

Press Release



Fermanagh District Council

15 October 2007

Borderlines: Personal Stories and Experiences from the Border Counties

15 October – 23 November 2007

'BORDERLINES' IS A CROSS BORDER TOURING PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION, ARCHIVE AND HARDBACK PUBLICATION. THE SIGNIFICANT COLLECTION OF RECORDINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS GIVES VOICE TO PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCE OF LIFE ALONG THE BORDER. THE PROJECT INCLUDES CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FERMANAGH, TYRONE, CAVAN, LEITRIM, MONAGHAN, SLIGO, DONEGAL, DERRY/LONDONDERRY, ARMAGH, DOWN AND LOUTH.

THE RESEARCHERS RECRUITED TO CARRY OUT THE INTERVIEWS WERE LOCAL TO THE BORDER AND FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS. THE RESULTING ARCHIVE GOES BEYOND DIFFERENCES AND STEREOTYPES. EACH INTERVIEW IS UNIQUE: SOME ARE VERY PERSONAL, OTHERS LESS SO. SOME TOOK PLACE OVER SEVERAL DAYS IN THE PRIVACY OF THE KITCHEN OR LIVING ROOM; ONE IN A HOTEL ROOM IN BOSNIA. IT INCLUDES 'EVERYDAY' EVENTS LIKE GETTING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL THROUGH ROADBLOCKS, TELLING 'LIES' ABOUT YOUR JOB TO PROTECT YOUR LIFE, OR HAVING TO LEAVE YOUR LAND.

'**BORDERLINES**' is part of a wider project examining how we should remember the events connected with the conflict on the island of Ireland. It is a Gallery of Photography project organised in collaboration with Dara Training and Consultancy.

Speaking about the exhibition, Sarah McHugh Manager of Museum Services said:

“This is a very special project exploring the difficult history of the border area. The research has been handled sensitively and carefully, and the resulting archive, exhibition and book give a powerful insight into people’s different perspectives. It will be obvious to anyone who visits this exhibition that many individuals have spoken out for the first time about their lives and experiences. Fermanagh County Museum, with support from the Community Relations Unit (OFMDFM), is one of several institutions contributing to the archive, enabling it to happen. The aim is to build on the collection for the future.”

To coincide with this exhibition a **BORDERLINES SEMINAR** will take place on **Friday 16 November**. This seminar will look at how the past is remembered and the sensitive nature of gathering stories from people living in border areas during the last 30 years. Admission to this seminar is free. To book your place telephone 028 6632 5000 from NI or 048 6632 5000 from ROI.

Visitors to the **BORDERLINES** exhibition will also be able to view an exhibition by the **Northern Ireland Press Photographers Association**. This exhibition is based on the Vodafone top entries and winners of the 2007 NI Press Photographer of the Year Competition. Every year the association holds a competition based on the previous year’s work. Photographic entries cover many different categories including Politics, Sport and People, focusing on everyday life in Northern Ireland.

Normal admission rates apply for the exhibitions. For more information telephone 028 6632 5000 from NI or 048 6632 5000 from ROI.

Ends

For more information please contact:
Bronagh Cleary, Development Officer – Programming & Promotion
Fermanagh County Museum, Enniskillen Castle Museums
Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
Tel: 028 6632 5000
Email: bronagh.cleary@fermanagh.gov.uk

Fax: 028 6632 7342
Web: www.enniskillencastle.co.uk