



'Soil'

Selected as part of
A Sense of Place, Millennium Court, Portadown
June 2009

The narrative of the piece celebrates the importance of soil, its rich textures and colours, and its importance to life. The work attempts to explore the biological impact it has on those who live on its surface. Each soil has its own isotopic signature which are stored in the teeth of children. Amazingly these markers stay with the person until death, therefore the relationship between a person's childhood home and their physical being are interlinked.

The earth's textures and colours change radically depending on the location. The work explores twelve environments, each soil sample is different and each has its own natural beauty. The influence the soil has on life is profound; our sense of place within the natural environment cannot be fully understood until the 'dirt' under our feet is appreciated for its intrinsic worth and wonder.

The soil samples were taken from across Northern Ireland.

Oxford Island, Lough Neagh, Co Armagh 17/5/09

Peatlands, Co Tyrone 17/5/09

Lough Fea, Cookstown 20/5/09

Slieve Gallion, the Sperrin Mountains, Co Antrim 20/5/09

Carn Daisy Glen, Moneymore 20/5/09

Veg Patch, Co Tyrone 22/5/09

Drum Manor, Cookstown 22/5/09

Beaghmore, Co Tyrone 22/5/09

Davagh Forest, Co Tyrone 22/5/09

Gosford Forest Park, Co Armagh 24/05/09

Hare's Gap, the Mourne Mountains, Co Down 24/5/09

Murlough Bay, Co Down 24/5/09

Note

Interestingly three soil samples still have a green algae growing on the surface – Spring 2014