

New design for the quay in the pipeline

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NO-ONE mentioned the war or Marco Dessardo's controversial sculpture when the Arts Officer, Rosaleen Molloy presented a Wexford town arts plan to the Borough Council this week.

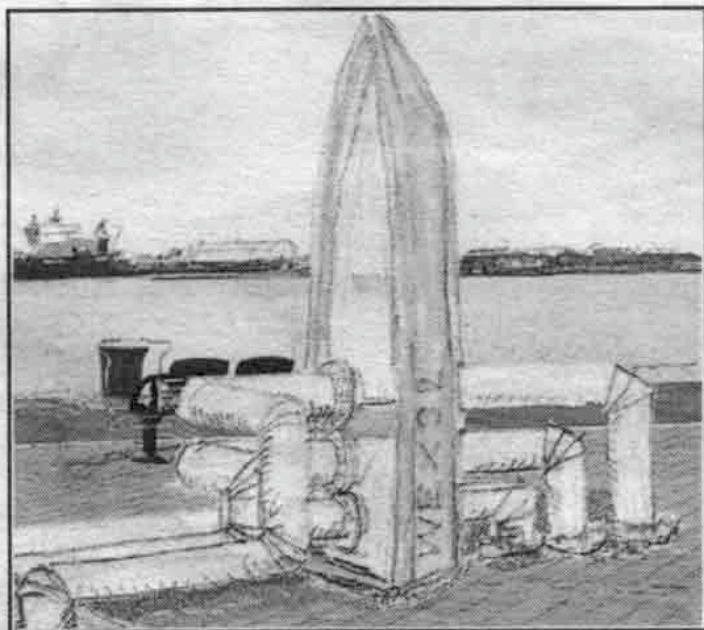
The plan includes a sculpture development programme and makes it plain that the brief to artists will be 'clear, well-researched and unambiguous'.

The French-based sculptor, Marco Dessardo's controversial project for the quayfront was rejected by the Council even after it had won an official selection competition.

The new arts plan states that the commissioning brief will emphasise the importance of any future sculptures being sympathetic to the cultural, artistic, geographic, historical and environmental character of the town.

The selection procedure will follow the

Arts Officer outlines proposals to councillors



■ Marco Dessardo's controversial design was rejected by councillors.

best practice outlined in the national guidelines for the Per Cent for Art scheme and the selection panel will include members of the Borough Council's protocol committee, professional practising artists, an artistic advisor, an engineer or

architect and a member of the public with a pro-active interest in the arts.

The recommendation of the selection panel will be subject to the approval of Wexford Borough Council.

A sum of €125,000 will be allocated for a

sculpture development on the quayfront while €60,000 is to be put aside for a sculpture in Selskar Street.

The commissions will be advertised next September and it is expected that a decision will be reached in December.

It is also intended to exhibit paintings and other art works from the County Hall art collection in public spaces within the Borough Council area.

It is hoped to promote the quayfront through public participation in a range of arts projects. Plaques will be placed on the quayfront bollards in memory of the famous ships that were once based in the harbour.

Historical plaques around the town will be cleaned up and promoted through local tourist and history groups.

The new arts plan was approved and welcomed by members of the Borough Council on Monday night.