

Jackson Pollock meets the Huguenots

A series of three art workshops has been carried out as part of Lisburn Memorial Trust's project to restore the Crommelin, Dubourdieu and Coulson family memorials at Lisburn Cathedral. Many of our members will recall these monuments from their visit to the Cathedral during the 2010 conference in Londonderry and will share our pleasure in the successful completion of the project.

The workshops were held in the Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum and brought together children from two local Primary Schools, Brownlee and St. Josephs. Over the course of the workshops the children created paintings based on motifs which they found on the 3 restored monuments. They can be seen very enthusiastically presenting their finished works below.



Copyright, photo reproduced courtesy of the Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum.

The workshops were led by the education team at the Museum and local artist Tommy Barr who is of Huguenot descent and a Committee Member of our Irish Section. They provided an excellent forum for the children to learn about the Museum, the monuments and contemporary art.

The first workshop began with a little tour of the relevant rooms of the Museum. Then after a short demonstration the children set to work creating their backgrounds. This was the messy part of the process which the children approached with obvious delight. It was also where the process owed a great deal to the work of contemporary artists such as Jackson Pollock.

The second workshop was a sketching field trip to the Cathedral. We had a beautiful sunny day and stayed so long at the Cathedral we had to leave the cutting out of our sketches until the next week.

On week three the aprons were out again as the children transferred their drawings on to their backgrounds. We talked about Banksy and the use of stencils in contemporary art. And finished with a session where the children wrote their thoughts about the monuments, their significance and their restoration.

The paintings were exhibited at the reception held in the Assembly Rooms of the Museum to celebrate the completion of the project and were very well received. Guests, who included descendants of the Crommelin and Dubourdieu families who had travelled to the event, enjoyed hearing where the children had found the various motifs which they had chosen to paint. Participants and speakers are shown below enjoying the occasion.



Copyright, photo reproduced courtesy of the Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum.

In summing up Tony McCusker of the Heritage Lottery Fund for Northern Ireland (key sponsors of the project), remarked: *“Projects like this make a real difference to their communities. We are delighted to have been able to support the restoration and the bringing together of children from different backgrounds in this way and wish to congratulate the project team on their success”.*

The paintings will remain on display in the Museum until Christmas 2015. Admission is free and all are assured of a warm welcome.