

Tributes

Prior to his demise (*in the week of his death*) Edward Delaney's restored sculpture 'Eve with apple' (1958) was unveiled in an outdoor location on the IMMA grounds. Edward Delaney was one of the forty one lives added to in *The Dictionary of Irish Biography* online during June 2016 by Larry White. [\[xxix\]](#)

During both 1992 & 2004 the Royal Hibernian Academy Gallagher Gallery presented a retrospective of his sculptures. Re. Edward Delaney's work the critic Anthony Butler stated that '*Place these small sculptures on some Atlantic headland, letting the wind whistle through their complex spaces and cupping the rain on their raw texture, and they would be as natural as the limestone cliffs of Aran.*' [\[xxx\]](#)

In *The Irish Times* 2004 review writer Dunne Aiden stated that '*what all Delaney's work shares is robustness but with an awkwardness yet tenderness about them.*' [\[xxxi\]](#)

According to arts writer Judith Hill the Wolfe Tone & Thomas Davis sculptures were '*Rather than being political symbols, they seem to be studies of the weightiness and gravitas that we expect in political symbols.*' (White) [\[xxxii\]](#)

Edward Delaney's work ranged from strongly representational to almost pure abstraction. His style of sculpture up to the end of the 1970's was noted in particular for its empathy of subject with its concern for texture. It was said that his expressionist abstraction lent his works a naturism also an egalitarianism that reflected a new sense of confidence within the nation. [\[xxxiii\]](#)

Edward Delaney's son Eamon published *Breaking the Mould-A story of art and Ireland* & stated that '*My father's ambition was to use the breakthrough period of the 1960's to revive the best of Celtic art forms with a vigorous European modernism.*' Also that Edward '*was a loving father -a colourful character and as a sculptor left his own indelible mark on the landscape of Ireland.*' [\[xxxiv\]](#)

Edward Delaney was one of the forty one lives added to *The Dictionary of Irish Biography* online during June 2016 by Larry White. [\[xxxv\]](#)

This site details the intricate work of several of Edward Delaney's sculptural works:
<https://www.ria.ie/news/new-lives-dib-edward-delaney>

Quotes

Edward Delaney responded to criticism by saying: '*Truth lies in proportions, not in size.*' When it was remarked that the three quarter tone Wolfe Tone sculpture was too large: he replied '*Tone figured life-size in a park setting would look like a leprechaun.*' [\[xxxvi\]](#)

Asked to define a piece of art Delaney replied: '*No one should ask what a work of art is.*' When asked why people purchased his art his reply was: '*Fifty per cent because they appreciate them, fifty per cent as an investment.*' Edward Delaney once said he preferred to portray heroes '*not old fogeys.*' He referred to his 'Famine Memorial' as '*this is not a victory moment.*' He considered the '*Finnegan's Wake*' sculpture on Dame Street among his best work. [\[xxxvii\]](#)

Defending the anachronism of linking Tone to the Great Famine, Delaney asserted that the defeat of the 1798 Uprising allowed the pursuit of policies that resulted in the 1840's Famine also that any monument true to Tone should not strike a triumphant note: '*I would like to have depicted him in French uniform, plumed hat and victorious sword. But history decided otherwise*' (*Guardian*, *ibid*) (White) [\[xxxviii\]](#)

His *'Eve with Apple'* sculpture was donated by a private collector to the Irish Museum of Modern Art. [\[xxxix\]](#)

During October 2009 three weeks following Edward Delaney's demise his bronze *'King and Queen'* were sold at auction for a world record price of 190,000 euros. Several other sculptures *'Anna,' 'Running Figure'* also *'Organic Form'* sold for a total of 110,000 Euros! A portion of his art was purchased back from the Karl Mullen Estate: <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/delaney-bronze-sells-for-190-000-1.757738>

Sculpture entitled *'Integration'* (that comprised an abstract stainless steel globe) was donated by his family on 6th June 2013 to his native Crossboyne. It was unveiled by his son author & journalist Eamon Delaney in a specially developed park also donated by his family. An image of the sculpture features within this article. [\[xl\]](#)

On 23rd September 2009 The Arts Council expressed regret at the passing of Aosdána member Edward Delaney who had been a member. *The UCD News* September 2007 stated Edward Delaney's *'Celtic Twilight'* sculpture was moved to Belfield. [\[xli\]](#)

This site features works for sale by Edward Delaney: <https://www.mutualart.com/Artist/Edward-Delaney/B9C75ED363B1C45F>

These may be of interest:

Johnston Jennifer 12th March 2005 *Never mind the message, feel the family stuff* in *The Irish Times*. [\[xlii\]](#)

Hill Judith 1998 *Irish Public Sculpture* (Four Courts Press Dublin): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Delaney

Siggins Lorna 8th July 2013 *Sculpture donated to international artist's home town* in *The Irish Times*. [\[xliii\]](#)

Dunne Aiden 's *Casting new light on old bronze* published in *The Irish Times*. [\[xliv\]](#)

Footnotes

[\[xxix\]](#) Ibid

[\[xxx\]](#) <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2009/oct/19/edward-delaney-obituary>

[\[xxxi\]](#) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Delaney

[\[xxxii\]](#) <https://www.ria.ie/news/new-lives-dib-edward-delaney>

[\[xxxiii\]](#) <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/irish-sculpture/edward-delaney.htm>

[\[xxxiv\]](#) <https://www.amazon.com/Breaking-Mould-Story-Art-Ireland/dp/184840056X>

[\[xxxv\]](#) <https://www.ria.ie/news/new-lives-dib-edward-delaney>

[\[xxxvi\]](#)

<https://www.360dublincity.com/blog/ArtsAndMusic/CultureSculptureHistoryandtheGreen.html>

[xxxvii] <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/irish-sculpture/edward-delaney.htm>

[xxxviii] <https://www.ria.ie/news/new-lives-dib-edward-delaney>

[xxxix] <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/irish-sculpture/edward-delaney.htm>

[xl] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/sculpture-donated-to-international-artist-s-home-town-1.1456615>

[xli] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Delaney

[xlii] Ibid

[xliii] Ibid

[xliv] Ibid