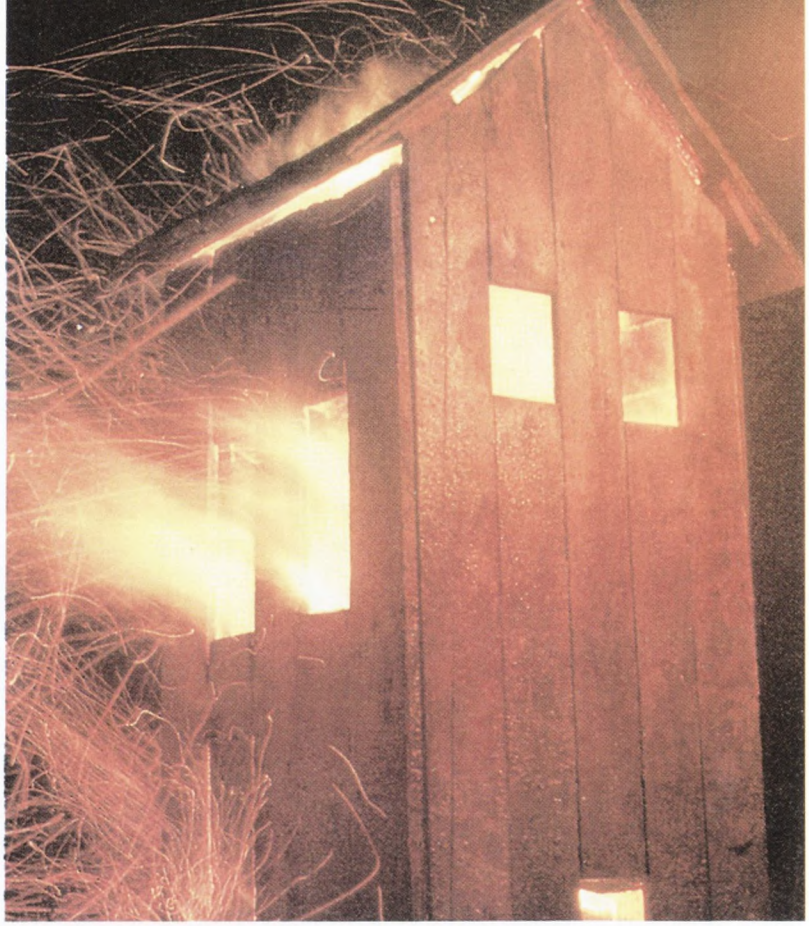










VISUAL LEITRIM





Top Left: Sculpture by Charlie Easterfield.
Top Right: "Fire Series", Anna Macleod.
Left Middle: "Laughing Dolphin", Chris Killilea.
Centre: "Wood Gatherer", Jackie McKenna.
Right Middle: "Four Evangelists", Colette Langan.
Bottom Left: "Spiral Organic", Iris Hipple.
Left: Glass Bowl by Sharon Dollar.
Opposite: "Famine Memorial", Jackie McKenna.



VISUAL LEITRIM

VISUAL LEITRIM, the Leitrim Craft and Arts Company, was established in 1997 with the assistance of the Leitrim County Enterprise Board and the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. The objective of the company is to provide a new marketing initiative to promote art produced by a multi-talented group of artists and crafts workers who are living and working in the county.

Visual Leitrim is an umbrella organisation consisting of 25 artists and craftworkers living and working in County Leitrim, who will collectively market their products under this brand.



Louí Bentwood Furniture specially commissioned for Dublin City University

How did Visual Leitrim come about?

LCEB had a number of artists and craftspeople come to our offices looking for financial help and business direction on how to market themselves. These people had a lot of talent and creative ideas, but little business or marketing skills. The first thing the Enterprise Board did was give each of the artists some business training and then bring them all under one umbrella group and market them collectively.

It's understood that there's strength in numbers and with this collective talent this has proved to be so.

The initiative is perceived as one way to tackle unemployment and rural depopulation. It is also seen as a method of keeping traditional craft practices alive and of building cross-border links.

It was apparent that many artists work in isolation. They tend to work on their own, often in remote locations with little contact with customers or professional back-up services. It was felt that a branding



Paddy Fahey, Leitrim County Manager, Dorothy Clarke, CEO Leitrim County Enterprise Board, Joseph Laden, Farrig Ltd, Dublin & Jim McNaughton, MD Tilestyle Ltd.



Paddy Fahey, Leitrim County Manager, John Ellis TD, Éamon Ó Cúiv TD & Gerry Reynolds TD.
Below Left: Charlie Easterfield, Sculptor at the Leitrim Sculpture Centre, Manorhamilton. Below Right: Jackie McKenna's famous Dublin work "shoppers".

programme and training courses would assist in networking in terms of business development and also increase the important social interaction between craftworkers in the county.

The initiative has been of enormous benefit to the artists in terms of confidence building, financial security and making them feel part of the community. They have formed a cohesive network with a common focus and a forum where they can exchange ideas and experiences.

Exhibitions

Visual Leitrim was mounting two exhibitions displaying a cross-section of their recent work. The first was held at the prestigious RHA Gallagher Gallery, Ely Place, Dublin. The official opening, by Eamon O Cuiv, Minister of State, was on Tuesday, 10th November.

