

Engine Room Gallery Summer Show

Thursday 8 July 2010 – Saturday 31 July 2010

The Ebb and Flow of East Belfast

Bronagh Lawson

Opening on Thursday 8 July 2010 at 19:00.

As the artist-in-residence in a building on the peace line at the junction of the Newtownards Road and the Short Strand, artist Bronagh Lawson has interpreted the many changes happening in this notorious cross-community area in the form of broadsheet inspired prints, called "The Ebb and Flow of East Belfast". One of these will be shown in the Engine Room Gallery summer exhibition this month.

Bronagh went to the newsagents on both sides of the peace line once every three months over the past year and purchased all the newspapers that inform the two local communities. Random text and images were torn from the newspapers: headlines, local grievances, some extreme, some personal. These fragments, echoing the historical broadsheet, were then intuitively used as Chine Collé on an etching plate, as a limited varied edition of ten.

The term 'Broadsheet' derives from types of popular prints hundred years ago, usually just of a single sheet, sold on the streets and containing various types of material, from ballads to political satire. First published in 1618, they would talk about the life and energy of a specific place.

'Chine Collé', translated as Chinese collage, is a technique the Chinese invented for bringing areas of colour into a print. The printmaker collages while printing, using a special rice paste to keep the fragments in place.

Bronagh says about her new artwork: "Nothing exists independent of its own surroundings, including language. Newspapers in Northern Ireland inform the population of events, feeding stereotypes and slanting news to different political persuasions. The chosen texts totally change the feel of each varied edition, just like one's view of the world is rightly or wrongly changed or confirmed depending on what newspaper one reads."

Notes to editors

Bronagh Lawson was brought up in Portaferry and Strangford, Northern Ireland. She has a first class degree from Winchester School of Art and post-graduate experience from Parsons School of Art in New York City, USA. Currently Artist in Residence at City East in Belfast, on the Peace Line between the Short Strand and the Newtownards Road, she has been using for the last 14 years her creativity for a wider social purpose, and has returned to practice her art as a way of outwardly expressing the inner observations she experienced while working in the most deprived area in Europe. Bronagh's work was selected for the RUA annual exhibition 2009 and her work is held in a number of collections including the Ulster Museum, the UTV collection, the Office of Public Works, the Down Health Trust and the Belfast Health Trust. She has also been the Chair of the Belfast Print Workshop since September 2008. More at www.BronaghLawson.com