

1. Snowcakes

This piece consists of sheets of paper scrunched up into balls. The balls themselves are similar to snowballs when viewed from a distance; the display shows four shelves of these white paper balls inside an octagonal exhibition case, reminiscent of a large cake stand; hence the title 'Snowcakes'.

The size of the balls diminishes progressively on the lower shelves, each shelf containing balls exactly half the size of those on the shelf above.

Like a Beckett play, this piece is open to many interpretations! But for the staff who worked on it, the creative process itself was very significant. The act of prematurely scrunching up a piece of paper and throwing it away, subsequently to find that it needs to be retrieved and flattened out again is a common one among not only library staff but office staff everywhere. Producing this piece turned this common, thoughtless act into a ritual.

The piece was created by Ignacio Uriarte, Mary Sheehy, Breda Collins and Eileen O'Brien.

2. Silver rain

This piece consists of approximately 5000 paper clips strung together into long chains. The chains hang from the ceiling in a circular formation at varying heights. Light from two windows to the front of the building and glass doors behind means that the piece is naturally illuminated for most of the day, looking like a frozen segment of very heavy rain. The piece is especially remarkable for its dense yet delicate and ethereal qualities, and also for the fact that

a simple, banal item of stationery could be used to create such a piece.

This piece was created by Breda Collins (who tweaked the original concept into this design), Ignacio Uriarte, Brenda O'Driscoll, Margaret O'Donovan, Mary Sheehy and Eileen O'Brien.

3. Flight

In this piece, 21 sheets of ascending A4 paper are folded in a precise sequence to give the impression of a straight horizontal line along the wall on which they are suspended. This image of the line is the first thing that strikes the viewer, rather than the reality that these are simply folded sheets of paper.

This piece is again open to interpretation, but we think that the title 'Flight' broadly captures the sensation of the work. The sheets of paper look as though they are struggling to get free of an imaginary string as they soar up the wall in a slow motion version of a sheet of paper being carried away by a breeze.

This piece was created by Ignacio Uriarte and Margaret O'Donovan.

Fitting snugly alongside the Living Landscape exhibition in the West Cork Arts Centre, these three pieces are integrated into the 'landscape' of the library, using materials that already form part of the 'landscape' of the library. The actions and processes that are commonplace among office staff the world over have here been given a merit and value beyond any we ever considered. Working on this project has been great fun and a wonderful experience for us, allowing us to stretch our imaginations and look in a new way at the sometime tedious details of our work.

Thanks to:

The West Cork Arts Centre for their generosity with material for the project; Linda McEvoy for providing cover while the rest of us flexed our creative muscles; Ian McDonagh for his enthusiasm about the project; Michael Follard and the local schools who agreed to postpone their usual visits on Tuesday 12th April in order to facilitate this work. Thanks especially to all the library staff members involved: Breda Collins, Brenda O'Driscoll, Mary Sheehy and Margaret O'Donovan.

And finally a big thank you to the artist behind the scheme, Ignacio Uriarte, without whom none of this would ever have happened.

All titles were the inspiration of Brenda O'Driscoll.

Eileen O'Brien
Librarian
Skibbereen Library
April 2005

Living Library Landscape

**An exhibition of office art at
Skibbereen Library
North Street
Skibbereen
Co. Cork**

**In conjunction with the Living
Landscape Exhibition and
Symposium taking place in the
West Cork Arts Centre in April
2005 and in Barcelona in 2006**