



Making Shapes² Public Art in Donegal 2013 - 2017

www.donegalpublicart.ie

Making Shapes²

Public Art in Donegal

2013 - 2017

Vision

Donegal County Council seek to put in place a Public Art Programme that continues to support and encourage original, artistically ambitious and high quality public art, which aspires to international standards of innovation, imagination, excellence, contemporary arts practice and value for money, across all art form disciplines that will impact, charge, animate and connect with the public or local community.



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Foreword

In 2012 Donegal County Council celebrates 21 years of Public Art commissioning in Donegal and mark this with the launch of a retrospective exhibition, the launch of Making Shapes 2 Public Art in Donegal 2013 – 2017 and the re- launch of www.donegalpublicart.ie.

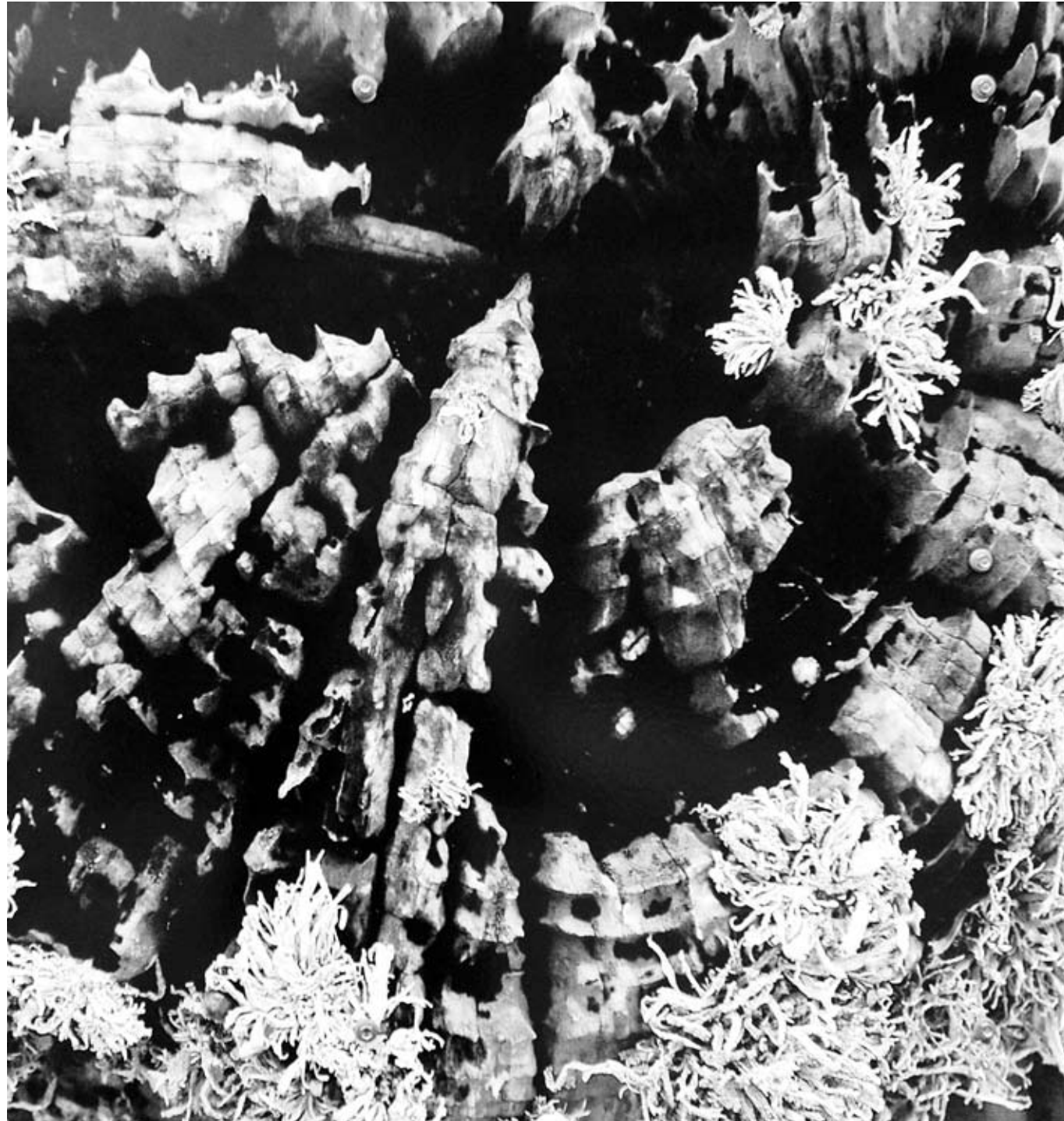
The commissioning of Public Art either utilising The Per Cent for Art Scheme or delivering projects on behalf of other agencies gives the public the opportunity to experience a vast range of contemporary art in everyday life and provides the artist with the challenge and opportunity to create work for public engagement and response.

