

Sleeping Giants

Art in nature and nature in Art



Rock sculpture proposal at Red Island , Skerries
by artist Paul D'Arcy
in association with Skerries Chamber of Commerce

Introduction

Celtic mythology mentions that heaven and earth was created by giants, who were considered to be the original ancient gods.

According to one Celtic myth, the creation took place by the primordial first god who, by means of a melody played by his breath, sang creation into existence.

To the Celts it was known as the Oran Mór, "The Great Melody of Life", a melody that did not cease with the initial creation, but goes on and on for eternity.
The Oran Mór, as the primordial 'sea melody', is said to flow through everything to this day.

Celtic myth claims that in the beginning nothing living existed - not even gods - but that the earth was comprised of land and sea and tells of a mighty melody

Inspiration

‘Once upon a time, there was no time and that was when there also was no gods and no man walked the surface of the land. But there was the sea, and where the sea met the land, a mare was born, white and made of sea-foam. Her name was Eiocha.

And not far from where the land met the sea, a tree grew, a strong and sturdy oak. On the oak grew a plant whose seeds were formed of the foam tears of the sea. To sustain her, Eiocha ate these white berry seeds, and they were transformed within her. She grew heavy with child and gave birth to the god, Cernunnos.

After the birth Eiocha took the bark from the oak tree and hurled it into the sea. The bark was transformed by the sea and created the Giants of the deep.’

The inspiration for this project; is born in this Celtic mythology and these Sleeping Giant rock sculptures will remind us all of our rich folklore

Executive Summary

Concept of Rock Sculptures

The sculptures will represent mythical Celtic giants as protectors of the land and sea. They will be part of the landscape/seascape and will subtly change with the rise and fall of the tide and the weather conditions of any particular day.

It is proposed to use the indigenous limestone rock around Red Island in Skerries, to create three sleeping figures that will have to be sought out among the surrounding rocks.

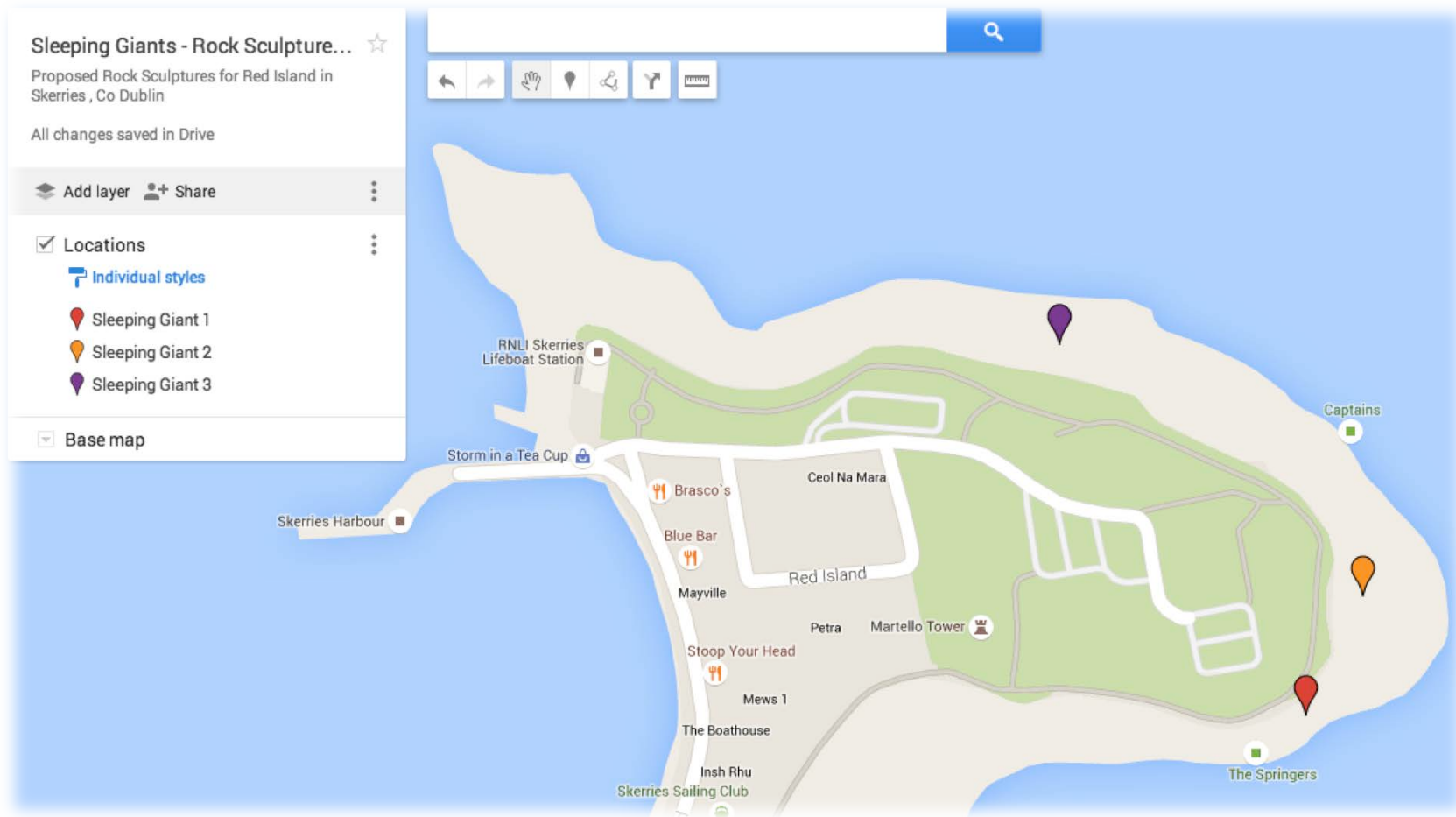
Each sculpture will be visible from only one specific vantage point in front of the work and walking left or right of this vantage point will make the sculptures 'disappear' back into the surrounding natural rock formations of Red Island.

