

Berrell JENSEN reminiscences

Random selection from the archives of Sandra Jensen



Metal grille created by Berrell Jensen. This was commissioned by the Dublin Corporation - part of a series of screens placed over entrance stairwells to the Marrowbone Lane Flats, installed in 1996 and probably the last work of art she ever did. The piece is 1.04 metres by 1.9 metres and was set into the balcony over the community centre. The entire work weighed several tons and was created just prior to her first hip replacement operation. I helped out by grinding smooth the edges of many of the metal rings that she welded together to make the screens.

This piece is significant to me because of the words embedded into it. The work my mother was most proud of was her many years spent setting up and running community centres and adult education centres in Belfast and London. In fact she worked for longer as a social worker and running these centres than she did as an artist. She helped hundreds - if not thousands of people in these centres - people of all ages. She organised everything from day care for unemployed mothers, therapy groups, Christmas dinners for pensioners and much, much more. It is a very sad fact that she spent her last years isolated and alone and without the kind of support she herself gave others.



A news article from 1997 about the mural Berrell made for Mullingar hospital, Ireland. She was living in what was called Castlelost Church, a 300 year old Protestant church she'd bought and converted to live and work in, in Rochfortbridge, Westmeath. She'd moved there from London where she'd been involved in community and social work, running community centres.



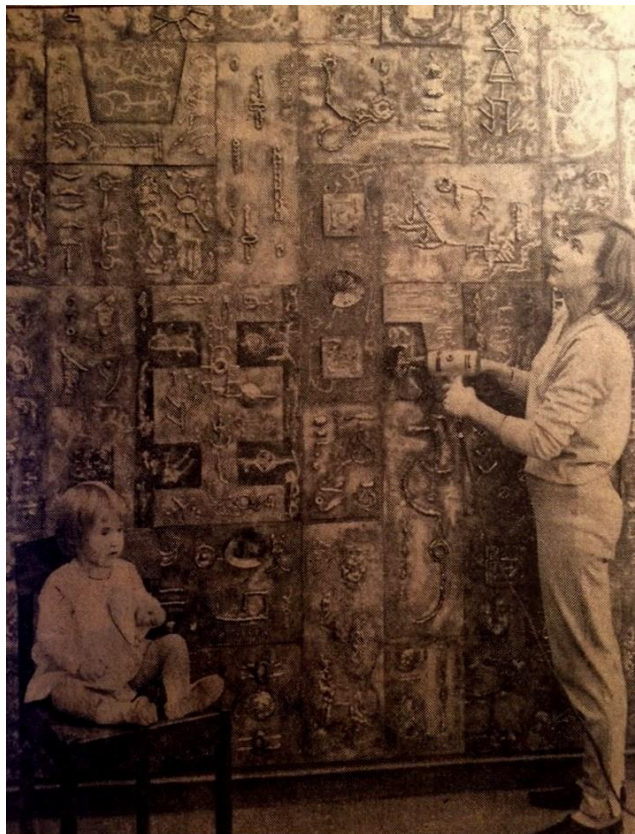
Berrell Jensen with her drill – Somerset 1970s



Berrell running a craft centre in Donegal during the 1970s



Berrell Jensen with one of her works at an exhibition opening in 1968



The piece is a 13ft high by 10ft wide panel of copper, bronze, led, silver and enamels, a commission set in Netherlands Bank, Johannesburg. At the time it was the largest metal panel ever incorporated into a South African building. Berrell is with daughter Sandra, April, 1963



Berrell Jensen

22-3-1933 to 25-7-2015

Return to:

<http://www.art-archives-southafrica.ch/JENSEN.htm>