This public art strategy, developed by Donegal County Council as a framework for Public Art Development for the period 2013 – 2017 reflects on the substantial changes that have occurred nationally. Notwithstanding that, Donegal County Council believes in a society that values creativity, imagination and expression, believes that the arts generate growth and tourism, believes that the arts enhance our reputation and that the arts enrich our lives. Therefore Donegal County Council will continue to invest and support the arts and The Public Art Programme.

Through Making Shapes 2, Public Art in Donegal 2013 – 2017, Donegal County Council seek to put in place a programme that continues to support and encourage original, artistically ambitious and high quality public art, which aspires to international standards of innovation, imagination, excellence, contemporary arts practice and value for money, across all art forms that will impact, charge, animate and connect with the public and local communities.

Mr. Seamus Neely
County Manager

Cllr. Frank Mc Brearty
Mayor Donegal County Council



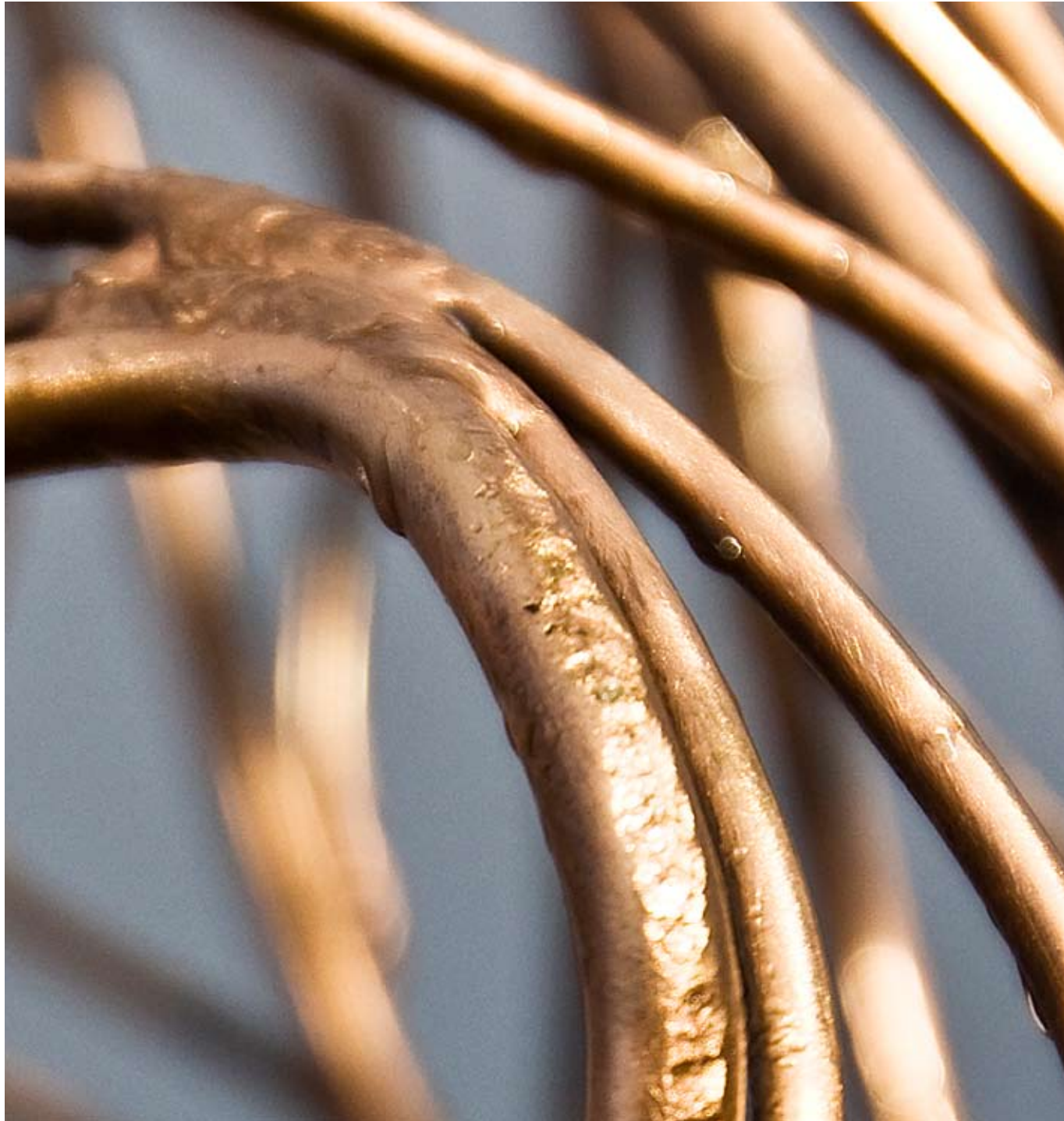
Public Art in Donegal

2012 sees 21 years of Public Art commissioning in Donegal County Council's Public Art Programme and to date almost 70 commissions have been awarded and delivered. The Donegal Public Art website details all commissions to date including projects that are in progress.
www.publicartdonegal.ie.

Donegal County Council encourages a varied and flexible approach to commissioning and commissions, both temporary and permanent have been drawn from a range of arts disciplines including visual arts,

the performing arts, community arts, landscape design, architecture, music, pyrotechnics and literature. New, original artwork, created specifically for the local context has always been encouraged. Donegal County Council is proud of its truly integrated and comprehensive Cultural Services Division and the Public Art Programme of Donegal County Council is integral to this service.

Three commissioning strands are outlined for this framework: The Residency Strand, The Context Specific Strand and The Cultural Tourism Strand.



Guiding Principles

The Public Art Programme will continue to give the public the opportunity to experience a vast range of contemporary art in everyday life and provide the artist with the challenge and opportunity to create work for public engagement and response.

The Public Art Programme will continue with a variable and flexible approach to commissioning will be based on the following commissioning strands.

- Residency Strand
- Context Specific Strand
- Cultural Tourism Strand

The Public Art Programme will seek to explore new and innovative ways that enable artistic process through partnerships, research & development and experimentation.

The Public Art Programme will proactively exploit all opportunities to publicise and mediate Public Art as it is uniquely placed to offer accessible cultural experiences to the public.

