



NORTH-55 refers to the line of latitude, which crosses the border between Derry and Donegal.

MISSION

North-55 is a socially engaged visual arts organisation which develops site-specific public art that engages divergent communities on civic issues on a cross-border basis.

North-55 has shaped a hybrid form of cultural practice that utilises an inter-disciplinary approach, fusing cultural and aesthetic pursuits with community development processes.

North-55 establishes new coalitions with other arts, community and statutory organisations through long-term partnerships, thus creating a cultural corridor where innovative ideas are visualised and articulated across the region.

North-55 promotes critical art practices and cultural strategies through projects, ongoing research and public forums.

AIMS

- To act as a catalyst for the development of innovative cross-border projects, that utilise a multi-disciplinary approach.
- To initiate collaborative site-specific projects that target marginalised groups, encourage access to the arts and engage diverse audiences.
- To develop strategies that breach cultural isolation and create a dialogue beyond conflict. North-55 takes full cognisance of cultural diversity in the development and delivery of its programmes.
- To promote international collaborations, critical debate, and the dissemination of information, within this area of practice.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Vacant (Cover) by Andrejs Plavins (2010)
Layers of life by Brid McGee (2010)
Mill Bridge by Saiva Salmu (2010)
District Six Museum by North-55
Solace by Brid McGee (2010)



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NORTH - 55

CREATING
 CULTURAL
 CORRIDORS



'The concept of merging the memories of these three communities together is unique'
 Rod Sauls - Artist, District Six



LANDMARKS is a participatory cross-border art project exploring the cultural and social complexities of place. The project sought to evoke the memories, lived experiences and current realities of communities living in evolving, post-conflict societies.

‘Collaboration and communication about working methodologies, memory sharing and social community, were enhanced amongst the artists and the group’

Rod Sauls - Artist, District Six

LANDMARKS sought to engender new international connections through a residency programme which connected local experience of the border region to experiences of displacement and conflict in post-apartheid South Africa. Working with artist Rod Sauls from District Six in Cape Town, project participants created work in photography, film and mixed media. The residency programme also engaged Dublin-based Vagabond Reviews in an initial research phase as part of related arts

training workshops for participants. Photographer Paola Bernadelli facilitated the Derry element of the overall project work. These workshops employed a range of media and documentary strategies including oral testimonies, photography, archival research and participation in film production. Over thirty participants took part in LANDMARKS including local women, community development leaders, and youth workers.



LANDMARKS presents work in photography, film and mixed media which draws on a number of local sites of displacement including the decommissioned Lough Swilly railway line, which until 1953 connected Donegal and Derry/Londonderry. Archival footage from District Six in the 1960s, prior to the displacement of its residents and the demolition of their homes, also features.

LANDMARKS culminates in a site specific exhibition and screening of a filmwork entitled *Low Intensity*. The film features a conversation between artist Rod Sauls, Derry participant Bernadette Mahon and Donegal based John Coyle about everyday life experiences in conflict situations set against contemporary urban Derry.

Low Intensity will be screened at the former Stables Block at Ebrington Barracks. Ebrington Barracks is located on the East Bank of the River Foyle, in Derry. The barracks was built in 1841 within its own defensive wall and used as a naval and military base until recent

times. The exhibition of this work at Ebrington is timely in that the barracks is a key site for development in relation to the City of Culture programme for 2013.

The exhibition runs from the 20th to 29th October 2010.

Due to restricted site access booking is essential (phone 02871 268027)

The project has been developed through the International Cultural Arts Network programme: which is a collaboration between North-55 and the Playhouse in Derry. The LANDMARKS project has

been developed through the first international residency programme. The work will be contextualised through an international conference which will assemble and draw on local, national and international contributors to consider how collaborative and contemporary visual art and culture impact upon conflict zones and the social, political and economic changes that evolve from this type of work.

Conference contributors will include Mary Jane Jacob (Curator) and Bonita Bennett (Director, District Six Museum).



COLLABORATORS

- Rod Sauls
- District Six Museum
- Paola Bernadelli
- Inishowen Development Partnership
- Immigrant Outreach Project IDP
- Second-Chance-Education Programme
- Vagabond Reviews
- Elisabeth Zeindlinger

Archival footage of District Six in the early 1960s is shown courtesy of Mark Abrahams.