



ULSTER SCULPTORS SHOW WORK IN UKRAINE

Interactive sugar art just the recipe

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Following a series of social-ly-engaged art projects on homelessness, conflict resolution and raising awareness about diabetes, Northern Ireland sculptors Brendan Jamison and Mark Revels have now attracted the attention of Ukrainian arts foundation, Izolyatsia.

This giant four storey factory is a cultural hub in the gloomy industrial centre of Kiev.

The duo are tackling the issue of displacement for citizens fleeing their homes in Eastern Ukraine over the past two years since rebel fighting engulfed a quarter of the country.

Jamison and Revels are currently in Kiev working on their new project with the assistance of Ukrainian architecture students and people displaced from the Donetsk region, the original location of the Izolyatsia arts foundation. After it was invaded in

2014, the organisation had to flee to Kyiv to become re-established in a vacant factory. In contrast to the divisions of political and racial conflict, the Sugar Democracy project celebrates the power of mass-collaboration and encourages all members of the public to participate, irrespective of age, gender, culture or race. It opens to the public on Thursday September 22 and continues until Sunday October 30, 2016.

Ukraine is a world-renowned leader in the sugar industry, a giant in the field of agriculture. Historically, the wealthy sugar magnates, like the Tereshchenko dynasty, were among the most active philanthropists engaged in charity activities, giving Ukraine numerous buildings, cultural and educational institutions, as well as art collections, now kept in national museums.

"The Sugar Democracy project begins with a reference to historical Ukrainian architecture, with the central part of the installation being a sugar model of the Teacher's House in Kyiv," said Oleksan-



Detail of the 'Sugar Democracy' created by Brendan Jamison and Mark Revels to go on show in Ukraine

dr Vynogradov from Izolyatsia. "Originally built in 1912 for the Kyiv Pedagogical Museum, the building famously hosted Ukraine's first Parliament, the Central Council of Ukraine, from 1917-1918.

"The Teachers' House epitomises a kind of place where culture and education give rise to democracy. Currently, the ownership of the building is disputed and the area around it may become a construction site for a new high-rise in the middle of the historical

centre. The Teacher's House needs a new impulse for revival, just like Ukraine itself, and culture as well as democratic values are instrumental to this process."

Surrounding the model of the Teacher's House are sugar buildings inspired by the Suprematist 'architectons' of Kazimir Malevich. The utopian modernist skyscrapers by the Ukrainian-born artist symbolise the ever-present potential for intrepid creative futures. Starting out from

these iconic buildings, the project then branches out into an expanding metropolis of contemporary constructions.

From September 22, the installation will be open for all visitors to contribute. They will work together on a building or will add to an existing structure and create a form of hybrid architecture.

Belfast artist Brendan Jamison said: "Sugar is a democratic building material, allowing everyone to participate in the construction process. It offers a multi-sensory experience: participants not only have the opportunity to touch the blocks but they can also imagine the sensation of the sugar crystals dissolving on their tongue.

"Meanwhile, the shape and structure of the white cube is often considered the ideal space to show art in, with museums and galleries all across the globe adopting this model."

Loughbrickland-born fellow artist Mark Revels outlines how the "Sugar Democracy cross-pollinates the fields of art, architecture, engineering agriculture, industrial pro-

duction, game-playing, community engagement and social interaction.

"The project focuses on the future as a positive space of imagination and exciting possibilities. Making reference to Ukraine's historical past, it invites everyone to shape tomorrow with their own hands."

Ulster artists Jamison and Revels have worked together for the past three years on projects all across the world from the Centre Pompidou in Paris to the 798 Arts District in Beijing, M50 in Shanghai, and many large-scale works across America in New York, Los Angeles, San Diego and New Orleans.

Through sculpture installation, they explore socio-political themes through androgynous architecture and microscopic biological forms, often creating large-scale projects, which invite the public to collaborate with them by expanding upon their own creations.

