

Public Art Commission Opportunity, Clones, Co. Monaghan



Location: Ulster Canal & Marina, Clones, Co. Monaghan

Site Video: <https://youtu.be/p7B9ogFGmeg?si=xFoKo2s3qfsXZxC1>



Overview

This brief provides details of a unique opportunity for professional practicing artists in Ireland or further afield to develop a proposal for a site specific Per Cent for Art commission at the Ulster Canal Marina, Clones, Co. Monaghan. The project consists of the design, supply, installation and commissioning of a sculpture representing the Bikers' Memorial.

This project is being commissioned by The Gone But Not Forgotten Bikers' Memorial Committee (Heretofore known as the Bikers' Memorial) and Monaghan County Council and is funded by Monaghan Co. Council Per cent for art funding and Bikers' Memorial committee.

The Bikers' Memorial and Monaghan County Council are seeking proposals for an imaginative and contemporary sculptural work which encapsulates the natural beauty of the location landscape, the history of the Bikers Memorial in Clones, and is a worthy addition to the many heritage sites in the town area.

Location Map Reference:

Memorial Garden location (circled in yellow)

Coordinates: 54.176659, -7.235667





Application Process Summary: This is an open call for a two-stage competition. Stage 2 will require more extensive work on the proposal for final selection and the award of the commission.

At Stage 1 shortlisting will take place and up to four applicants will be invited to submit for a final second stage.

At stage 2 further details of how the sculpture will be developed, installed and engineered will be required as well as a final budget. The four applicants selected to progress will be paid a fee of €400.00 each to progress their ideas to be presented for final selection.

Selection Panel: Stages 1 and 2 will be overseen by the same panel. This panel will be comprised of a specialist in the field of public art, representatives of Monaghan County Council and members of the commissioning partner, the Bikers' Memorial committee.

Budget: The budget available for the successful artist(s) for the commission is €90,000. This budget is final and includes all costs for materials, artistic and professional fees, any necessary research, production/realisation, installations, insurance, documentation, maintenance file, and VAT.

Note: The Sculpture will be in a proposed memorial garden and a contractor appointed by Monaghan County Council will be responsible for the groundworks as part of the garden construction and commissioning.

Project Timescale:

14 th February 2025	Publish Call for Stage 1 Submissions
28 th March 2025	Closing date for receipt of Stage1 submissions
18 th April 2025	Stage 2 Notifications
30 th May 2025	Stage 2 Submission Deadline
20 th June 2025	Notification of commission award and contracts
31 st January 2026	Commission completion and installation

Submission: To be emailed to moncolib@monaghancoco.ie
Late and / or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Site Visit: Artists can view the commission area by satellite mapping at the above link or by driving by the site. A site visit will be facilitated by Monaghan County Council and the Bikers' Memorial committee on **Monday 24th February and/or Monday 3rd March 2025**. This visit will provide an opportunity for artists to get a closer perspective of the site. In the interest of Health & Safety, the site visit will be managed. The site visit will give interested applicants an opportunity to ask questions or seek clarification. Please register for the site visit, by emailing moncolib@monaghancoco.ie with name and contact details.

Project Brief:

Artists will be required to provide a detailed project proposal at stages 1 and 2 for public art to include concept visuals, methodology, technical information, time frame and budget breakdown for the proposal. Applications are encouraged from all arts disciplines and approaches including collaborative proposals.

- The sculpture must be recognizable as representing the biking community.
- The sculpture should encapsulate important traits of the biking community such as Friendship, Respect, Love, Loss, Support, Remembrance
- The sculptor can take inspiration from the annual Bikers' memorial
- The sculptor should be imaginative, contemporary and well made. It should intrigue and engage the public.

- The sculpture should be made in a manner and from materials suitable for permanent exhibition outdoors.
- The sculpture should be low maintenance.
- The sculpture should be able to last into the future, with a maintenance plan outlined.
- The sculpture should enhance the proposed Garden of Remembrance and provide a new cultural context for the diverse groups of people who will visit it or use the amenities within the location.
- A letter of support from an engineering works should be provided for large or tall sculptural installations.

Materials:

The brief does not specify the materials to be used, but the artwork is intended to be permanent. Therefore, it should be of high quality, sustainable, durable materials which require minimum maintenance, considering the impact on the environment compared to alternative solutions which can improve environmental performance without additional costs or impacts on competition. Please use refurbished products where and if possible, within the production of the piece.

