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August 2024

Public Art Scheme North West Slate Landscape World Heritage Site

Artists appointed

Gwynedd Council has commissioned artists for Porthmadog, Penygroes, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Bethesda and Llanberis to create art that raises awareness of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site and captures the story and character of the slate industry in each area. Related work is also being commissioned in Tywyn.

The art installations are funded by UK Government through the Shared Prosperity Fund, and Cyngor Gwynedd's Llewyrch o'r Llechi cultural investment programme.

A series of engagement events have taken place to get the views and ideas of the local community. There will be an imaginative and creative interpretation by each artist in the different areas, which will include their unique artistic stamp.

The artists will work with schools and community groups in the autumn to develop their ideas, and the art will be installed towards the end of the year.

As part of a wider plan to regenerate town centres, there are also plans to develop public art in Bala, Bangor, Harlech and Pwllheli and more information about these plans will be released soon.

Porthmadog and Llanberis



Local artist Howard Bowcott from Penrhyndeudraeth has been appointed to create installations that reflect Porthmadog's history and its importance transporting slate around the world. He has also been commissioned to create artwork in Llanberis.

Howard is renowned for creating distinctive slate art for the town of Blaenau Ffestiniog and looks forward to contributing further contemporary art inspired by the slate landscape to the area.

Howard said: "I have been making artwork about the slate quarries for some fifty years now, so I am delighted to continue my affinity with slate and help promote the World Heritage Site status of this very special landscape and culture.

"In Porthmadog I will be connecting the slate with the sea, creating four signpost pillars that will link around the town and tell the story of the slates being shipped from Porthmadog all across the world, on the beautiful slate schooners.

"In Llanberis I will be celebrating the quarrymen and the names of the Dinorwig quarry galleries, as well as the domestic life that underpinned the industry. The Welsh language runs through all aspects of both these sites, and this will come through in the work."

Penygroes



Angharad Pearce Jones, a blacksmith originally from Bala, has been commissioned to create a sculpture for Penygroes. Angharad is the winner of the Gold Medal for Fine Art at this year's Rhondda Cynon Taf Eisteddfod. Angharad will take her inspiration from the historic landscape of the quarries in the Nantlle Valley area and the different stories attached there, to create her sculpture.

Angharad says: "It is a privilege to win one of the public art commissions in the Slate Landscape areas of North Wales. The research process has begun and I look forward to working with the young people of Penygroes in September, to develop a piece of art that reflects the quaint post-industrial landscape of the Nantlle Valley and the strong literary culture of this particular area."

Blaenau Ffestiniog



A local company has won the commission to create a mural in the town of Blaenau Ffestiniog. Original Roofing Company are well known for their artistic and imaginative designs, that go hand in hand with their repairs and installations of slate wall roofs and gables. They will have the opportunity to express the distinctive feel of this area's slate industry, such as the Car Gwylt, because of their close association with the town and its history.

“We just wanted to say how happy we are to have the opportunity to deliver this exciting art project here in Blaenau Ffestiniog. To be able to do this in our hometown is an honour we won't take lightly and we are confident we can leave something for all to enjoy for many years to come.”

Bethesda



This commission will be part of the refurbishment scheme of Yr Hen Bost building in Bethesda town centre with the art to be placed on the facade following the refurbishment. Winning artist

Ann Catrin Evans is a manufacturer and designer whose work can be seen at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff. Ann will be working with her son Joe to create work that will capture the history of Penrhyn Quarry and use the technique of slate engraving typical of the Dyffryn Ogwen area.

Ann said "We feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to work on such an exciting project. We aim to create an addition to the street that the people of Bethesda are proud of. Celebrating the rich history of the Welsh slate industry, paying homage to the past, using the techniques of the times and incorporating today's technology."

For more information about the art projects and the Llewyrch o'r Llechi programme, email llechi@gwynedd.llyw.cymru, or see @llechicymru on social media.