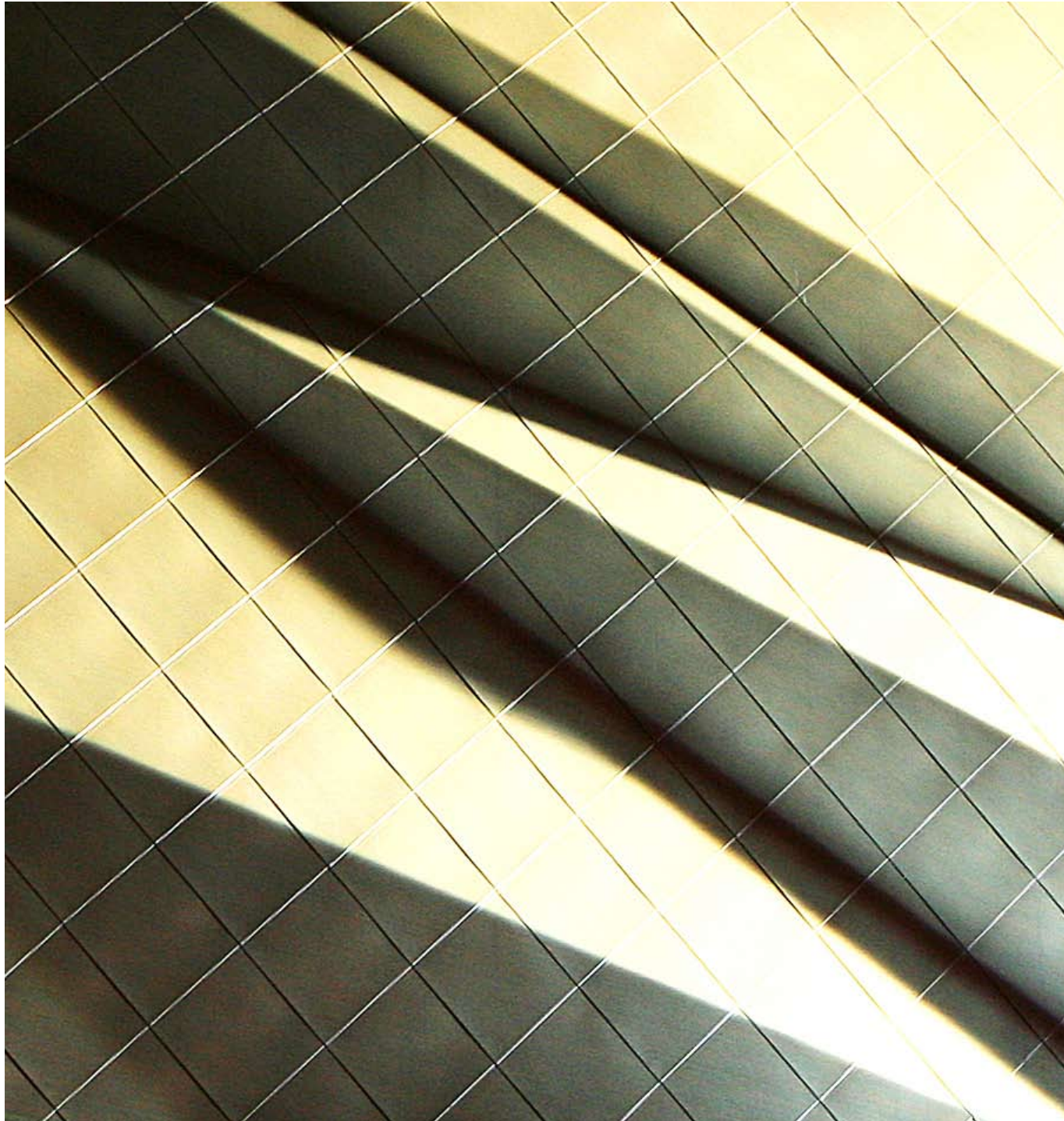
The Public Art Programme will create opportunities for dialogue & learning at local, national and international level.

The programme will be developed to optimise collaborative opportunities within Donegal County Council's Cultural Services and through partnerships with other County Cultural Service providers and National Cultural Service Providers including The Arts Council.

The Public Art Programme will seek, to address objectives identified in Cultural Connections, The Strategic Plan for Cultural Services Division 2009 – 2014 prepared by Donegal County Council Cultural Services and An Straitéis, Donegal County Strategy 2012-2014 prepared by Donegal County Development Board.

The Public Art Programme will maximise opportunities for commissioning using both the Per Cent for Art Scheme and other funding opportunities. Commission will be confined to the electoral areas where the Per Cent for Art budget was generated unless where inter-county collaboration brings greater benefit.

The Public Art Programme will seek to explore opportunities for the development of The Donegal County Council County Art Collection.



Public Art Policy

Commissioning Options: Commissions may be permanent, temporary, residencies or research based.

Art form: Donegal County Council will actively seek to expand the nature and range of artworks beyond those traditionally associated with Public Art.

Procurement and Delivery: The procurement and delivery of The Per Cent for Art Scheme will be based on the models of Open Competition, Limited Competition, Artists Panel, Direct Invitation or Purchase as set out in the Government Framework Document 'Public Art: Per Cent for Art Scheme, General National Guidelines 2004'. <http://www.ahg.gov.ie/en/Publications/ArtsPublications/PublicArtPerCentforArt.pdf>

Pooling: Pooling of funds is encouraged in order to allow greater flexibility in commissioning. Donegal County Council will explore the option of pooling budgets from different smaller capital projects either within electoral areas or across electoral areas. The policy advocates for

joint initiatives with other local authorities, other government departments and with county-based agencies in the realisation of a meaningful Public Art program.

Social Engagement: The area of socially engaged public art, which is where the artist and community work together to create a piece of work, features some of the most renowned and innovative practice internationally and is very often locally connected and offers unique development opportunities. Making Shapes ² Public Art in Donegal 2013 – 2017 seeks to develop a program of socially engaged Public Art Projects that will take place in the context of the Council's overall cultural provision and will be based on models of good local development practice.

