romanesque, Georgian style building adjacent to People's Park, promises visitors beautiful art and an historical journey.

The gallery first came into being in the 1930's. Current curator Mike Fitzgerald, told the Limerick Post that: "The gallery is very significant in Limerick heritage." The idea was first created by a group of Limerick City business people and local artists, with the intent to create a place to stimulate general interests in visual art.

The first ever exhibition was held in the Savoy Cinema, October 1937, and moved to its current premises at Pery's Square in 1948. It shared the building with the Carnegie free library and museum for 30 years, before it became the Gallery.

As you walk into the externally traditional, but internally modern building, a sense of heritage and modernism is paradoxical... but special. After walking through the huge spacious white hall, you walk into the permanent collection room. Stark in contrast to the previous hall, the east gallery transports viewers back in time through-out Irish history and

around the world.

The collection holds over 500 pieces, including paintings, sketches, ceramics, statues and photography.

On entering the room, a deep orange ceramic piece is directly in front of you. The piece, by Tiburero Soteno, is a strange and fascinating piece. The bottom of the ceramic shows hell like features, a dragon claws on to the edge, eating a young child, while a woman cries over it holding an armless man, but as you move up the piece, this soon grows into beautiful creations of flowers and angels, with a globe separating the two worlds, a sentiment to heaven and hell, with Earth in between.

However, for people who do not really care for a deep and complex piece, there are

topic and thought.

Another piece that does this is a painting that shows the words: "We are what we witness". This can be interpreted as the theme for many discussions, war, politics and world wide issues.

There are many strengths of the prestigious collection. There is variety, but also the opposite applies, a lot of the works are similar, but the art evolves in front of your very eyes. Many paintings have the same theme and the Irish drama is therefore linked together, but they are decades apart, portraying the growth of Ireland.

Walking around the room is like walking through Limerick history, with paintings of Curragh Chase, Limerick City and boats rowing on the

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various delightful and beautiful paintings on the left side of the room. Irish artists such as Paul Henry, Grace Henry, Sir John Leavy and Jack B Yeats, fill the room with conceptual portraits and enchanting landscapes of Ireland.

The pieces in the collection are mostly Irish or Irish related, bar a beautiful painting of a Venice scene. However, many works, like the Soteno ceramic, create world wide

river.

However, weaknesses are present at the East gallery, some of the walls seem cluttered and daunting, especially the wall of portraits which makes it hard to simply enjoy one painting at a time. More space is definitely needed in the Gallery to bring the works of art to their full potential.

Yet, the overall experience is still educational and enjoyable. Both young and old



can enjoy the beautiful collection as dark pieces intermingle with the soft dazzling pieces, making it a place for all people to enjoy themselves.

Limerick City Gallery of Art continues to educate people in the art and its heritage, the Gallery is delighted to offer a Leaving Cert Art History Study Day on Friday February 27, 10am-1pm. This

is intended as a revision tool for students backed up by visual examples from national and local collections. The topics are: The Renaissance, Impressionism to Abstraction, Early Irish Art, Modern Irish Art (1890 - 1960)

The gallery often have family days also, and you can book a tour on any day of the week, in order to learn

about the age old collection which we should be extremely proud of.

Disco setting for junior road safety

A HEALTHY heart for Valentine's week is one that observes road safety.

This was the lesson taught at Southill School Completion Programme and Bjeu School of Dance, which held Valentine Disco as a community-based event to teach Limerick national school children best practice in road safety. The interactive afternoon took place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Community Hall.

Pupils from Galvone N.S., Our Lady Queen of Peace School and Gael Scoil Sheoirse Clancy attended.

"The aim is to promote and reward in school attendance and after school activities," pointed out Jenny Stone, community co-ordinator with Limerick City Community Safety Partnership.

"The Southill SCP Team and Bjeu School of Dance worked together to offer this treat to over 250 pupils in the Southside Schools. "Along with parents, schools and the community co-ordinators, they are thrilled that the occasion will benefit so many young people".

The co-ordinators are hoping the occasion will promote one of their aims, which is increasing community safety. The children enjoyed getting and wearing the hi-visibility safety armbands distributed, and the organisers invited the community Garda to help deliver road safety directions.

Conradh na Gaeilge

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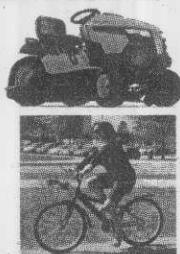
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