

NICOLAS MORETON



‘The Pinnacle’ 2018/19

The Pinnacle is the final realised art piece, gifted by the Per Cent for Art Grant, commissioned by the school community of Clonkeen College.

The materials used have been sourced from Ireland and the England: Kilkenny limestone, Portland stone, and Ancaster stone.

Public Art must resonate strongly with the location in which it is placed, not simply being polite, but rather an integrated catalyst that builds connections within the community and fosters local pride.

As with all my public art projects, whatever I leave behind will stand as a quality piece of sculpture that will continue to engage and intrigue those that come into contact with it. My intention was to create a piece of art that reflects upon the purpose of the building and those there in. I have achieved a dynamic sculptural arc, that links the inner and out spaces. To help enhance this formal dialogue it is important to use where possible, indigenous materials that will in some way reflect upon Irelands history and geography.

The entrance to Clonkeen College has become a natural theatrical space, in which to place sculpture. The façade at reception, with its high ceiling and deep recess, creates a grand entrance to the school.

I have harnessed the energy in this area to tell a story through sculptural objects. The work titled "Pinnacle" is made up of one large central sculpture from which the smaller placed sculptures feed to and from each side, creating a dynamic arc. The main sculpture stands as the school, statuesque at around 3m and made

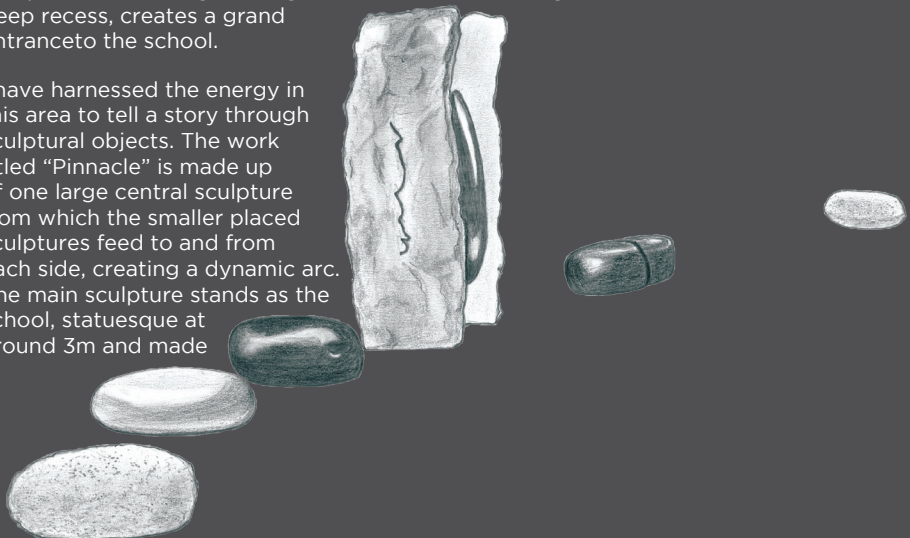
from durable, low maintenance stone. Its multifaceted complexities in shape, texture, surface and form reflects upon those many faces of the school, be it educational or social. This element also represents the mountain we climb through our lives to the point where we achieve our own personal degrees of self-confidence, and if we are lucky enough our own "pinnacle" point.

The stones situated around this main work will reflect upon the steps we take through our lives. Those stepping-stones being seen as personal bench marks, and yet, it is the spaces between each mark that is just as important. As without one the other doesn't exist.

All stones are hand carved and have different stages of finishes. All these elements must work as formal sculptures, but I hope that the college community will use them as a place to meet, sit, connect and share stories.

Evolution of the initial design proposal...

The main sculpture became a split stone with a electrical light inset. Standing at 3.3m in height, it represents the college and the heights to which we might aspire. However, this stone has a sense of sculptural poetry to describe the complexities and qualities that lie within the college itself.



Artist comments

I was thrilled to be awarded this project, as not only was it my first public art project in Ireland but it has allowed me to once again work on a scale that will speak to a wider and varied audience, on a day to day basis.

The sculptural work itself has exceeded my own personal expectation with the emotional movement, textures and scale throughout the work, creating a dialogue of interaction with its audience.

Stones speak of landscape, landmarks and of a sense of place. The UK and Ireland both are nations of great Pre-historic sites, although it was always my intention to make a contemporary work that reflects upon the functionality of the college; I hope that the reference through these "magical" stones will cause us to reflect upon the beauty and majesty of our past.

I have loved my time working on this project. I have found the Irish people to be welcoming, helpful and warm hearted. I do hope it will not be long before I can work once again on a sculptural work for another site in Ireland. One stone grows in presence whereas the other looks deep within itself, with its fissure about to burst as if becoming aware of its own latent potential.

