

for families

IMMA TRAIL

Outdoor Artworks

Natural Materials

Welcome to IMMA – the Irish Museum of Modern Art.

Here is a map of the IMMA gardens and meadows. All of the artworks shown on this map are made of stone, wood and other natural materials. People have always used natural materials for keeping warm, building shelter and making tools and weapons. But people have also used natural materials for arts and crafts from ancient times. All over Ireland, we find stone slabs raised up in fields or arranged in lines and circles. When we see rocks and stones placed like this, we know that people were here before us, usually long ago. Over 5,000 years ago, artists carved wonderful spirals and patterns on the stones at Newgrange, and they left a great collection of monuments in fields around Carrowmore, Co. Sligo.

Remember when you're outdoors at IMMA:

- Look left and right before crossing the roads. Watch out for bicycles, cars and vans at all times.
- Don't touch the artworks. Even though the artworks are made to be outside in sun and rain, they can be damaged over time by repeated contact with hands.

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Once a year, a long line of snowdrops blooms in the meadow. This is an artwork by Donald

Urquhart. A line has been drawn in the landscape using the bulbs of these tiny white flowers. As winter ends, nature redraws the line for a few weeks and then rubs it out for another year.

4

Under the trees, there are 10 rocks. But they're not like the rocks you see on a beach or the side

of a mountain. Those rocks are rough and uneven, shaped by the forces of nature: waves, wind and ice. The rocks here at IMMA are different. Their surface is smooth, and the edges are sharp and straight. The surface and shape of these rocks tell us that an artist has been at work.

3

Look at the end of this headstone. The carved lines are an old Irish way of

writing called Ogham. It reads "ONE HERE NOW". During a ceremony at IMMA on 20th May 2008, a mask of Patrick Ireland was buried here. Thirty-six years before that, the artist Brian O'Doherty had changed his name to Patrick Ireland in response to the conflict in Northern Ireland.

2

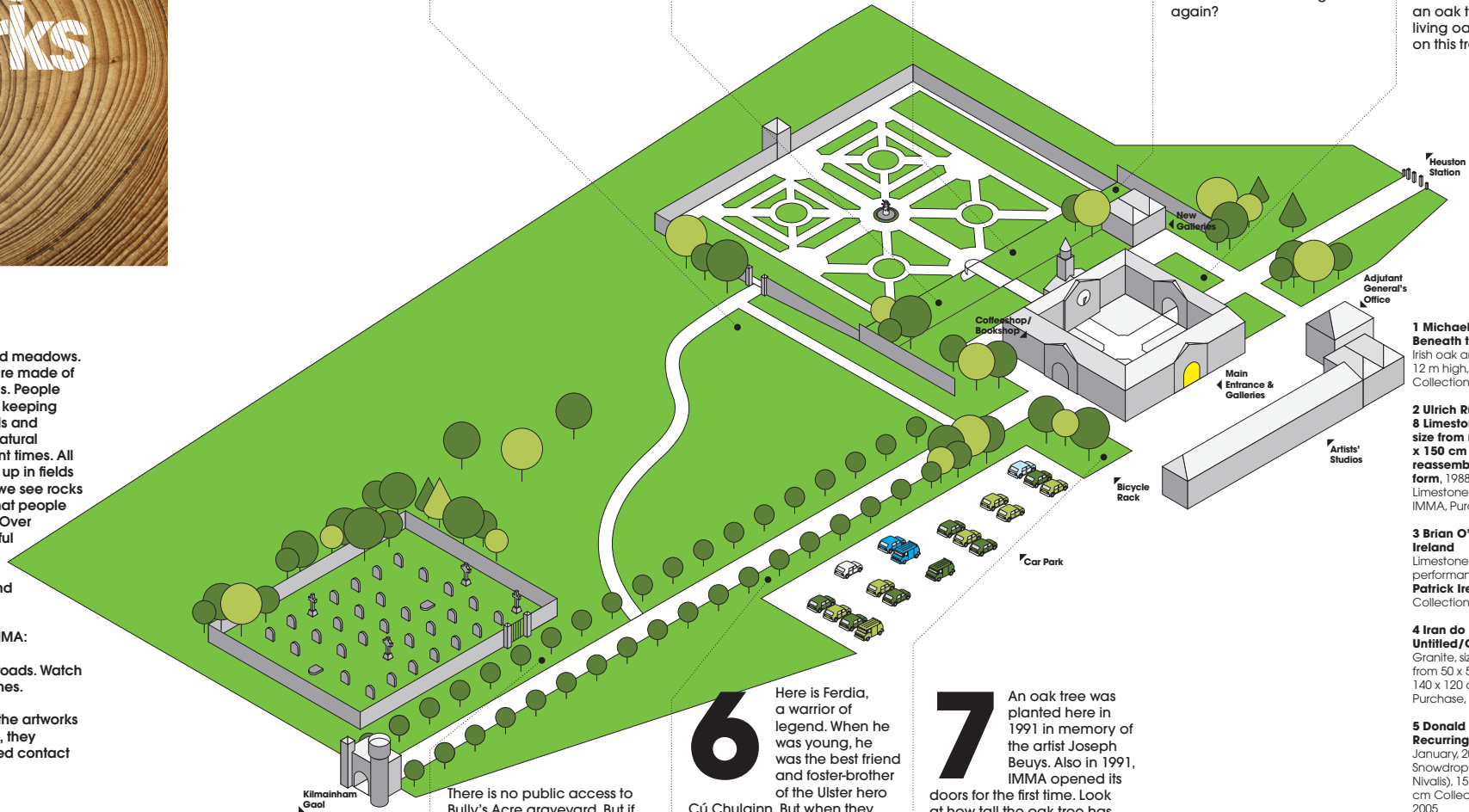
Behind the big house called the New Galleries, there are eight blocks of limestone

