

### Fort Of The Fair

The small housing development to which this per cent for art scheme is mainly attributed is located in the townland of Rathneeny beside Lahey, Co. Donegal. In research into the history of the area as of source of inspiration for the proposed artwork, the origins of the name Rathneeny itself offered, for the artist, the best visual reference and imagery with which to work. The Anglicised name Rathneeny comes from the Gaelic Rath an Aonaigh, which translates into English as 'Fort of the Fair'. In his proposed sculpture, the nostalgic circular form of the cartwheel is combined with the strong circular outlines of the Rath or hill fort enclosure, the faint remains of six, which mark the surrounding drumlin hills.

**Visual References:** The 'Fair' as an occasion of commerce and communal gathering brought to a central place, is represented by the functionality of a cartwheel in its historical use as one of the most important means of transport in bygone days, in taking people and goods to the fair. While visually the criss crossing of the spokes at the centre point or axle symbolize this sense of convergence of people. The 'fort' as a round enclosure offering protection from war and weather is most basically rendered through the simple geometric form of a circle within a circle, wrapping itself around its vulnerable contents. There are strong astrological references in the proposed artwork also, reflecting the high importance of the ancient inhabitants of the Rath bestowed on celestial movements. The reference to Laghey fair in 'Old Moores Almanac' as being held on the 15th day of each month suggests a lunar connection of old.