Detailed Submission Requirements

Submission Stage 1:

Please submit: A typed proposal/concept outline detailing the rationale for the design and how it meets the context of this commission (max 500 words) * together with the following:

1. Visual Representations of the proposed artwork - outline drawings or graphics
2. A detailed budget outline for project design, fabrication, installation and documentation
3. A project plan detailing materials to be used and referring to engineering requirements of the work and installation (max 3 pages max) **
4. CV
5. 3 different examples of previous relevant work / public art projects
6. Information in the form of CV's or biographies of any proposed collaborators (engineer / fabricator / artist etc.)***

*The Concepts Proposal should be a maximum of 500 words outlining the proposal's artistic ideas and concepts.

**The Project Plan should be up to three A4 pages and should specify details on the development and fabrication processes, technical installation details, materials to be used, and engineering context. It should also include a brief note on ongoing maintenance.

***Please outline details of other **collaborators – artists, engineers and / or fabricators**. It must be evidenced that their inclusion in the project can be delivered upon if the artist is successful. There should

be evidence from these collaborators that the project is feasible from an engineering and installation perspective at this stage.

Please label all submissions and documents accompanying this submission clearly and with relevant titles attributed to each section. Artists should note that submissions will need a confirmation report from a structural engineer to ensure the proposal submitted is feasible on the identified site. This will include reference to foundations and any required structural supports.

Submission Stage 2: Shortlisted artists will be asked to demonstrate the following prior to proceeding to Stage 2:

- Confirmation that the artist can provide Public Liability Insurance (minimum cover €6.5m) and Employers Liability Insurance (minimum cover €13m) if awarded a contract
- Confirmation of Tax Clearance in the Republic of Ireland
- Confirmation that the artist will liaise and collaborate with site appointed project supervisor for the design process (PSDP) and project supervisor for the construction process (PSCS)

Artists will be asked to refine their proposal and submit a final proposal which details a fully worked concept, updated drawings with all engineering details, materials selection and project plan for installation. Applicants may wish to supply a maquette to scale but it is not a requirement of this application.

Up to four artistic proposals will be selected to progress. Each party will receive €400.00 to further develop their proposal.

The successful artist will be awarded a Contract for Services and will be required to complete documentation for the provision of services. These will include those for safe systems of work practice and as project supervisor for the design stage of the project. Health and Safety provisions under the relevant legislation must be adhered to and the proposal will require provision for all requisite risk assessments and documentation to be included in the budget. These may include risk assessment for development stages and installation depending on the project proposed.

Selection Criteria:

30% (300 marks) Artistic merit and concept outline

30% (300 marks) Feasibility / demonstrated ability to deliver the commission

20% (200 marks) Adherence to the brief and imaginative contemporary response to the context

10% (100 marks) Environment Awareness regarding the proposed piece

10% (100 marks) Value for money / budget

Commission Award -Terms & Conditions:

- Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- Those making a submission guarantee that it is for an original artwork.
- Collaborative/ Joint submissions will be considered.
- Monaghan County Council and the selection panel reserve the right to seek clarifications from artists who make submissions.
- Applicants are responsible for the cost of Stage 1 submissions. Artists' fees will be paid to Stage 2, shortlisted artists.
- The contract price shall be inclusive of VAT and all other taxes, duties and insurances.
- The artists must satisfy Monaghan County Council that the work can be completed for the contract price and within the agreed timeline.
- Monaghan County Council reserves the right not to award the commission if none of the proposals received are deemed to be suitable and, in this instance and they reserve the right to pursue another commissioning process.
- The successful artist/s will be issued with a contract.
- The commissioned artist/s will be required to furnish a valid Tax Clearance Certificate for all stages of the commission.
- The commissioned artist/s and any contractors must comply with all current Irish Health and Safety legislation and all Irish Employment legislation as required.
- The commissioned artist/s and any contractors must comply with all current Public Health Advice.
- When, and if required, the commissioned artist will be responsible for ensuring full compliance with Child Protection, Safeguarding and Garda vetting requirements.

Insurance Requirements

- The Artist should hold adequate Public Liability insurance cover for the process of the project, including installation of the artwork/performance or any community engagement activities etc. The artist is to outline his/her cover and the Client is to ensure the Work is covered in their policies where possible.

