

# Feathers to ferns as Cork sculpture is off to Australia

Niall Murray

The Cork artist whose 6m steel feather tribute to the Native American Choctaw people attracted worldwide praise is about to ship his latest creation to its new home in Australia.

The four 10.5m ferns which he has worked on over the past two years are headed for the city of Gold Coast over the coming weeks.

Final polishing of the *Urban Oasis* work was done over the last few months by Pentek and assistants at the National Sculpture Factory in Cork. They are now ready for the sea journey through Rotterdam, Singapore, and Brisbane.

The Bantry-born artist's *Kindred Spirits* sculpture was commissioned by the former Middleton Town Council as a tribute to the generosity of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for money sent to the people of Ireland during the Great Famine of the late 1840s.

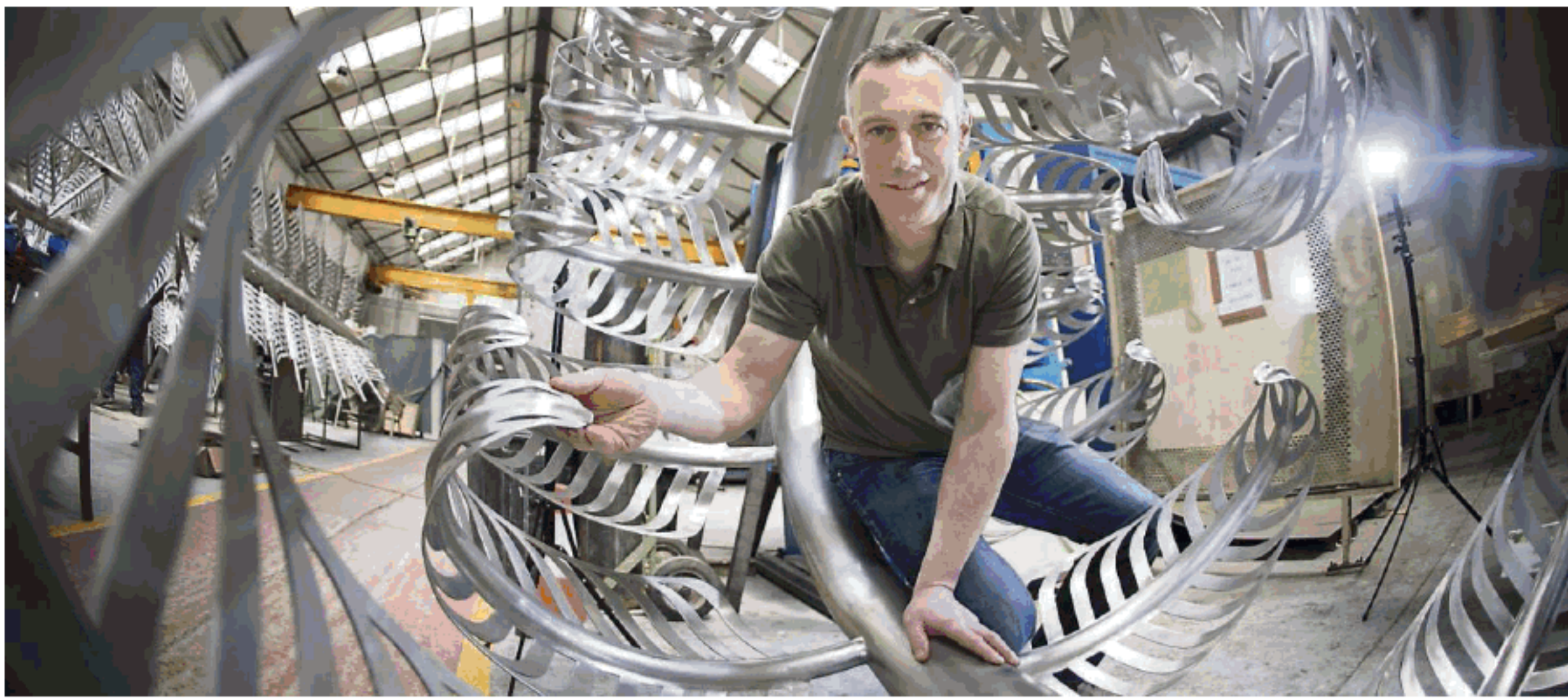
The beauty and symbolism of the bowl created by nine stainless-steel upright feathers attracted media attention at home and abroad, something even Pentek had not expected.

"It really was a pleasant surprise to see how well it was adopted both locally and internationally," he said.

