

DOWN FROM THE ROOFTOPS...

BEING WATCHED?

As you walk around the streets of Armagh City, you may have the eerie feeling that you are being watched. You are not wrong. Twenty-two tiny sets of still, glinting eyes will be silently following your every move. In nooks and crannies these fantastical, humorous and grotesque creatures are living their lives, often as a parody of our own strange human ways. And they are there for you to discover and enjoy. These small and intricate bronze sculptures of gargoyles, chimeras and angels have been created by artist Holger Christian Lönze in response to the City's sacral architecture and the angels and gargoyles which already exist at both Cathedrals combined with the jetsam of everyday life. His work brings these creatures into our time and down to our level, giving each one a distinct character of its own and a place in the City's modern street-life.

BACK IN TIME

The sculptural depiction of mythical and spiritual supernatural creatures like gargoyles, chimeras and angels come from the Mediaeval period. But their origins go back much further. Angels (from the Greek angelos, 'messenger') are found in many of the world's religions. Surprisingly, angels only earned their wings in depictions dating back from 4th Century AD Konstantinople. The origins of gargoyles on the other hand, goes back to ancient Egypt, where they were used to eject water from temple roofs. While the term gargoyle (from the French gargouille for 'throat' or 'gullet') always refers to sculptural and functional water-spouts, the term chimera or grotesque describes a purely ornamental statue. In Britain, gargoyles fulfilled their functional purpose right until the early 18th century, when an

Act of Parliament made the use of down-pipes compulsory for any new buildings. Angels, gargoyles and chimeras also fulfilled a more spiritual function. Besides being messengers from God, angels also were warriors or guards, hence the term "guardian angel". Chimeras and gargoyles also fulfilled a similar function of warding off evil spirits from the sacral buildings to which they had been applied.

More than a dozen stages are involved in creating a piece of bronze sculpture from beginning to end. Although complex and full of chemistry and physics, Holger used a particular process for the Armagh sculptures that has been practiced nearly unchanged for more than 4,000 years in Ireland. Appropriately, Holger's studio foundry is located in West Cork, only 2 miles away from the oldest Bronze-Age copper mines of Ireland on Mount Gabriel.

The gargoyles and angels project was devised by Cultural Management Services on behalf of Armagh City and District Council who were the main funder of the project, with support also from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Department for Social Development. It is part of an extensive City-wide public art programme that when completed in December 2010 will feature six new completed artworks by artists from all over the UK and Ireland. We hope you enjoy discovering each creature for yourself as you roam the City. If you would like to find out more about them and how they came into existence, please refer to the following websites:

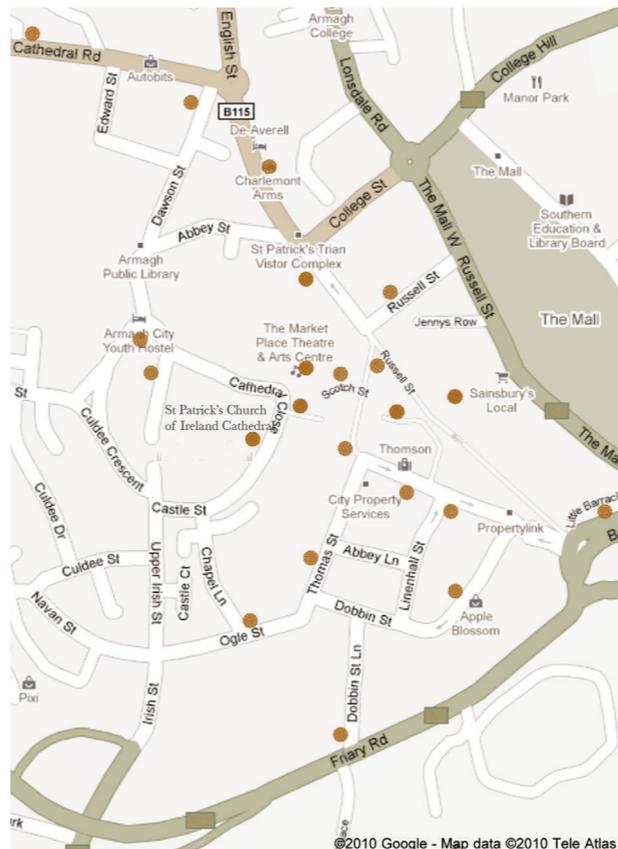
WWW.GARGOYLESANDANGELS.INFO

WWW.HOLGERLONZE.COM

WWW.ARMAGH.GOV.UK

HIDING PLACES

Gargoyles are shy creatures and it is by the very nature of their business that guardian angels are never seen. Hence you will only discover these creatures by accident or by exploring the City with curious eyes. They are hiding in boot scraper niches, behind glass doors, on drain pipes and on walls, they are climbing gables, watch from ledges and peep down from house corners and window sills. Whether amiable, stoical or stangely mechanical, these are a motley collection of small fellas and fella-esses. No more than 15 inches high these gargoyles, angels and chimeras sport a stylish, and perhaps particularly Irish, greenish camouflage. But are they friend or foe? Find them before they find you...



