

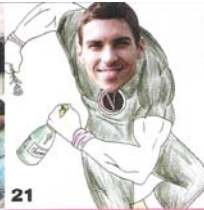
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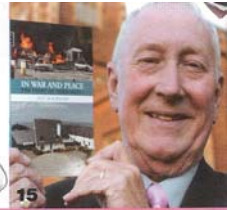
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Out of the Darkness – glimpse the changing faces of Northern Irish history through 40 years of press photography



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Super CV's! Introducing the heroic 2007/08 Corrymeela long-term volunteer team



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Corrymeela Book Launch - Full house as acclaimed author Alf McCreary launches his new book 'In War and Peace' – the story of Corrymeela

Corrymeela



10 Sunshine Friends

Painted up in summer spirit, Ada Ketchie describes how smiles abound during the Corrymeela Summer Programme.

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THE
CORRYMEELA
COMMUNITY



Corrymeela magazine
Volume 7 Number 2
Autumn/Winter 2007

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Lycia Trouton, artist of the Linen Memorial, speaks about what moved her to create her profound tribute to those killed during the Troubles.

Linen Memorial to lost lives

LINEN MEMORIAL TO LOST LIVES (originally the Irish Linen Memorial) was developed with Canada Council of the Arts funding in early 2001. I had worked as an artist with interface youth at Waterworks, Antrim Road in 1999 and was subsequently extremely moved by *Lost Lives*, the poignant book which lists the names and moment of death of all those killed in the Troubles. It has been deeply rewarding and moving to learn about Corrymeela and to feel that the Linen Memorial has contributed to the Healing Through Remembering project.

The Memorial was created as a response to thinking about the 'mixed' neighbourhood of North Belfast, where my maternal grandparents had lived all their lives. My parents moved away from Belfast in order to make a more peaceful life in Canada when my sister and I were aged 5 and 3. It was not

until my young adulthood, when I lived in Detroit, Michigan, that I began to question and reflect upon life in Belfast.

People who experience the Memorial often ask me what moved me to make it. In a recent

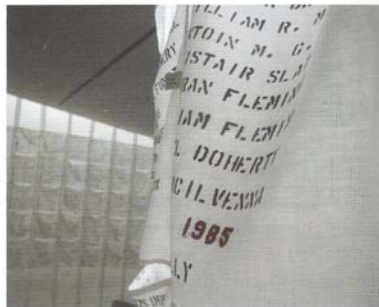


conversation with my mother, she recounted that when I was about nine, I came home from a friend's house and asked my parents, 'Am I Protestant or Catholic?' Such naïve obliviousness was a part of the benefits of growing up in Canada. Yet I was part of the first generation of children who grew up with television in the living room and the images of Northern Ireland screamed out from this box, along with those from Vietnam and Lebanon. I seem to have translated such experiences, much later as an adult, into my site-specific sculpture about commemoration.

The Memorial may have been sparked by an idealistic vision of reconciliation, as well as thinking about migration and healing from trauma. The links with linen are generally clear to a Northern Ireland viewer, especially those aged over 40, who may remember flax farming and linen manufacturing as central to the economy of the North, where domestic linen goods and handiwork have been the pride of many a household until contemporary times.

Today I describe the Linen Memorial as a humble and hopeful contribution to the possible 'fragile parity of esteem for difference' in post-conflict Northern Ireland. I simply hope the Memorial touches people. It was extremely rewarding to exhibit the Memorial in the Croí for the first Private Day of Reflection, 21 June 2007, the longest day of the year. Corrymeela Centre Director Ronnie Millar reported that he saw visitors greatly moved and overheard persons who began to tell one another stories.

The travelling monument had, indeed, found a home – the handkerchiefs looked as if they were



lit from behind by the sunlight from each of the skylights. The names listed on the handkerchiefs represent almost 4,000 persons, most of whom were killed traumatically – yet, on that day and in that space, they were at rest.

Thank you to: To the art assistants who helped create The Irish Linen Memorial in 2001; Hendrick Miller, Geraldine Finegan and Jasmine Foltz, USA and Stan Gielewski, Poland-Canada. To my parents, Robert and Maureen Trouton who also stayed at Corrymeela for two and a half weeks and have assisted with The Linen Memorial installations, 2001, 2004 and 2007. To my aunt Margot Damon in London for her embroidery of the names and other embroiderers: Nerida Richmond Benson and Glenys Richmond Ferguson, Edith Morriatt, Margaret Barman and Jan McRobb. To volunteers Katie and Donald Fielding and Raymond Blakewell and Alastair and Heather Kilgore for helping facilitate The Memorial. Also to the readers on June 21st and all the staff and volunteers at Corrymeela who made me feel welcome during my stay and who helped on The Day of Reflection.

For further details about the Memorial go to www.linenmemorial.org where you can sign the e-guestbook, leave a message for a lost loved one or learn more about the artist.



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