

'Untitled' (woven Tapestry)

For this commission it was decided to adopt a theme, which would be complementary to the venue in which it would be exhibited. Following discussions with the County Librarian, it was decided that the subject matter would be drawn from prominent themes in the world of Irish Literature and that the focus would be on Ulster writing from earlier times to the present. The tapestry is sub-divided into ten panels each of which is related to a major period in Irish Literary history. Literary sources are given in brackets.

- Panel 1** The Children of Lir
(From 'Children of Lir – Anon)
Top Left
- Panel 2** Colmcille sails to Iona
(From 'Bard of the Gael & Gall' - G. Sigerson ed)
- Panel 3** Motifs in early Christian art from Carndonagh
(St. Patrick's Breastplate)
- Panel 4** The medieval story of an Irish monk called Ronan
(Suibhne 'Mad Sweeney' - S. Meaney)
- Panel 5** The Four Masters
(From – The Annals of The Four Masters)
- Panel 6** The Great Celtic Revival
(The Wild Swans of Coole - W.B Yeats)
- Panel 7** The Irish Diaspora
(Philadelphia Here I come – Brian Friel)
- Panel 8** The Modern Irish Landscape
(Bogland – Seamus Heaney)
- Panel 9** 20th Century
(Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme – Frank McGuinness)
- Panel 10** Earagail
(At Caiseal na Gcorr St (Poem) – Cathal O Searcaigh)

The quotations surrounding each panel span the world of Irish Literature from the early sagas to the present day. The dividing panels contain an array of minor motifs, which depict images of human forms, birds, fish etc. drawn from Irish iconography.

The making of the tapestry:

The original design was an acrylic painting, which acted as a guide for the weaving of the tapestry. Donegal yarns were hand-dyed and each individual strand was woven into the tapestry by hand.

This piece of work was created over a period of eighteen months.