Public Connection: Intrinsic to the success of the Public Art Programme is the way in which connections between artists, art and the public are made, communicated and comprehended. Therefore education, mediation and audience development initiatives will

be developed (e.g., education projects, seminars, talks, conferences) which will seek to create active dialogue between artist, art and the public thereby facilitating the possibility for more meaningful connections.

Siting: For site based permanent artwork, it is recognised that the 'site' can be a fundamental element in informing a commission and that where appropriate, the artist is involved in the selection of the site/location in consultation with Donegal County Council and that a flexible approach be encouraged and adopted in relation to the selection of site and/or location.

Conservation, Maintenance & Repair: The Public Art Manager will be responsible for the on-going inspection of Public Art Works and will prepare an annual work plan on conservation and maintenance where appropriate. 'Maintenance' might also include archiving, storage and exhibition costs and all these costs will be borne through the Per Cent for Art Scheme. To ensure that all new artworks are safeguarded for years to come, the

submission of a maintenance schedule should form part of the artist's brief and commissioning contract. The Public Art office will work with the Area Offices in terms of on-going maintenance.

Documentation: Donegal County Council is committed to the production of high quality text based and electronic web based documentation for publicity, promotion and recording of all public art commissions. Good documentation can be used for public information in publicity campaigns, as research material, to supplement educational projects and act as a classroom aid, as material for evaluation and as benefit-in-kind to artists. An independent documentary photographer is appointed to each commission to regularly document a projects development and final work.

Re-siting and decommissioning: In certain circumstance, for practical or creative reasons, an artwork may need to be relocated or a decommissioning process may be required. This may be the case when the work reaches the end of

it's determined lifespan, where the work does not occupy the site for which it was designed and is compromised, when the artwork has come to encapsulate redundant values in outmoded forms or when Donegal County Council deem that the work is past its best.

It will be the role of the Public Art Working Group to consider re-siting or decommissioning on a case-by-case basis. Donegal County Council will ensure that all contracts issued to artists address re-siting and decommissioning.

Partnerships: The Public Art Program will explore options to work collaboratively with other county based and non-county based cultural service providers, with other Government Departments and will explore options to work collaboratively on a cross border basis.

County Development Board: In Donegal, many different Government Departments and State Agencies are beginning to commission Public Art utilising the Per Cent for Art Scheme. Over the lifetime of

the plan, Donegal County Council, as the lead agency in the County Development Board will continue to explore options and opportunities to develop a strategic, co-ordinated and integrated approach for a truly County Wide Public Art Program.

Resource for Public Art in County Donegal: The Public Art Manager will be available to act as a resource on Public Art Development within the County and is available to offer information and advice where required. In recognition of the desire of some special interest groups to independently commission artworks, Donegal County Council's Public Art Office will provide best practice guidelines on commissioning procedures and possible alternative funding sources. The Per Cent for Art Scheme is not open to individuals or groups wishing to commission work independently of Donegal County Council, for instance, for commemorative purposes.

Curatorial Direction: Donegal County Council is committed to the involvement of artists as advisors, curators and arts professionals where relevant so that the best artworks and projects can be delivered.



Residency Strand

Introduction: Public Art represents an extremely important part of the cultural service provision within Donegal County Council, the area of socially engaged public art, which features some of the most renowned and innovative practice internationally, is very often locally connected, inherently addressing and responding to the local context. It offers unique development opportunities for us in Donegal. Making Shapes² Public Art for Donegal 2013 – 2017 seeks to develop a program of Public Art Residencies, utilising both socially engaged & artist led models of good practice, which will take place in the context of the Council's overall cultural provision.

Aim: The aim of this strand is to enable artists and arts organisations to work collaboratively with communities to create innovative, ambitious, public art projects. The aim is to develop art projects that are and become a meaningful part of everyday experience.

Implementation: This strand will be delivered in partnership with other parts of Donegal County Council Cultural Services including the Regional Cultural Centre, The Heritage Office and the Archives Service. It may also include partnerships with Earagail Arts Festival and other arts providers in the County.



