

Sculpture at Westport Quay

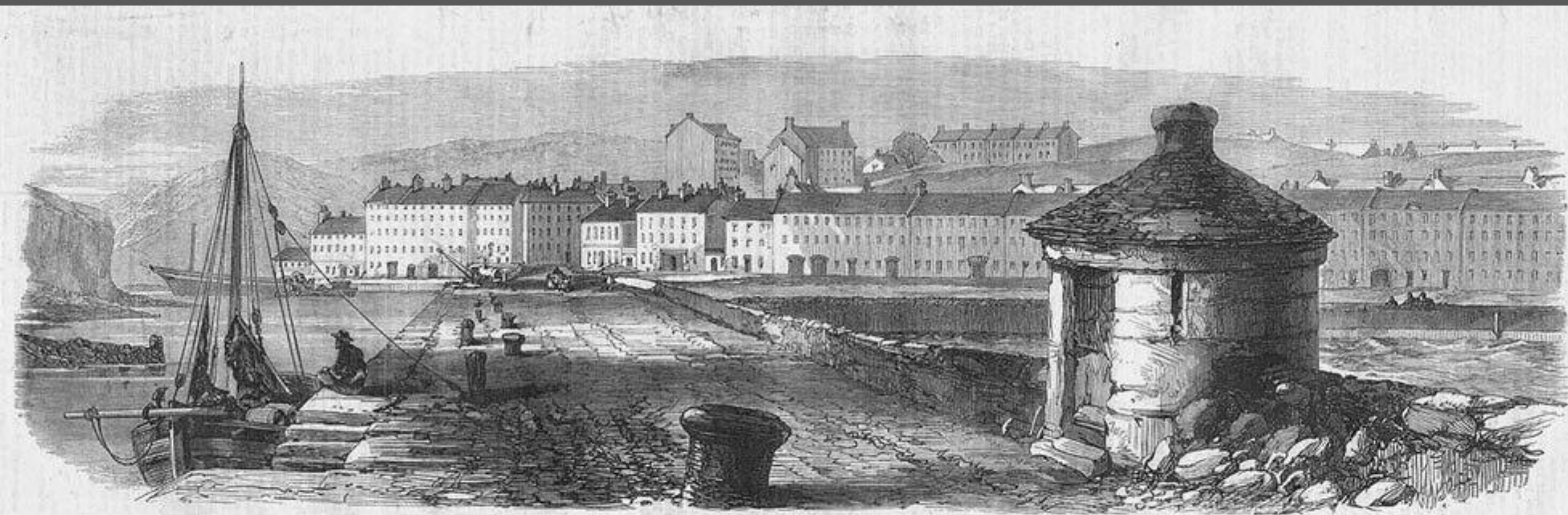


George Moore . The view up Carrowbeg River from the Quay Oil on Canvas. 1767. Collection Westport House.

Westport is the premier tourist towns in the west of Ireland. It has the distinction of being one of Ireland's few planned towns. One of the chief architectural landmarks of Westport is Westport House, former home of Lord Sligo, Earl of Altamont. The town is situated at the entrance to Clew Bay dominated by Croagh Patrick in the background. Its location led to the development of the Quay area. Westport was Mayo's main port until the coming of the railways in the 1870s.