This concept is unique and has not been created anywhere in Ireland and from research would also appear to be a world first. It would therefore have far reaching positive cultural and tourism implications within the region.

No foreign material will be brought into the sites in question and no construction will take place.

The sculptures will ecologically reflect art in nature and nature in art.

Proposed Locations of Rock Sculptures



Environmental Considerations

Over the last five months we have been consulting with the various national bodies that would need to approve the project before it could go ahead.

These included

- Irish Marine Institute of Ireland - environmental issues
- Department of the Environment - foreshore license
- National Parks and Wildlife Services - special conservation orders and wildlife.

We are delighted to say that each of these institutions from their statutory points of view have no issues with the Sleeping Giants project proceeding.

The project does not have any environmental issues of concern from the point of view of the Marine Institute of Ireland, The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government has advised that consent under the Foreshore Act 1933 is not required and wildlife/special conservation areas will not be interfered with as stated by Wildlife Services.

We have also been given the support of the Blue Society - an Irish / EU organization, who's remit is promoting and educating the public about the sea as an environment.

Skerries Tourism have been very enthusiastic and also fully endorse the project.

Sleeping Giant #1

before sculpting



Sleeping Giant #1

after sculpting



Wide angle view of Sleeping Giant # 1



Sculptures will blend into the surrounding rock

Community & Tourism

The three sculptures around Red Island will be unique within the island of Ireland and from research have not being created anywhere else in the world either. Therefore their attraction to the community and tourism will be substantial.

In conjunction with the St Patrick's footprint already located on Red Island, the sculptures will create a tourism package that will have a wide appeal both nationally and internationally.

Simply put, when the community and tourists walk around Red Island they will have considerably more to see and engage with.

The sculptures will be a free attraction to both community , tourists and will be of particular interest and joy to children. Parents can invite them to find the sculptures amongst the rocks. It is art that will excite the imagination of art lovers and non art lovers alike because of its connection with the environment, nature and folklore.



Sleeping Giant #2

before sculpting



Sleeping Giant #2

after sculpting



Wide angle view of Sleeping Giant # 2



Sculptures will blend into the surrounding rock

Scale of Artwork

The scale of the sculptures will measure approximately as follows :

Sleeping Giant 1 : height 2 meters x width 4 meters

Sleeping Giant 2 : height 2 meters x width 6 meters

Sleeping Giant 3 : height 2 meters x width 15 meters

Note : Height is variable due to the tide coming in and out.

At low tide the entire sculptures will be visible and at high tide only part of each sculpture will be visible.

Each piece emerging and submerging according to the tidal flows of the particular day will also add a certain life to the artwork.

Sleeping Giant #3

before sculpting



Sleeping Giant #3

after sculpting



Wide angle view of Sleeping Giant # 3



Sculptures will blend into the surrounding rock

St Patrick's Footprint

The proposed first sleeping giant sculpture is located close to a bathing area known as the "The Springers" and the local rock landmark known as "St Patrick's Footprint".

St Patrick's Footprint will not be interfered with in anyway.

As shown in the photograph, the site for the first sculpture is approximately 4 meters from this landmark. Access to the sculpture will be from the rocks and will not involve accessing 'The Springers' in any manner.

Swimmers can continue to use the area as normal.



