



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

To the Lord Mayor, chairperson and
members of the North Central Area Committee

Sculpture Dublin Report

SCULPTURE DUBLIN

Update report for the North Central Area Committee meeting – 11th April, 2022.

1. ABOUT SCULPTURE DUBLIN

Sculpture Dublin aims to raise awareness of the Dublin's sculptural heritage and to commission a series of new works in parks and public spaces city-wide. It is a Dublin City Council initiative, developed by Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services and the Arts Office and supported by the Hugh Lane Gallery.

Three commissions were unveiled last year; a permanent sculpture by Alan Butler in Smithfield Square Lower; a permanent sculpture in Kildonan Park by Sara Cunningham-Bell and a temporary installation by Alan Phelan for the O'Connell Plinth outside City Hall. Commissions for the new Ballyfermot People's Park, Bushy Park and St. Anne's Park will be completed this year.

For more information on the commissions, visit: <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/commissions/>

2. ST. ANNE'S PARK COMMISSION

The creation of a permanent land art work for St. Anne's Park is the central focus of this commission.

'Land art' is a broad category that is represented through a wide range of art practices and forms – from monumental earthworks to ephemeral nature art. Land art is essentially concerned with our relationship with the land, and the way that art can articulate an experience of landscape and nature.

Through an invited competition, five nominated artists were invited to consider a site within the historic parkland and propose a response to it that is ambitious in scope and imagination. Sculpture Dublin is interested in how the legacies of land art might be called upon to inspire a new form of public engagement with landscape, and how the site might be reimagined, or presented anew, as an artwork that explores our relationship with time, nature and the earth.

The **Selection Panel** included:

- Cllr Donna Cooney (North Central Area public representative)
- Cllr Deirdre Heney (North Central Area public representative)
- Deirdre Nichol (Clontarf local community representative)
- Clare O'Sullivan (Raheny local community representative)
- Leslie Moore (representative of DCC Parks and Landscape Services)
- Barbara Dawson (representative of Sculpture Dublin Steering Group)
- Ruairi Ó Cuív (representative of the City Arts Office)
- Claire Feeley (external art expert)
- Ben Tufnell (external art expert)

Non-voting Chair: Karen Downey (Sculpture Dublin Programme Director)

The Nomination Panel agreed the **short-list** of five nominated artists who were invited to submit proposals for the land art commission last year:

- Alicja Kwade
- Anne Hardy
- Dorothy Cross
- Iván Argote
- The Otolith Group

The **Nomination Panel** included:

- Barbara Dawson (Hugh Lane Gallery)
- Claire Feeley (Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh)
- Annie Fletcher (IMMA)
- Katerina Gregos (Schwarz Foundation, Athens)
- Lisa Le Feuvre (Holt/Smithson Foundation, Santa Fe)
- Leslie Moore (Chief Parks Superintendent, Dublin City Council)
- Ben Tufnell (Parafin Gallery, London)

Non-voting Chair: Karen Downey (Sculpture Dublin Programme Director)

The commission was awarded to Iván Argote, a Colombian artist based in Paris.

Argote has proposed an earthwork that engages with the view over the Dublin Bay biosphere, connecting St. Anne's Park with the sweeping vista from Howth Head to the north, across the lagoon, Bull Island, and on to the city, dramatically backdropped by the Dublin-Wicklow Mountains. The earthwork – which involves 'sculpting' the landscape, rather than fabricating and installing a sculpture on the site – will play with perspective and allow park visitors to experience a familiar landscape in a new way. Inspired by ancient monuments, architecture, and the park's historic garden follies, it proposes a simple ritual that can be performed repeatedly, each time creating a fresh encounter with land, sea and sky.

For more information about the commission and the commissioned artist, please see:

<https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/st-annes-park/>

Iván has made two site visits to date and is working with Jim Mansfield (from KMP Consulting Structural and Civil Engineers) on the development of detailed designs, in consultation with DCC Parks.

The land art commission will be included in a Part 8 planning process for WC facilities and a car park extension at the back of the Red Stables, which connects directly with the site of the commission. Subject to planning approval the construction detail of the land art work will be agreed in 2022 and implemented in 2023.

Plans and visualisations of the land art work will be on display and available for public view in the Winter Garden in the Red Stables, St. Anne's Park on Friday 29 April and Saturday 30 April, between 2pm and 5pm. The commissioned artist will be present in the Winter Garden to discuss his ideas with local residents. He will also give a talk in the Hugh Lane Gallery on 29 April at 1pm.

3. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

All of the new commissions have benefitted from local engagement programmes designed to raise awareness, provoke conversations about sculpture and involve people in discussing how public art can enhance their neighbourhood. Local engagement has taken the form of online surveys, public meetings, artists' cafes and culture clubs, as well as opportunities to participate in the creation of some of the new commissions and get involved in local art projects through schools and community organisations.

<https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/sculpture-in-your-area/>

Local engagement activity around the St. Anne's Park commission includes:

- A Visual Artists Ireland café on 8th March – speakers included Iván Argote, Deirdre Nichol from Clontarf Residents Association, Clare O'Sullivan from Raheny Tidy Towns and Barbara Dawson, Director, Hugh Lane Gallery. The online event was attended by members of the arts community and local residents;
- A series of in-person, creative workshops with St Brendan's Boys School, facilitated by artist, Jean Cleary;
- A series of in-person creative workshops with artist, Sophie Behal and a group of local people (who responded to an open call supported by Sheila Duffy and the Local Area Office);
- The commissioned artist will give a talk at the Hugh Lane Gallery at 1pm on Friday 29th April;
- Plans and visualisations of the proposed land art work will be on public display in the Winter Garden space in the Red Stables on Friday 29th and Saturday 30th April. The artist will be present to talk to local people about the proposed work.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/north-central-area-st-annes-park-2/>

Sculpture Dublin is also working with the city's cultural institutions to draw attention to sculpture in their collections and temporary exhibition programmes. Through a city-wide programme of talks and workshops, online presentations and publications, and a number of exciting new initiatives, including International Sculpture Day and the Experiment! Sculpture Award (developed in partnership with The LAB Gallery and Fire Station Artists' Studios), Sculpture Dublin is encouraging people to rediscover their city through sculpture – imagining new possibilities for art in the public realm and engaging in shared processes of learning and making. <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/sculpture-in-the-city/>

For information on upcoming events: <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/news-events/>