The RHA exhibition came about because of the foresight of Leitrim born businessman, Tilestyle owner Jim McNaughton. He saw the groups brochure, was very impressed with it and approached Ciaran McGonigal, then curator of the RHA gallery.

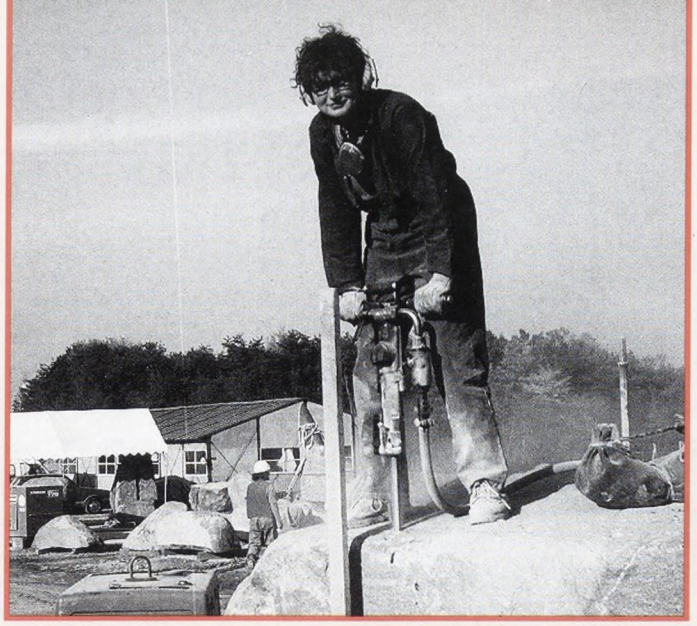
The current administrator of the gallery Patricia Moriarty, coincidentally also has links and a great love for Leitrim and so gave the group the go ahead to exhibit.

Gallery owners, buyers and curators were invited because we didn't only want this to be an exhibition of talent, we need to profile and market our artists so that their work becomes a commercial success too. The exhibition proved to be a huge success, with almost 300 people turning up on the opening night. Many of those who attended, were Leitrim born business people, now living in Dublin, eg Jim McNaughton, MD of Tilestyle Ltd, Joseph Laden, Farrig Ltd and Pat Farrell, EBS Ltd. There were also a few famous names, such as the actor Emet Bergin, Duncan Stuart, "Our House" and Mr Pierre Dietrichsen, the South African Ambassador to Ireland.

The Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon is the venue for the







Jackie McKenna at the Sculpture Park in Osaka, Japan

second, a three-day exhibition running from Thursday, 3rd December until Sunday 6th. Tom Kenny, of Kenny's Bookshop, Galway, will conduct the official opening.

Both exhibitions have been designed by John Hunt, of the Hunt Museum, Limerick. The galleries will come alive with this fascinating cornucopia of art and crafts, highlighting the vibrant talent emerging from this surprisingly undiscovered and beautiful county.

This collection of inspired work will incorporate Fine Art and Prints, Hand-Painted Silks, as well as superbly crafted Sculptures, Mosaics, Pewter Mirrors, Furniture and Glassware.

The Carrick-on-Shannon exhibition has been kindly sponsored by The Bush Hotel and National Irish Bank.

These exhibitions should show that the world of art is very much alive in rural Ireland, specifically in the unjustifiably neglected county of Leitrim.

LIST OF EXHIBITORS

Seamus Dunbar, sculptor, Manorhamilton, (072)56148

Valerie Douglas, painter, Newtownmanor, (071)64908

Chris Killilea, sculptor in bog oak, Manorhamilton, (072)55769

Kate Wilson, painter, Manorhamilton, (072)56078

Niall Walsh, sculptor/mosaics, Killargue, (071)64943

Gabriel Mercier, painter, Dromahair, (071)64519

Neil Foulkes, handmade furniture, Aughnasheelin, (078)44765

Iris Hippele, handpainted silks, Rossinver, (072)54318

Dyan Smith, pewter mirrors, Glenfarne, (072)53322

Sharon Dollar, recycled glass crafts, Ballinamore, (078)44319

Jackie McKenna, sculptor, Manorhamilton, (072)56078

Collette Langan, stained glass, Carrick-on-Shannon, (078)21833

Nicole Thoma, painter, Manorhamilton, (072)56032

Anna MacLeod, painter/sculptor, Killargue, (071)64943

Eugene Finnegan, handmade furniture, Carrigallen, (049)39943

Conor Byrne, painter, Manorhamilton, (072)56165

Natacha Loyer, painter, Manorhamilton, (072)56165

Stephine Fryer, painter, Leitrim Village, (078)21714

Christine MacKey, installation art, Killargue, (071)64932

Sandra Vernon, line drawings, Carrick-on-Shannon, (078)25276

David Spence, sculptor, Manorhamilton, (086)8248138

Retirement Presentation Function for Sergeant Pat McCrann, Ballinamore Gárda Station



Ballinamore Station Gárdaí pictured at the Presentation Function in the commercial Hotel. Back Row: Pat O'Connor, Shane Heslin, Paul Cullen, Joe McGivern & Joe Feely. Front Row: Timmy Winters, Sergeant Pat McCrann & Michael Hanly