

Andrew Dodds

A GUIDE TO THE LANDSCAPES OF ENNISKILLEN

Participants: Pat Deering, Nora McGowan, Mags O'Reilly, Valerie Parker, Margaret Scott

Waterways Ireland Headquarters, 2 Sligo Road, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland

29 September – 15 October, 2010

9.15 – 5pm, Monday to Friday

Andrew Dodds presents a new body of work developed during his residency at Waterways Ireland's headquarters. County Fermanagh, often referred to as Northern Ireland's 'lake district', is a renowned tourist destination with many thousands of international visitors consuming and moving through the landscape annually. With two new works Dodds unpacks some of the many social strata through which representations of landscape are distributed including the heritage, leisure and tourism industries.

In *A Guide to the Landscapes of Enniskillen* the artist has published a guided walk to brownfield sites within the town. Of little value or gain to property developers, tourism and leisure these sites are often derided as 'wasteland', yet many of these inbetween landscapes are rich in biodiversity becoming home to thriving pockets of flora and fauna. Adopting the format of the ubiquitous tourist brochure the artist invites us to engage with these over-looked and under-valued natural environments*.

In a second work Dodds has created a kind of exhibition-within-an-exhibition by inviting members of local, amateur arts groups to submit paintings of derelict sites – areas not traditionally represented in the landscape genre nor associated with tourist destinations. The artists were asked to depict local sites that were familiar to them, thereby engaging with a genuine sense of place – an approach important to Dodds's practice. The submitted paintings are displayed in the main waiting area of Waterways Ireland, replacing the organisation's own images for the duration of the exhibition.

*The guides are available from Waterways Ireland, Tourist Information Centre, the Town Hall and civic sites around Enniskillen.

Andrew Dodds is a Belfast-born artist with a particular interest in the social and political mechanisms that influence cultural representations of 'nature' and landscape. He engages others in the imagining, production and distribution of his artwork to question received certainties within and beyond the art arena. From blue budgerigars reciting Milton for gallery visitors (*Paradise Lost*, 2001), to a youth orchestra composing and performing the score to a teen 'slasher flick' in the landscape around Grain Power Station, Kent (*Alive!*, 2007), to forensic biodiversity surveys of derelict public spaces (*Arcadia Amongst the Ruins*, 2008 and *Underfall*, 2009), Dodds consistently reveals new ways for us to relate to and understand the natural world. Dodds' work has been exhibited and commissioned widely at major public galleries, artist-run spaces and sites beyond the gallery including BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (2009), Azad Art Gallery, Tehran (2010), The Architecture Centre, Bristol (2009) and Gallery 400, Chicago (2007).

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