For further information on work produced by Brendan Jamison and Mark Revels visit www.brendanjamison.com and www.markrevels.com.

QUALITY CINEMA

Top 30 films to watch before you reach 30

In a cinematic first for Northern Ireland, Queen's Film Theatre, Belfast Film Festival, Cinemagic, the Nerve Centre and Strand Arts Centre have joined forces to present '30 Under 30', a new season of must-see films to watch on the big screen before the age of 30.

Taking place in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry from August to October, the films featured address a wide range of issues and concerns for under-30s, including becoming an adult, love and friendship, finding your place in the world, work life and dreams versus reality.

Commenting on the novel concept Claire Shaw, press and marketing officer with Cinemagic said: "Working together with our four partner organisations, 30 Under 30 aims to take a different look at cinema by presenting classic films through modern eyes. Part of the fun of the season will be in joining the dots be-



Amelie is just one movie showing in the 30 Under 30 line-up

tween artists early on in their career and what they went on to do, and also looking at how film influences us in terms of fashion, music and even the language that we use.

"Every generation brings their own thoughts and ideas to the cinema and we'll be presenting an incredible range of both well-known and lesser known films in a different way, with outdoor events, DJ sets

and online and offline discussions, as well as offering the chance to vote for the 30 Under 30 Audience Choice film which will be shown at Strand Arts Centre in October."

Covering 45 years of cinema, famous faces featuring in programme of compulsive cinema include Brad Pitt, Christian Bale, Jennifer Aniston, Ben Stiller, Bill Murray and David Bowie. Directors whose work features in the season include Steven Spielberg, David Fincher, the Coen Brothers and Lena Dunham, who went on to make the HBO smash hit TV series, Girls.

30 Under 30 has been made possible by Film Hub NI with the support of the BFI, awarding funds from the National Lottery.

For full programme details and to book tickets visit www.30Under30.co.uk and join the Twitter and Facebook discussion with #30under30film.

TRIO OF SEARCHING ONE-ACT PLAYS FROM TINDERBOX

Exploring identity in midst of global crisis

Cheeky, bawdy, playful and poignant, Tinderbox Theatre Company will tap into the current mood of global upheaval with a trio of one-act plays that question who we think we are, challenge what we think we know and celebrate what it means to be alive.

Tinderbox Theatre Company taps into the current feeling of global upheaval that permeates our lives today in its new production at the Crescent Arts Centre.

Directed by Patrick J O'Reilly, who was appointed as Tinderbox artistic director earlier this year, What We're Made Of promises to be visceral, powerful and unforgettable theatre.

Supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the three plays feature an ensemble of players – Nicky Harley, Rhodri Lewis, Patrick McBrearty and Kerri Quinn. Daragh Carville's new play

History goes straight to the heart of love, and observes how we long for a passion stronger than ourselves. In a quiet café on a normal day, Emma drops a bombshell that rocks the very foundations of Declan's happy, settled life and passions that were never allowed to blossom are suddenly acknowledged.

Meanwhile Hiatus is a collaboration between playwrights from Northern Ireland and Croatia (John McCann, Jonathan Bailie, Vedrana Klepica, Ivor Martinić); this unique multilingual theatre event is unapologetic and at the same time entertaining.

In this piece we see the world we know twisted to breaking point and the notion of personal identity in the midst of crisis is deftly explored.

Hen completes the trio and will challenge how and

why we define gender in today's world in a solo performance billed as "full of colour, play and wonder".

Director Patrick J O'Reilly brings a fresh and innovative approach to framing individual stories against a backdrop of world events.

"The style of What We're Made Of will be anarchic and punchy," said Patrick.

"It's very much in keeping with the new flavour of Tinderbox – designed to arouse suspicion and pique curiosity.

"The three plays tackle love, loss, gender and survival, and explore how music and images evoke memories and emotions."

What We're Made Of will be staged at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast, September 15 until September 23.

Tickets available from Crescent Arts Centre: call 02890 242 338 or visit www.crescentarts.org.