standing up. Look at how the blocks are placed in relation to each other. Are they spread out evenly? How tall are you compared to the height of the blocks? Look how each block has holes and cracks in it. Does each block look as if it had been cracked apart and was then stuck together again?

1

This sculpture has a tall part and a short part. Look up to the top of the tall part.

See how high it goes. Now bring your eyes down to the ground. Walking around the sculpture, does its shape look different from other directions? This sculpture is called **Beneath the 'bow'** ('bow is short for rainbow). The sculpture is made from the wood of an oak tree. You will see a living oak tree elsewhere on this trail.



1 Michael Warren
Beneath the 'bow', 1991
Irish oak and corten steel,
12 m high,
Collection IMMA, Purchase, 1991

2 Ulrich Rückriem
8 Limestones cut to a specific size from rough blocks 50 x 50 x 150 cm split into parts and reassembled into their original form, 1988
Limestone installation, Collection IMMA, Purchase, 2001

3 Brian O'Doherty/Patrick Ireland
Limestone headstone from the performance The Burial of Patrick Ireland (1972 – 2008)
Collection IMMA, Donation, 2008

4 Iran do Espírito Santo
Unfilled/Corrections D, 2008
Granite, sizes vary approximately from 50 x 50 x 50 cm to 160 x 140 x 120 cm, Collection IMMA, Purchase, 2007

5 Donald Urquhart
Recurring Line: North/South, January, 2007
Snowdrop plants (*Galanthus Nivalis*), 15 cm x 100 cm x 10,000 cm Collection IMMA, Purchase, 2005

6 James McKenna
Ferdia for nÁth/Ferdia at the Ford, 1989
Granite, 300 x 100 x 61 cm, Collection IMMA, Donation, Desmond, Vivienne, Kate & Bebhinn Egan, 2007

7 An Oak tree for Joseph Beuys planted by Caroline Tisdall in 1991.

6

Here is Ferdia, a warrior of legend. When he was young, he was the best friend and foster-brother of the Ulster hero

Cú Chulainn. But when they grew up, they had to fight each other over the bull of Cooley. Their final battle started at a shallow place in a river called a ford. This sculpture is made from blocks of granite. Look at Ferdia, towering above us, one arm raised. Maybe he is waving to an approaching army. Do you think they are his friends or his foes?

7

An oak tree was planted here in 1991 in memory of the artist Joseph Beuys. Also in 1991, IMMA opened its

doors for the first time. Look at how tall the oak tree has grown since then. Oak trees were important to Joseph Beuys. As part of an artwork, he wanted to plant 7,000 oaks in a city. Imagine: 7,000 oaks like this tree growing up together...

There is no public access to Bully's Acre graveyard. But if you peek through the gates, on the left you will see a tall stone standing up. This is what remains of a granite cross. It may have been part of the monastery of Saint Maignend, which was probably founded here around 1,400 years ago. This area, Kilmainham, gets its name from the Irish for the "church of Maignend".