

South Dublin County **Public Art**

An information resource for permanent and temporary public artworks in South Dublin County

In this website you can find information about artists and artworks, access audio and film works, read texts and search for artworks by map, locality, artform or artist.

Search



Art Trax is now available for FREE download from the [App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#). This smartphone application provides a complete overview of the public art landscape that has emerged in the county since the first public art commissions in the 1980's. You can view and map the artworks, and access film works.

[Home](#) [About](#) [Public Art Map](#) [View Public Art](#) [Artists](#) [Media & Texts](#)

A Monument for Two Communities by Maurice O'Connell



Type:	Visual Arts	View photographs
Location(s):	Rathcoole Park View these locations on a map	
Commissioner:	South Dublin County Council SDCC	
Funding:	Dept. of Environment Heritage and Local Government	
Programme:	In Context 1	
Year:	2000	

Context Background:

In July 1997, South Dublin County Council and its consultants, Artworking, invited three directors of national visual art organisations to propose artists for two Per Cent for Art commissions. A new park under construction between Rathcoole and Saggart and St. Finians Park, Lucan would provide sites for these works. The Council intended these as a pilot project that might lead to longer term public art programming. Creative engagement with the site and an ability to effectively engage with recipient communities were the main criteria. A shortlisting and presentation process led to the selection of Patricia McKenna and Maurice O'Connell.

Description:

Maurice O'Connell compiled a record of the two communities of Rathcoole and Saggart. This process was spread over two years culminating in *A Monument for Two Communities*. Maurice performed a variety of functions engaging with the community, workshops with local schools, collecting recordings and surveying progress in the Park. He subsequently buried elements of this record in a time capsule under a earth mound in Rathcoole Park.

"Through this project, I set out to meet and encounter two communities to get a sense of contemporary life in Saggart and Rathcoole. The monument sets out to mark and acknowledge the social and other developments of those villages. The new Park, in which the monument is built, is one of these developments. The monument takes the form of a mound, and is discreet physical acknowledgement of that development. Photographs, video and audio-tapes become the tangible evidence of my journeys through two villages. Once completed, the monumental mound will be in the form of a mock burial chamber, in which a limited amount of the documentation and work carried out in the lead up to the completion of the mound will be interred. The monument becomes a quiet way of processing the layers of difficulties that arise from attempting to represent

contemporary life; the desires of the artist, the needs of two different communities, the statutory actions of local government.” Maurice O’Connell

Mediation:

3 Commissions - a catalogue produced by South Dublin County Council features work from the public art programmes from 1997 – 1999 including *A Monument for Two Communities*

Burying Time - An article and photograph in The Echo newspaper, Thursday April 6, 2000 on the occasion of the burying of the capsule.

Commissioner Type:

Local Authority

Commissioner:

South Dublin County Council SDCC

Programme:

In Context 1

PerCent for Art:

yes

Commissioning Process:

Limited Competition

Funding:

Dept. of Environment Heritage and Local Government

Budget Range:

10,000 - 30,000

Project Start Date:

11/05/1998

Project End Date:

04/04/2000

Public Engagement:

Maurice worked with the Residents Association in Rathcoole and ran workshops in local schools.

Associated Professionals:

Project Manager: Artworking - Jenny Haughton & Aisling Prior