Timescale

Due to the size , scale and access requirements to site for this project it would be envisaged that the overall project would take six to nine months to execute.

Works can only be carried out at low tide and during favourable weather conditions.



Project Insurance

Skerries Chamber of Commerce will provide public liability and indemnify Fingal County Council for the entire duration of the project's construction phase.

Paul D'Arcy as the artist working on-site will provide his own personal insurance against falls or injuries.

All documentation for the above insurances will be provided to Fingal County Council before commencement of works.



About the Artist

Paul D'Arcy is a professional artist for the past 25 years and some of his more recognized local sculptural projects include the Rush Millbank theatre 'Oscar' sculpture and the Floraville 'Embracing Seals' sculpture in Skerries.

His artwork is included in public collections including Fingal County Council, the Office of Public Works and in private and corporate collections in Ireland and abroad.

Contact Information

Martin Scully , Skerries Chamber of Commerce
Email chamberofcommerceskerries@gmail.com

Paul D'Arcy ,
Email pauldarcy@iol.ie
Website www.pauldarcy.ie

Correspondence from National Bodies

Marine Institute of Ireland - Project Approval

RE: Project : Sleeping Giants

On 17 Sep 2015, at 13:07, Margot Cronin margot.cronin@marine.ie wrote:

Hello Paul,

My apologies for the delay responding. I can see no significant adverse impacts to the marine environment from contamination. Nor can I see significant impact from other sources that could not be fairly easily mitigated, given the small scale involved.

I really like the idea of the project and I wish you luck with it.

All the best,

Margot Cronin

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Correspondence from National Bodies

**Department of the Environment - Project Approval - the project will not require
Foreshore License**

**From: Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG) Matthew.McLoughlin@environ.ie
Subject: RE: Project : Sleeping Giants , rock sculptures
Date: 9 December 2015 at 2:27 p.m.
To: yellowdaffs**

Dear Mr. D'Arcy,

We have reviewed the information supplied in connection with your proposal regarding the Sleeping Giants Rock Sculptures. I can confirm that consent under the Foreshore Act will not be required for the proposed works.

Regards Matthew McLoughlin
Marine Planning and Foreshore
053 9117371

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Correspondence from National Bodies

National Parks and Wildlife Service - Project Approval regarding any wildlife issues in executing the project.

**Niall Harvey 0876620373 - niall.harmey@agh.gov.ie Conservation
Ranger North Dublin - +353-1-888 3242 From: "Niall Harmey - (DAHG)"
<Niall.Harmey@ahg.gov.ie>
Date: 02/03/2016 3:44 PM (GMT+00:00)
To: pauldarcy@io.ie
Subject: sleeping giants project**

Paul, I have looked at your proposed project for the sleeping giants Red island Skerries. This area is not designated under the Birds and habitats regulations, nor do I envisage any impacts on the designated Skerries Island.

Niall Harmey
Conservation Ranger 0876620373

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Correspondence from National Bodies

Sea for Society / Blue Society Ireland - Project Support

From: John Joyce

Sent: 15 October 2015 20:10

To: yellowdaffs

Subject: RE: Sleeping Giants

Hi Paul, Thanks for the email. I've had a chance to discuss this with my colleagues in AquaTT. The bad news, I'm afraid, is that we don't have funds available to support the project directly with a cash payment.

The good news is that we could offer promotion and dissemination via our channels and projects either during the fund raising stage or once the project is implemented. If that is of interest to you, perhaps you could let me know and we could discuss ways in which we can offer assistance.

All the best and have a great weekend. John

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Sea for Society (SFS) is a European Project funded by DG Research & Innovation under the Theme Science in Society. The project engages stakeholders, citizens and youth in an open and participatory dialogue to share knowledge, forge partnerships and empower actors on societal issues related to Ocean. In doing so, the project aims to develop and enrich the concept of "Blue Society" preparing at the same time mechanisms for cooperation

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Correspondence

Skerries Tourism – Sleeping Giants Project Approval Skerries Tourism Chairman - Terry McCoy

Following a full presentation to the board of Skerries tourism (18th February 2016) by artist Paul D'Arcy regarding the Sleeping Giants sculptural rock project for Red Island and the subsequent discussion amongst our board members; Skerries tourism would like to give its full support and approval for this project.

As a local tourism board we feel that this project when completed will add significant tourist numbers to the area by way of a free attraction. In conjunction with other Red Island attractions including the playground, the Martello tower, the Saint Patrick's footprint and any other future development plans we are currently working on; it will attract visitors both from surrounding areas and through marketing nationally and internationally.

Yours sincerely,
Terry McCoy,
Skerries Tourism Chairman

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