

# Out urban art project is the city's walls as a canvas

## Art installation for 'iconic' Cleeve's tower

World's top street artists bring skills to Limerick to transform sites



Draw Out's Catherine O'Halloran with Elliot O'Donnell - or Askew One - on Little William Street in front of a massive mural that the New Zealander worked on with enigmatic Irish artist Maser. Some seven such murals appeared around the city this week, more will take shape in August.

From around the world and is an investment into the city, so that younger kids that are painting can look at this and see that creativity and imagination is limitless." Paul Foley, now seconded to City of Culture, says it is "one of the most successful initiatives that we have had throughout the year." "It is great to see sites which may have been dead spaces, being brought to life by colour and creativity. The objective is to transform these sites into a more colourful and creative streetscape." Mr Foley, who worked in the environment department before moving to a key role in City of Culture, acknowledges the educational element of Draw Out. "We had some difficulties maybe

two years ago in terms of tagging and graffiti around the city, and this is a way of educating artists who are involved in this, that it is better to do it in a structured way," he says. "You can do better art as a result, rather than a scribble in the middle of the night, which is vandalism. This can be far more beneficial for artists." Catherine says that education element "is really important." "This stuff only really makes sense when it sits against the other education and mentorship stuff that we do, because otherwise it doesn't have much meaning," she explains. "That is the foundation that runs underneath it and all of the team are local artists, who get to experience what it is like to

approach a wall this big. "That is a creative investment into the young people of Limerick, which we need to start thinking about doing more of." Kiwi artist O'Donnell, who collaborated with Maser on the mural to the rear of Brown Thomas, says his time in Limerick has been "really productive." "I have spent the whole year at projects just like this, it has been a continual flow," he explains. "This has been very laid back, typically Irish. I like that autonomy, the freedom to move and do things at my own pace." "It is really nice to see this big international mural culture really thriving at the moment. It is something I am very appreciative

of, because it enables me to travel to different places." Fintan McGee from Brisbane, said the reaction to his piece on the Roches Street car park has been "overwhelmingly positive." "Most of my work, first of all, is like a reaction to space. A lot of my work deals with environment, climate change," he explains. "I don't really use spray paint any more, it is kind of like old school muralism." "Limerick is a city that has been through some tough times recently and is in a mode of recovery right now and I think people are excited about something that is revitalising and fresh and can make them feel proud of where they live. It has been great."

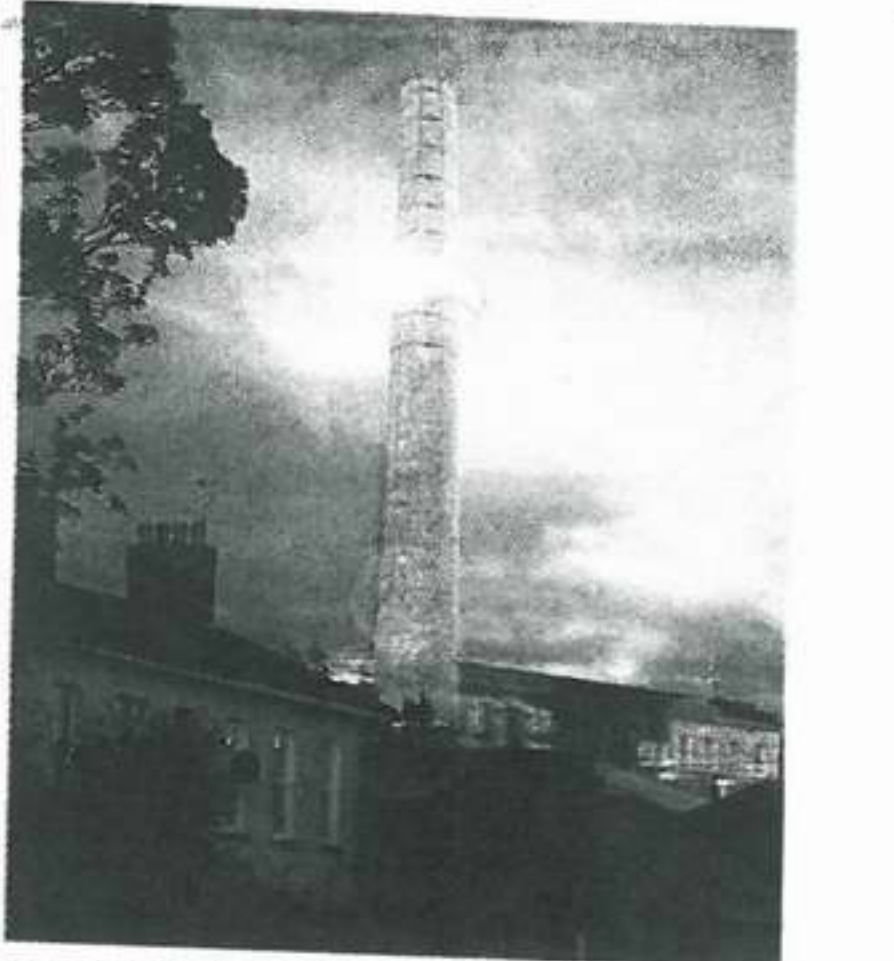
# Limerick' project showcase in City Hall

local drama and performance. Today's event - to take place from 10am - will award groups a chance to showcase to the public their winning projects that are yet to place. "As we are in the final half of the year, this will be a fascinating opportunity for the public to see our investment in indigenous projects all over Limerick, so far," said Sheila Deegan, arts and culture manager of City of Culture. "We have seen some amazing projects unfold over the past six months, and we have yet to see more fascinating projects as City of Culture comes to a close in the final few months. We encourage all Made in Limerick projects to participate in this event and to present their

In all, City of Culture received a total of 328 applications with a request for over €8m in funding through the Made in Limerick strand. 109 projects were selected after a "competitive round", 102 of which are locally based. In total some €2.3m was awarded, in addition to a further €1.1m which was ring fenced for 'Legacy and Commissioning' projects, also to be locally led, according to City of Culture. This brings to €3.4m - or 57% - of the total Government contribution that is going to local groups. A large number of spectacular events have taken place as a result, including the ICO's Carmen, the Limerick Spring festival, the Culture Garden, the...



ongoing research into finding ways to connect the human experience with the built and social environment. Kearney selected the chimney stack so as to "create a dialogue between the skyline and the people of the city." "TellMeSomething is a stimulating and visually engaging installation that captures the attention of those who live, work, visit or travel through the city of Limerick," he said. "The enticing name itself comes from my intention to create an alternative art piece that encourages metaphorically and literally the dialogue between the people and the city of Limerick, while asking us all to reassess our understanding of the city by introducing a new element into its otherwise familiar skyline," he explained. During the day it passively reflects its surroundings by means of two way mirrors, but at night the LED display is brought to life. "Hovering two-thirds up the height of the chimney, TellMeSomething's physicality is defined by its strong sense of otherness and animated ever-changing appearance," he elaborated. It is intended, he said, to urge the viewer to look on the progression of Limerick from economic and industrial stagnation to being a hub of technological research & development. Born in 1961, he studied Fine Art at the Limerick College of Art and Design, and then went on to Chelsea College of Art and Design.



Tell me something: Artist Andrew Kearney wants the public to interact with his creation at the former Cleeve's factory, as they can input messages for display on the LED displays

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