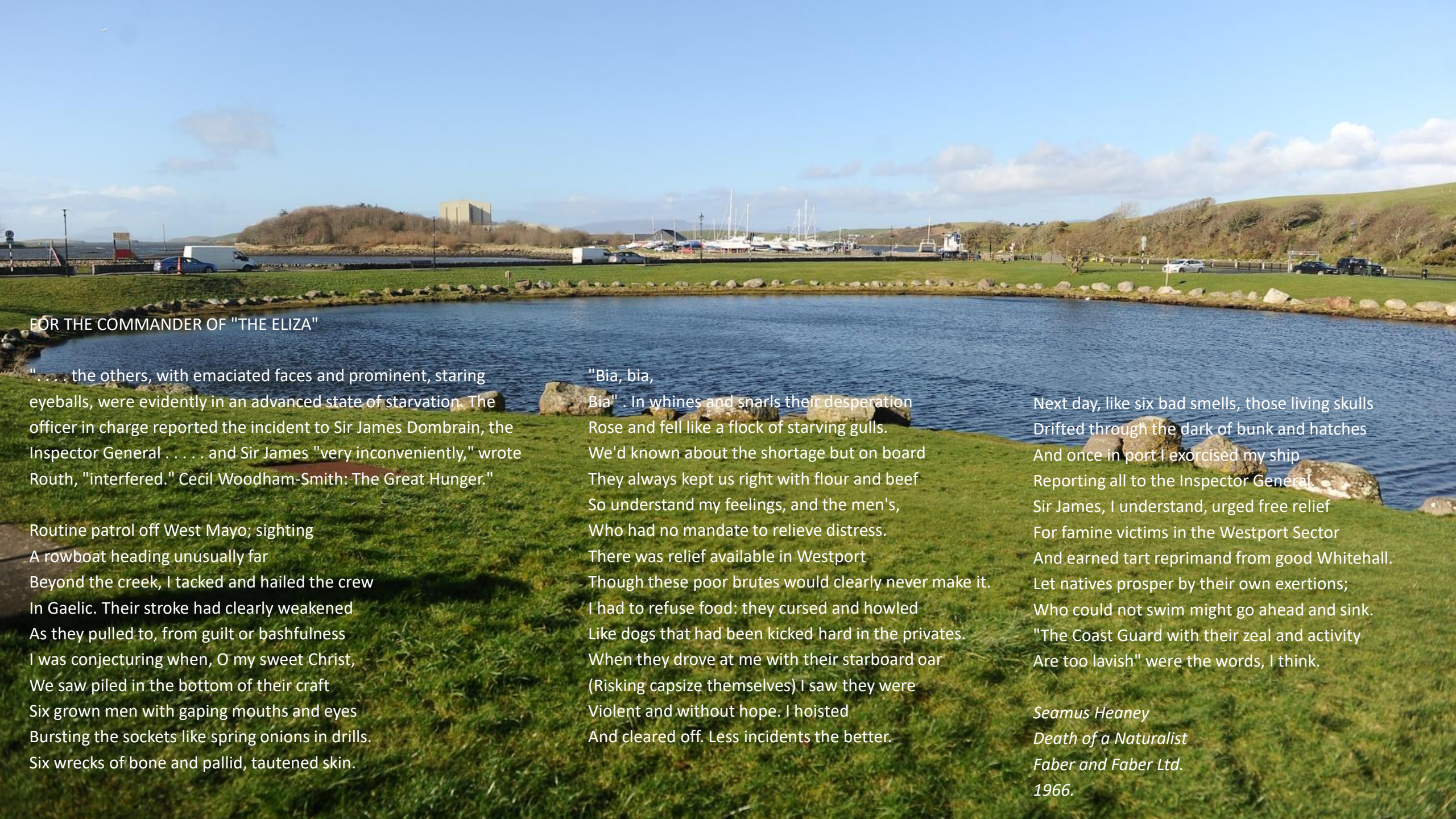


James Arthur O'Connor Westport Quays with a view of Westport House Oil on Canvas 1818 Collection Westport House



DESERTED WHARFS AND WAREHOUSES OF WESTPORT.
SEE NEXT PAGE.

Westport has a small adjoining port, the quay, once busy but no longer used for commercial shipping, now a suburb notable for its many warehouse conversions, restaurants and pubs. The Clew Bay Heritage Centre, a small museum celebrating the history of Westport and maritime history of Clew Bay. In 1894, the harbour was the scene of the Clew Bay Drowning. Thirty-two young people drowned from a on their way to Scotland for potatoes picking (tattie hoking). It also includes the training ground of Westport United, and is popular sea swimming place.



FOR THE COMMANDER OF "THE ELIZA"

"... the others, with emaciated faces and prominent, staring eyeballs, were evidently in an advanced state of starvation. The officer in charge reported the incident to Sir James Dombrain, the Inspector General and Sir James "very inconveniently," wrote Routh, "interfered." Cecil Woodham-Smith: *The Great Hunger*."

Routine patrol off West Mayo; sighting
A rowboat heading unusually far
Beyond the creek, I tacked and hailed the crew
In Gaelic. Their stroke had clearly weakened
As they pulled to, from guilt or bashfulness
I was conjecturing when, O my sweet Christ,
We saw piled in the bottom of their craft
Six grown men with gaping mouths and eyes
Bursting the sockets like spring onions in drills.
Six wrecks of bone and pallid, tautened skin.

"Bia, bia,
Bia" . In whines and snarls their desperation
Rose and fell like a flock of starving gulls.
We'd known about the shortage but on board
They always kept us right with flour and beef
So understand my feelings, and the men's,
Who had no mandate to relieve distress.
There was relief available in Westport
Though these poor brutes would clearly never make it.
I had to refuse food: they cursed and howled
Like dogs that had been kicked hard in the privates.
When they drove at me with their starboard oar
(Risking capsize themselves) I saw they were
Violent and without hope. I hoisted
And cleared off. Less incidents the better.

Next day, like six bad smells, those living skulls
Drifted through the dark of bunk and hatches
And once in port I exorcised my ship
Reporting all to the Inspector General
Sir James, I understand, urged free relief
For famine victims in the Westport Sector
And earned tart reprimand from good Whitehall.
Let natives prosper by their own exertions;
Who could not swim might go ahead and sink.
"The Coast Guard with their zeal and activity
Are too lavish" were the words, I think.