- The Artist shall keep the Council fully indemnified from and against all actions, proceedings, claims, demands, losses, costs, expenses damages and liability arising directly or indirectly as a result of the activities of the Artist its subcontractors, agents or employees in the performance of this Agreement.
- The Artist is required to have in place the following insurances in relation to all works and activities in connection with the Commission to include all activities in any location in connection with the production, creation and installation of the Commission until the Date of Final Acceptance of the Artwork by the Council:
 - Public Liability Insurance cover of €6.5million with an indemnity to principal extension.
 - Employers Liability cover of €13 million with an indemnity to principal extension (where employees are engaged by the Artist in connection with the Commission).
- The Council will not insure equipment belonging to the Artist or their associates and will not insure any materials used by the Artist or their associates in connection with the Commission.
- Whenever required to do so by the Council, the Artist will produce to the Council the said policy or policies together with satisfactory evidence that the same is/are valid and subsisting and that all premiums due thereon have been paid.
- Evidence of insurance will only be required prior to signing a contract with Kilkenny County Council.

Please send your completed proposal to: moncolib@monaghancoco.ie

with Bikers Memorial Proposal in the SUBJECT LINE

Application Deadline: 28th March 2025 at 4pm

No late proposals will be accepted

Contextual Information

Memorial Garden

Monaghan County Council, in partnership with the Biker's Memorial Committee, are planning to install a biodiversity memorial garden, which will be a place of quiet remembrance and reflection for the whole community to visit and honor family members and friends who have passed away. The garden will be intended as a place for quiet remembrance, solace, peace and tranquility which will include a public art piece of interest and beauty. The garden will be designed using native Irish planting to create a space of reflection and remembrance, allowing the legacy of loved ones to continue in a tangible and serene environment.

Bikers' Memorial

The Bikers' Memorial as currently known throughout the country owes its origins to the tragic death in a motorbike collision of a young Newbliss man Brendan McDonnell. Brendan was just 19 years old when he died in London on 13th October 1985. A memorial bike run was organised by his brother John James. This ran from 1986-1995 before developing into the 'Gone But Not Forgotten' bike run. This change came after the families of other motorbike fatalities asked for their loved ones to be added. This run was hugely successful in giving families an opportunity to talk about their loved ones, thus helping the grieving process. It was very well supported by bikers from all over Ireland. The numbers of bikes grew year on year as did, sadly, the number of people to be commemorated.

In 1990 John James McDonnell commissioned a plaque where family members placed a memorial card/photo or just the name of their loved one being remembered before the start of each run. The 'Gone But Not Forgotten Bike Run' came to an end in 2000 with a run to Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann, in Wexford. John James and other organisers came to the decision to end the run due to the huge numbers of bikes involved and their fears of the safety of all participants.

Fast forward to 2003 and Teresa Boyle, Smithboro, and the newly appointed curate in Clones, Fr. John Kearns, got together with the idea of organising a memorial that all people could attend. Teresa, who lost her brother Patrick in a motorbike collision on the 26th October 1995 aged just 25, and Fr. John were conscious that given the large numbers involved it wasn't possible to attend all funerals/month memories and anniversaries. They contacted John James and Vinny West and became the first bikers' memorial committee. The original plaque was now firmly the centre piece of the Gone But Not Forgotten Bikers Memorial service held first in May 2003 in St. Macartan's Church, Aghadrumsee, Co. Fermanagh (Clones Parish). Due to the massive numbers attending (1200 approximately annually) the memorial moved to the larger Sacred Heart Church, Clones, Co. Monaghan in 2010.



GBNF 2023



Open To All

Although held in a catholic church, the Bikers' memorial has been, from its inception, a memorial service open to all. As with the bike run before it, if you lost a loved one or if you wished to support those who had lost a loved one, then you were welcome to attend. Any permanent memorial would continue with this same ethos. If you feel the Bikers Memorial is something for you, something you'd like to visit, then you're most welcome. Our motto has always been and will continue to be 'Open to those of all religions and those of none'.

See also www.gonebutnotforgottenbikers.net

www.facebook.com/gonebutnotbikers

[Ride on: life, death and motorbikes – The Irish Times](#)

Site video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pDjj5D_RB3TcfSLaiQYAufPuyfSXWPXgM/view?u_sp=sharing