ARMAGH MINIATURE STREET SCULPTURE

GARGOYLES & ANGELS



CREATURES...



CHARLEMONT ARMS HOTEL, 57 ENGLISH STREET

A spirit guarding the spirit. With wings from a modern American fighter plane, this girl means business. So, under the new political order, you'd better order politely.

RC CATHEDRAL, FENCE PILLAR

A call to prayer and remembrance for the City as the monk, complete with his First World War tri-plane wings and monocle, strikes the ancient bell from Terryhoogan, Co. Armagh.

SHAMBLES MARKET, DAWSON STREET

A winged butcher from the olden days of the Shambles slaughterhouse. Not a job for an angel you'd think? But angels like gargoyles have their dark side...

PUBLIC LIBRARY, 43 ABBEY STREET

Such is the burden of a librarian...what angels! This one guards not only the collection of ancient books at the library, but also an important hoard of Medieval hand-bells.

WALL OPPOSITE 5 CASTLE STREET

With his knapsack on his back this gargoyle is leaping the orchard wall and making good his escape with only a backward glance and wave to both us and his fellow gargoyles left forever to gaze down from the ramparts of The Cathedral.

MARKET PLACE THEATRE

This 'culture vulture' gargoyle is looking forward to the show, Tickets in hand and ready to go. But his date's running late so he stays by the door. If he misses the show, he'll date her no more!

CASTLE TOWER RESTAURANT

Has this kangaroo-style gargoyle hopped too far in his search? Do you think he can see the Australian restaurant he was looking for from this lofty perch?



AMMA CENTRE, MARKETPLACE

Is this the Mouth of Truth for the new digital age? Perhaps this gargoyle is what future generations will evolve into if we spend too long staring into our laptops!

DANSKE BANK, 78 SCOTCH STREET

This banker gargoyle is keeping an eye on the night safe...just in case you have any funny ideas...



MCCRUM'S COURT

One too many bottles...but at least this Gargoyle stuck to drinking bottled water...or so he says...

MALL SHOPPING CENTRE/AURORA

More parking warden than decorative feature those beady eyes gazing out over his VW Beetle bonnet-snout might make you doubly careful to pay-and-display before you leave the car park.

42 SCOTCH STREET | LINENHALL STREET

Oh the vanity of gargoyles...But then have you ever seen a gargoyle in a pair of glasses?

34 SCOTCH STREET

A free-running angel is scaling the City and performing his urban acrobatics. It's all made a bit easier though when you've got fighter plane wings attached.

BUTTER MARKET, DOBBIN STREET

Time to sit and stare. Or is this nonchalant gargoyle waiting for his date to meet him under the clock?

TRAINOR'S PUB, 55 THOMAS STREET

More a will o' the wisp perhaps than an Angel with his gas-lamp lighting pole. It must be serving time.



CHAPEL LANE/OGLE STREET

This old boot gargoyle is in desperate need of repair. Perhaps it should ask one of the City's angels to help mend its sole?

DOBBIN ST. LANE, MCKEEVER'S CHEMIST

Even angels have to do the shopping. But what's in the bag? Angel Delight of course...

POST OFFICE, 26-28 BARRACK STREET

A modern Mercury takes to the air with his airmail letter wings and parcel. There is, of course, an additional charge for angel delivery.



MALL VIEW HOUSE, MALL WEST

A classic nose for this rather imperious door-knocker gargoyle who has a Volkswagen beetle bonnet for a snout. Created from a child's rather well-loved and discarded toy found in the gutters of the City and given a new lease of life.

6 RUSSELL STREET

An angel calling the ancient sounds of the area with her famous Loughnashade Iron-age trumpet, originally found in a lake at nearby Navan Fort.



BANK OF IRELAND, 11 ENGLISH STREET

Checking the true value of your money by giving it a good old-fashioned bite. That's how this gargoyle is planning to get through times of recession.

TRIMPRINT, 36 ENGLISH STREET

Proof-reading the latest publications is a serious business even for the editor of the Daily Gargoyle. Or is he just the Printer's Devil enjoying the sun at lunch break?