Context Specific Strand

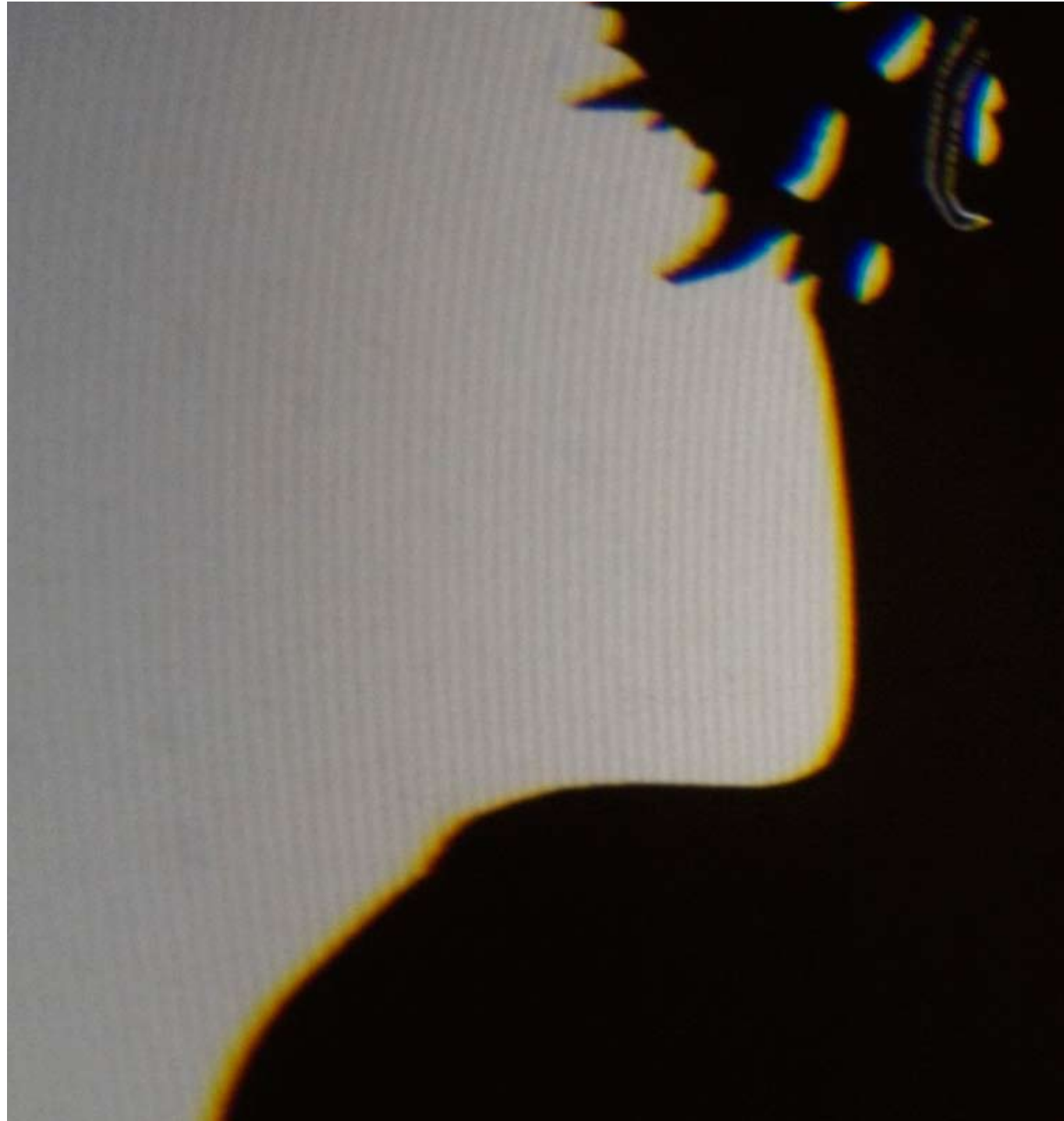
Introduction: Commissioning Public Art does not mean merely providing the public with the most obvious and fixed solution, for this would preclude the possibility of truly innovative art. It involves a process of dialogue and expanding horizons in the sense that people cannot express a desire for that which they have not yet experienced. However the fear of controversy has too often been an inhibiting factor in the commissioning process. The pressure to play it safe, to do what has been done before, not to rock the boat can seem overwhelming and can impact negatively on the vision and ambition of a project. However Donegal County Council believe that an effective public art work does not patronise or placate its public and the instantly popular option must be balanced against the desire to 'raise the bar' and the demands of enduring quality, creativity and professionalism.

