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Dublin Core

Title

West Wales Art Centre | Canolfan Celfyddydau Gorllewin Cymru

Subject

Visual Art

Culture

Wine

Events

Creator

Myles Pepper

Publisher

Ports, Past and Present Project

Date

2023

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Language

English and Welsh

Coverage

52.01607138514375, -4.978835288315209

Curatescape Story Item Type Metadata**Title (Welsh)**

Canolfan Celfyddydau Gorllewin Cymru

Subtitle

Come for the food, stay for the art!

Subtitle (Welsh)

Dewch am y bwyd, arhoswch am y celf!

Lede

Myles Pepper reminisces on the journey of the West Wales Arts Centre from 1987 to now.

Lede (Welsh)

Myles Pepper yn hel atgofion am siwrnai Canolfan Celfyddydau Gorllewin Cymru o 1987 hyd heddiw.

Story

I was brought up close to Carn Ffoi on Newport Mountain, which today remains a key place in my life, often going up there for sources of inspiration. I have worked in the arts for 53 years and when I studied jewellery and silversmithing in Birmingham it was always my intention, against all advice other than my parents who supported me, to return to north Pembrokeshire; this backed by my belief that culture in its widest sense would have a key role going forward in providing opportunities for others to base themselves in an area of outstanding natural beauty with an opportunity to make at least part of their living here.

Acquiring the West Wales Arts Centre in 1987 I was still practising as a jeweller silversmith, this until around 2005, when I put my tools down. At this major turning point, I was questioning life, I had already been putting on concerts, a wide range of creative workshops, sports events, book events with a difference, these largely to present opportunities to school age and young students to expend their energies creatively. I realised that I was reasonably able in organising events and continue to work with this in mind.

Going back to my mountain days I had clearly held a fascination for who and what was

beyond the horizon of the great Irish Sea, so it's no wonder that my first steps in putting out the hand of friendship would be with County Wexford. The story is not a short one and I feel a book brewing, possibly to be launched in October 2024 when a number of new commissions in music, writing and other art forms will be premiered in St. Davids Cathedral, and then toured on a journey from St. Davids Head to Holyhead, and Dun Laoghaire to Cork, this over a three-year period and with view to establishing new and sustainable networks. This 'grand' project is called Simffoni Mara and is inspired by Life on the Edge of the Irish Sea, Life On It and Life Underneath It.

Food has played a central role in developing relationships and new ideas and through this, I began to cook, and I developed an interest in wine....if you want to know more than pay us a visit, you will be very welcome!! The 'Centre' is a vehicle for bringing people together and to present opportunities for audience to experience something new in a different environment, and then to present performance and exhibiting opportunities for both aspiring and established practitioners. Whilst as a child we ventured across the Irish Sea on daytrips to Wexford, I first began building relationships in County Wexford in 1995. The following lyrics I commissioned recently from the renowned lyricist Grahame Davies, say with all the colour and magic that only the finest writer could create in so few words.

Simffoni Mara

Yn y dyfnder rhwng dwylan,
am ennyd, clywyd y gân.
Yn y dim rhwng y ddwy don,
yn y distawrwydd, mae'r dôn.
Yn y gwynt, os gwrandewi,
mae llithiau a lleisiau'r lli.

Prose translation

*(In the depth between two shores,
for a moment, the music is heard.
In the nothing between two waves,
in the silence, is the song.
In the wind, if you listen,
are the lessons, and the voices of the sea.)*

Story (Welsh)

Cefais fy magu yn agos at Garn Ffoi ar Fynydd Trefdraeth, sydd heddiw yn dal yn lle allweddol yn fy mywyd, gan fy mod i'n aml yn mynd yno i gael ysbrydoliaeth. Rwy wedi bod yn gweithio yn y celfyddydau ers 53 o flynyddoedd a phan fues i'n astudio gemwaith a chreffft gof arian yn Birmingham fy mwriad i bob amser, yn groes i bob cyngor ac eithrio cyngor fy rhieni oedd yn fy nghefnogi, oedd dychwelyd i ogledd Sir Benfro; a hynny ar sail fy nghred y byddai diwylliant yn ei ystyr ehangaf yn chwarae rôl allweddol wrth symud ymlaen drwy gynnig cyfleoedd i bobl eraill leoli eu hunain mewn ardal o harddwch naturiol eithriadol gyda chyfle i wneud o leiaf rhan o'u bywoliaeth yma.

Pan brynes i Ganolfan Celfyddydau Gorllewin Cymru ym 1987 roeddwn i'n dal i ymarfer fel gof gemwaith arian, a hynny tan tua 2005, pan roddais i'r gorau iddi. Adeg y trobwynt mawr yma, roeddwn i'n cwestiynu bywyd, roeddwn i eisoes wedi bod yn cynnal cyngherddau, ystod eang o weithdai creadigol, digwyddiadau chwaraeon, digwyddiadau llyfrau gwahanol, i gyd yn bennaf i greu cyfleoedd i blant oedran ysgol a myfyrwyr ifanc ddefnyddio'u hegni yn greadigol. Sylweddolais fy mod i'n weddol alluog am drefnu digwyddiadau ac rwy'n dal i weithio gyda hyn mewn golwg.

Wrth droi yn ôl at fy nyddiau ar y mynydd roedd hi'n amlwg bod gen i ddiddordeb mawr mewn pwy a beth oedd tu hwnt i orwelion Môr mawr Iwerddon, felly does ryfedd mai tuag at Swydd Wexford y byddwn i'n estyn fy llaw mewn cyfeillgarwch. Nid stori fer mo hon ac rwy'n teimlo bod yna lyfr yn yr arfaeth, o bosibl i'w lansio ym mis Hydref 2024 pan fydd nifer o gomisiynau newydd mewn cerddoriaeth, ysgrifennu a ffurfiau celfyddydol eraill yn cael eu dangos am y tro cyntaf yn Eglwys Gadeiriol Tyddewi, ac yna'n cael mynd ar daith o Benmaendewi i Gaergybi, a Dún Laoghaire i Gorc, hyn dros gyfnod o dair blynedd gyda golwg ar sefydlu rhwydweithiau newydd a chynaliadwy. Enw'r project 'mawreddog' hwn yw Simffoni Mara ac mae wedi'i ysbrydoli gan Fywyd ar gyrion Môr Iwerddon, Bywyd arno a Bywyd odano.

Mae bwyd wedi chwarae rhan ganolog mewn datblygu perthnasoedd a syniadau newydd a thrwy hyn, dechreuais goginio, a magu diddordeb mewn gwin... Os hoffech chi wybod rhagor, dewch draw aton ni, fe gewch chi groeso cynnes!! Mae'r 'Ganolfan' yn gyfrwng i ddod â phobl at ei gilydd ac i greu cyfleoedd i'r gynulleidfa brofi rhywbeth newydd mewn amgylchedd gwahanol, ac yna rhoi cyfleoedd i berfformio ac arddangos i ymarferwyr uchelgeisiol a sefydledig. Pan oeddwn i'n blentyn fe fydden ni'n mentro ar draws Môr Iwerddon ar deithiau dydd i Wexford, a dechreuais i fagu perthnasoedd yn Swydd Wexford ym 1995. Mae'r geiriau canlynol a gomisiynais yn ddiweddar gan yr awdur adnabyddus

Grahame Davies yn dweud gyda'r holl liw a hud yr hyn na allai gael ei ddweud mewn cyn lleied o eiriau gan neb ond y llenor gorau.

Simffoni Mara

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