

Elizabeth’s ‘Spiorad Ban Chíarraí’ Sculpture unveiled

THE ‘Spiorad Ban Chíarraí’ Sculpture commemorating the role of Kerry women during the revolutionary era in Tralee Town Park, by Ballymena woman Elizabeth O’Kane, has been unveiled in Tralee Town Park.

The powerful sculpture is the first of its kind in the country to be commissioned by a local authority, following a motion brought forward by the female elected members of KCC in 2023, to acknowledged that the women of Kerry of 1912 and 1923, contributed in many different ways, to the changes which shaped a new Ireland, and were worthy of a lasting commemorative memorial.

Award winning Irish sculptor Elizabeth O’Kane, a former pupil at Ballymena Academy, was awarded the commission for the sculpture following an open call for submissions.

Elizabeth is a member of the Society of Portrait Sculptors and her work can be seen in Leinster House, the European Parliament, Shannon Airport and Irish embassies in London and Washington. Elizabeth has sculpted John Hume, Dr. Garrett FitzGerald and John Count McCormack.

The sculpture, measuring 100 inches /255 cm tall, depicts a woman in uniform marching forward and raising the Irish flag.

Her determined expression and raised chin signify courage, resilience, and leadership. Elizabeth worked with live models to capture the sculpture’s purposeful contrapposto pose, and to ensure historical accuracy in the clothing and accessories, she referenced period uniforms associated with Cumann na mBan and Cumann na Saoirse, complete with a Sam Browne belt and Slouch hat.

The sculpture was a year and a half in the making, from sculpting the larger-than-life-size clay figure in the studio, to the many months of highly skilled bronze casting carried out in a Dublin foundry.

“I found inspiration in the iconic artworks of the French Revolution, and in particular Delacroix’s painting ‘Liberty leading the People’. The revolutionary ideals of ‘Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité’ are certainly embodied in the sculpture, although Fraternité is or course replaced by Sororité – Sisterhood!”, said Elizabeth.



Elizabeth O’Kane the ‘Spiorad Ban Chíarraí’ Sculpture commemorating the role of Kerry women during the revolutionary era in Tralee Town Park.

BELOW - Elizabeth O’Kane at the unveiling.



Work in progress!





FIA HISTORIC RALLY

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS 1976 2026

ULSTER RALLY

50 YEARS of RALLYING EXCELLENCE



MODERN TYRES

ULSTER RALLY

6-8TH AUG 2026



OPENING CEREMONY
THURSDAY 6TH AUG
@ 7:30PM



BALLYMENA SHOWGROUNDS
RALLY SERVICE PARK



FAMILY FRIENDLY
& FREE!



Mid & East Antrim
Borough Council



FIA HISTORIC RALLY SPECTATOR PROGRAMME

RALLY ROUTE AVAILABLE
IN OUR PROGRAMME
THAT IS NOW ON SALE
ONLINE AND IN LOCAL SHOPS



BUY YOUR
PROGRAMME
TODAY!

ULSTERRALLY.COM