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Heirlooms & Hand-me-downs, a publication as part of the Public Art Commission for Dublin City Council was launched recently and is the final part of the public art commission undertaken by artist Chris Reid. The book is a unique history of the last 100 years of a small corner of the Liberties in Dublin 8 as expressed through the memories of people who live or who have lived in the distinctive red brick Victorian flats on Nicholas Street, Bride Street, Bride Road and the Ross Road. The project was funded through the Per Cent for Art Scheme by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. The cover photo features the Redmond family and here they are, years later together for the launch, Fergus and Sean Redmond with their sisters Marie Redmond-McCann and Irene Redmond-McWilliams. Photo: Johnny Bambury

## 'Heirlooms & Hand-me-downs'

Heirlooms & Hand-me-downs, a publication as part of the Public Art Commission for Dublin City Council was launched last month by Councillor John Gallagher, Dublin City Council. The book is the final part of the public art commission undertaken by artist Chris Reid, which was funded through the Per Cent for Art Scheme by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. 'Heirlooms and Hand-me-downs, reflects the collaboration between the artist Chris Reid and the local community in Dublin 8.

It is part of a larger DCC Public Art commission where the stories of residents within the Dublin 8 area were recorded and immortalized in the form of 20 heritage plaques, cast in bronze and affixed to the external walls of flat complexes on Nicholas Street, Bride Street, Bride Road and the Ross Road as a lasting legacy to the lives and stories of all the people who have lived there.

The book is a distillation of the rich oral history of the last 100 years as expressed through the memories of people who live or who have lived in a small corner of the Liberties in Dublin 8. This residential area centres around the distinctive red brick Victorian flats on Nicholas Street, Bride Street, Bride Road and the Ross Road. The content of the book is informed primarily by audio recordings made by Chris Reid with over forty people who agreed to participate by sharing their memories of this local area and also by collaborating on aspects of the book's content.

The resulting work is an open ended insightful history based on a process of engagement with the residents past and present, as Reid himself puts it 'A public history of community and place made up of private voices.' Heirlooms and Hand-me-downs celebrates the resilience of communities across decades and the publication provides a vivid demonstration of how collaborative arts practices makes and shapes civil society.

'Heirlooms and Hand-me-downs' will be available through libraries across Dublin and also directly from the artist through www.chrisreidartist.comInformation

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