Seamus Heaney
Death of a Naturalist
Faber and Faber Ltd.
1966.

Sculpture at Westport Quay

Custom House Studios with **Mayo County Council** will host an outdoor exhibition of contemporary sculpture at Westport Quay, Co. Mayo in Summer 2021.

Sculptors are invited to submit proposals for exhibition which are; -

- Professional and contemporary works in sculpture.
- Made in a manner and from materials suitable for exhibition outdoors.
- Can be exhibited safely outdoors.
- May or may not be site specific.
- Existing works not previously exhibited.
- New works.
- Works are feasible to exhibit outdoors.

Apply by email to : Admin@customhousestudios.ie

- Closing date 28th March 2021.
- Please send all information in one pdf attachment only.

Application should include the following;-

1. Written statement / proposal (max 400 words) for sculpture at Westport Quay.
2. 2 images of sculpture proposed for Westport Quay.
3. Dimensions (H x W x D).
4. Details of materials and installation of sculpture.
5. Insurance value for each work.
6. CV (max 2 pages).
7. Max 2 images of previous works in sculpture.
8. Contact name, phone number, email.

Conditions:

- 10 sculptures to be exhibited.
- One proposal from each applicant.
- Exhibition fee of €2000 per selected sculpture.
- Works can be for sale - 25% sales commission.
- Works to be removed on agreed date after exhibition period.

Key Dates:

- Deadline for receipt of applications: 28th March 2021.
- Notification and agreement terms & conditions: 16th April 2021.
- Delivery and installation of works : June 14th – 18th 2021.
- Formal opening of exhibition to the public: 21th June 2021.
- End of exhibition: 26th September 2021.
- Removal of works week: September 27th – October 8th 2021.

























Sculpture at Westport Quay.

Further information for sculptors.

A temporary exhibition of high quality contemporary sculpture June – September 2021 at public amenity at Westport Quay Co Mayo.

Opportunities for sculptors to exhibit out door works in a highly visible amenity outdoor area. An opportunity to exhibit out door sculpture works on a temporary basis, which are not necessarily site specific. This exhibition provides opportunities for sculptors to develop and realise their personal ideas in sculpture, and exhibit it in an appropriate setting.

- provide paid opportunity to facilitate artists in exhibiting sculpture work in a high amenity outdoor setting, in adherence to Covid-19 restrictions.
- provide access for the community to a high quality Sculpture exhibition during Covid -19 restrictions..
- provide an opportunity for art works to be accessible to members of the public.
- provide added arts events for the Co Mayo area – complimenting already existing area arts and recreation projects.
- provide an added amenity activities for the local community and visitors to the region.
- provide a focus for continuing artistic activity during Covid-19.

- Selection by an independent selection panel and by invitation. Decisions of panel are final.
- Organisers will select site for each work.
- Organisers are seeking original art works. Artists must own the rights to the artwork.
- Selected Artists are responsible for transportation of their work to and from the site.
- Works may be functional or non functional, site specific or non site specific, temporary or permanent work in any media suitable for outdoor exhibition.
- Only completed artwork will be considered. The sculpture must be of a scale large enough to be clearly visible.

- The work must be capable of withstanding adverse weather conditions, including sun, rain, wind, and west of Ireland summer weather.
- The work must be suitable for pedestrian interaction with a low exposure to injury.
- The public must be protected from possible injury from materials.
- The work must be structurally sound so as to stand-alone or to be secured outdoors.
- Fragile or dangerous works will not be accepted.

- The work must be available for a period of four months.
 - Sculpture that require electricity must be certified by an approved electrician.
 - Installation costs regarding site preparation will not be the responsibility of the Artist.
-
- The organisers will provide adequate staff and equipment required to assist Artist with installation.
 - Upon the successful exhibition of selected sculpture the Artist will receive a €2000 exhibition fee.
 - If a sculpture is sold the artist shall pay organisers twenty five percent (25%) of any sale while on exhibit or within six (6) months thereafter.
 - The exhibition will be carried out to the highest artistic standards and make full advantage of the dramatic settings and locations of Westport Quay.
-
- **Deadline for receipt of applications: 28th March 2021.**
 - **Further information: Admin@customhousestudios.ie 098 28735 / 086 2325516.**

There is a positive history of large sculpture projects in Co Mayo - such as the *‘Achill Island Sculpture Symposium’* and the *Tír Sáile Project* in North Mayo, and the public art programme from Mayo County Council. Organised by Custom House Studios Ltd. Custom House Studios is an artist led studios and gallery in Westport Co Mayo with studios, a print room and a gallery space, funded by Mayo County Council, Pobal and The Arts Council of Ireland. We run a full programme of exhibitions, print workshops and studio occupancy. www.customhousestudios.ie

