

TRANSACTIONS PUBLICATIONS 2

SOCIAL PRACTICE AND PUBLIC ART: A SURVEY OF SOCIALLY ENGAGED ART IN DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL'S PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME

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The section from the article below references the Heirlooms & Hand-me-downs project

'In the commonly held view of community art, 'community' is understood as shorthand for under-represented communities, often in disadvantaged circumstances, people who tend not to 'participate in the social process' and seem almost to be 'eavesdropping on their own realities.' (McGonagle, 2011). Collaborative projects that respond to these conditions do so by means of a sustained conversational exchange. The sustained engagement aims to create an 'embodiment of actual relations' between artist and non-artist – as in Rhona Byrne's Balcony Project (2011) Christine Mackey's Tidings – from here to there (2006) and Chris Reid's oral history project Heirlooms and Hand me downs. (2009)

Heirlooms and Hand me downs, located in south inner-city Dublin, attempts to amplify unheard voices by borrowing from commemorative art forms and making 'monuments to the ordinary.' The physical work consists of 21 bronze plaques located around Bride Street, engraved with the texts of family histories and stories. These texts were excerpted from recordings made over a four-year engagement with residents of the area. The plaque, or counter-plaque form is also used in an earlier project by Ronan McCrea to refer to ideas of power and representation in civil society.'

The full article can be read here: <http://transactionspublication.com/social-practice-and-public-art-a-survey-of-socially-engaged-art-in-dublin-city-councils-public-art-programme/>