Aim: The aim of this strand is to support artistic ambition in the creation of inventive and imaginative context specific artworks, which will be across artform and may be both of a temporary or permanent nature.

Implementation: To deliver this strand, there are specific Context Specific projects that we will seek to deliver during the lifetime of the plan and may include

Killybegs PlaySpace Commission
Traveller Caravan Commission
The Diaspora Commission
Lovely Weather Film Commission
The Gathering Commission in partnership with Earagail Arts Festival
Heritage Commission
The Riverine 'Big Sing' Commission
National Roads Authority Dungloe to Glenties Road

see www.donegalpublicart.ie for updates.



Cultural Tourism Strand

Introduction: The vision for tourism in Donegal, as identified in An Stratéis Donegal County Strategy 2002 - 2012 devised by the County Development Board, is one that is based on Donegal's unique culture, heritage, language and environment. It has been well documented that the more discerning tourist travelling to the North West is looking for a tourism product that is culturally unique to the area.

Aim: To recognise that there is significant mutual benefit for the arts sector and for tourism in taking strategic actions to increase, improve, and promote the arts elements of the wider cultural tourism offer.

Implementation: To deliver this strand, there are specific Cultural Tourism projects that we will seek to deliver during the lifetime of the plan and may include

- ArtScape Donegal @ Ards Forest Park
- Bundoran Surf Commission



ArtScape Donegal @ Ards Forest Park

Ireland and its culture have had a significant influence on culture worldwide, particularly in the fields of the arts. Ireland is also noted for its landscape, its remoteness, its seascape and its lighting. Ireland has a long tradition of art in nature, especially as far as sculpture and installation are concerned and dates back to the early dolmens and stone circles of prehistoric times and Ireland is increasingly noted for its success and strength in the area of contemporary arts practice. From research, we are aware that Culture, Heritage and Landscape are primary drivers for overseas visits to Ireland.

Being cognisant of this and building on our reputation for culture, landscape, sculpture and contemporary arts, Donegal County Councils Public Art Program now seeks to establish an ambitious Flagship Cultural Tourism Project, unique in Ireland using the working title of 'ArtScape Donegal @ Ards Forest Park in partnership with Coillte Teoranta, The Irish Forestry Board.

This will be an outdoor interactive gallery, commissioning new work which will be the best of modern and contemporary Sculpture/Landscape interventions set in Donegal's most dramatic landscape at Ards Forest Park, Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal.

Artscape Donegal @ Ards Forest Park will be a unique and extraordinary place that sets out to challenge, inspire, inform and delight the local, national and international visitor and will add significantly to what Donegal has already to offer the Cultural seeker and sightseer. In summary the objectives of the initiative are to create a new "must see" outdoor visitor attraction for the region

The idea itself is both innovative and experiential; it will engage the visitor and use the natural assets of this location to provide a memorable experience. It is planned that this project will complement the cluster of visitor attractions along the proposed Wild Atlantic Driving Route and allow additional bundling opportunities for product providers.



Public Art Agency for Donegal

In 1997, the Government approved the revision and extension of the Per Cent for Art Scheme to all Government Departments with construction budgets and since that time the Scheme has been implemented in varying degrees by Government Departments and public bodies here in Donegal.

Since 2000, each local authority area in Ireland has established a County or City Development Board (CDB). These Boards are made up of representatives from Local Government, State Agencies, Local Development, Social Partners and the Community & Voluntary Sector. The primary aim of the CDB's is to achieve co-ordination of services.

Donegal County Council has been delivering a county based Public Art Agency based on the CDB philosophy of co-ordination and integration of services for all the Government Departments and state agencies that can avail of the Per Cent for Art Scheme. This model of delivery is unique nationally and although challenging, it seeks to provide a strategic inter-agency approach for the delivery of the most exciting and ambitious truly County based Public Art Plan. Operating in a county development board context, this approach ensures a co-ordinated approach, the best use of resources and the creation of synergies.

Acknowledgements

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Print: Browns Letterkenny

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© 2012 Donegal County Council Public Art
ISBN 978-0-9556567-7-4



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