

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

And



With



Present

Pat McAuliffe

Master Of Plaster

A description on how to make a small plaster cast,
Inspired by the stuccos of Pat McAuliffe.

Tools needed

- A rolling pin
- A sissors
- Clay
- Cardboard
- A bowl
- Spoon
- Plaster mix (3 spoons of plaster to 2 spoons of water)
- Some flowers or small toys
- Masking tape

Directions

1. Begin with rolling out your clay .
2. Make a shape with your cardboard and masking tape, make sure the shape fits in your rolled out clay.
3. Arrange your flowers or small toys on your clay.
4. Roll the rolling pin over the flowers pressing them lightly into the clay.
5. Take off the flowers.
6. Place your shape on the clay and make a wall around it using clay to seal the bottom of your shape.
7. Make your plaster mix and pour into the shape.
8. Leave to dry for 40 minutes.
9. You can place a hook into the plaster mix half way through drying to place your plaster piece onto your wall.
10. Take the cardboard off and separate your hardened plaster from the clay.
11. Paint you're your plaster.
12. Enjoy your own piece of plaster art.

Some interesting facts about Pat McAuliffe

- ❖ Pat McAuliffe lived and worked in Listowel, Co.Kerry from 1846 to 1921.
- ❖ He had a career as a plasterer and builder , he applied plaster, or stucco upon shopfronts and townhouse facades around Kerry
- ❖ Much of McAuliffes career was contemporary to the Arts and Crafts movement, he included much Celitic style imagery into his work .McAuliffe developed an ambitious and often exuberant style, blending a variety of devices culled from the vocabulary of classical architecture—architraves and archivolt, consoles and cornices, pillars and pilasters—with an eclectic mix of Art Nouveau, Byzantine, Celtic and freestyle motifs.
- ❖ An examination of surviving artefacts and tools from McAuliffe’s workshop reveals that the artist sought to complete as much work as possible off site. Using a range of bespoke moulds, a variety of embossed quoins, string-courses and, in some cases, large sculptural pieces were precast in sections in the workshop for later assembly on the façade. Various methods of casting were an important activity in the workshop. From an initial clay mock-up, plaster mould or cast iron model, McAuliffe used a mould repetitively for the mass production of an ornamental attribute. Two-, three- and four-part moulds accommodating awkward undercut sections were necessary for many of the capitals and for complex three-dimensional centrepieces.

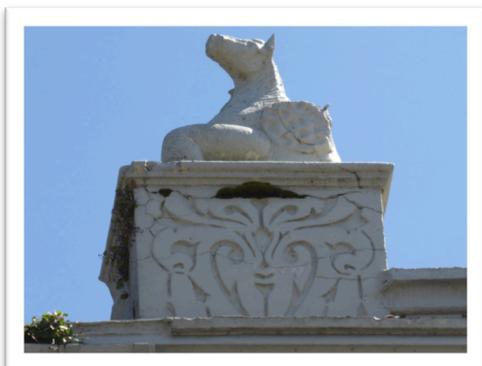
- ❖ Workshop casts were then installed onsite, Usually behind a large curtain, The new façade was revealed to the townspeople by removing the scaffolding and curtain .

The Emporium, church street Listowel



The Emporium, Church Street, Listowel, was built in the 1840s. The house, a single bay wide and three storeys high, was once home to the post office of the town, with residential quarters over. It is still in commercial use. McAuliffe's work on the façade dates from c. 1905.

Crowning the façade is an eagle with outspread wings above the latin motto "E Pluribus Unum" (out of many, one). Two horses rest on Arabesque plinths on either side of the eagle.



The Maid of Erin
12 Main street Listowel

In 1912 McAuliffe renovated the wooden shopfront of Potters public house and inn, 'The Maid of Erin' is the best known of McAuliffes Sculpural stuccos. It is a gem of the Gaelic Revival and badly underrated. Art historians have shown some interest



in terms of a 'native' element within the revival but McAuliffe is regarded more as an eccentric builder than an artist. He did catch the attention of Frank O'Connor in 1950. He used McAuliffe's design for J. M. Keane's public house to comment on the eloquent and ornate quality of Kerry English. "In Listowel you can drink in a pub which has inscriptions in three



languages: "Erin Go Bragh," "Maison de Ville" and "Spes Mea in Deo."

THE HARP AND LION
44 CHURCH ST, LISTOWEL



McAuliffes last major work was completed on the public house of P.M.Keane. Today it is known as the harp and lion after its sculptural detail.

The composition on the first floor consists of this lion upon a entablature, surmounting the harp beneath. The lion gazes out towards the street. The arrangement is enclosed by scrolled mouldings with latin, freanch and irish slogans, “ Spes mea in deo” (In god we trust), “ Maison de Ville” (House of the town), and “Erin go brath” (Ireland forever).