Members of the 21st-century Choctaw Nation attended last year's dedication ceremony in Middleton.

Despite the acclaim for Pentek's work, direct commissions are rare, and the public realm projects he specialises in are usually the result of a competitive process. It was through such a process that his *Urban Oasis* design was picked in June 2016 following an international call for design on behalf of the city of Gold Coast in Queensland.

It seeks to reflect the area's history as one of the most diverse coastal rainforests, until being cleared to try growing western crops in the



Alex Pentek with his 'Urban Oasis' piece at the National Sculpture Factory in Cork City. His work is being shipped to Queensland in Australia on Monday, and it will go on display in the city of Gold Coast. Picture: Cathal Noonan



Pentek now has a number of his works on display overseas.



Pentek also created the 'Kindred Spirits' piece in Middleton, Co Cork. Picture: David Creedon / Anzenberger

early 20th century. "Nothing grew because the land was incompatible with these crops, and all the farm buildings and houses were abandoned," he said. "But the rainforest was so heavily rooted in the soil, that parts of it started to

grow back. I got excited about the idea of these plants growing up through the floorboards and I reflected that history with the ferns." Each of his four shield ferns, a plant which grew heavily on the rainforest floor, is at a different stage of

growth. The frond or leaf of one is curled up, the next is beginning to open, the third is fully open, and the last curling into itself like it has died. The artist had to make around 20,000 welds in the creation of the *Kindred*

*Spirits* piece, but he believes *Urban Oasis* required four times as much welding. Intended to mark a gateway to the city's Surfer's Paradise district, it will be seen by the area's two million annual visitors. Part of the AUS\$300,000

(€190,000) budget assigned to the project has been used by Pentek to engage the engineering expertise of Arup in Cork and Berlin, whose reduced-fee assistance was vital to the design process.

"A lot of internal structural design work was needed to take account of wind loading and other considerations," he said.

Amendments had to be made last year when the planned location was changed to a plaza area nearer the ocean due to technical problems discovered at four-street intersection originally intended to host the sculpture.

As well as a number of works at recently-completed new school buildings, Pentek's public realm work includes three stainless steel orchids in Burlington, in Canada.

He will also feature in a group exhibition at Cork's Crawford Art Gallery in November with new original-inspired work.

# Impact study in bid to save weir at risk of collapse

Blackwater weir 'vital to tourism'

Sean O'Riordan

Cork County Council is to carry out an economic impact study in an effort to persuade government departments of the value of replacing a collapsing weir on the River Blackwater in Co Cork.

Councillors believe that if the weir is not replaced then valuable tourism revenue, especially from coarse and game fishing, will be lost to the Fermoy area and it could also have an impact on water sports.

Assistant county manager, James Fogarty, said the council cannot afford to fund repairs on its own and unfortunately to date appeals to government support for financial support "had fallen on deaf ears".

Members of the council's northern committee are concerned about the loss of tourist revenue from salmon fishing in the area and the impact the weir damage is having on the local rowing club.

Scores of people turned up at a recent public demonstration in the town demanding that the structure is fixed before it is completely washed away and asking that a new fish pass be installed there to help salmon get upriver to spawn.

Debris washed down the river during major floods in recent years has caused the damage. Councillors held a special meeting to explore the best

affordable option to bring the weir back to its former glory.

It is a protected structure which is more than 200 years old.

Their officials are to ascertain the scope of the works required; the permissions needed from various bodies to carry out such works, the procurement procedure to be followed, and most importantly the funding needed for these works.

In the meantime the council is seeking an urgent meeting with relevant agencies such as Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

Council officials are also seeking consultations with the Office of Public Works (OPW) in order to establish the impact any proposed works on the weir may have on the town's newly installed flood defences.

Mr Fogarty said the weir will have to be completely replaced and not just patched up in certain places.

He said he is anxious to seek financial support from other government agencies to ensure the project can be carried out.

Cllr Frank O'Flynn said the town benefits significantly from fishing tourism and this could be lost if the weir is not replaced.

Councillors have agreed to hold a special meeting in early July to discuss any progress which has been made in the interim.

# 'Progress' made in three cases over alleged cervical cancer test failings

Aodhán Ó Faoláin and Ray Managh


Progress has been made in actions brought by three women affected by the CervicalCheck controversy, including Kerry woman Emma Mhic Mhathúna, the High Court heard yesterday. Their cases all arise out of the alleged misreading of cervical tests and involve patients who are terminally ill. They are all seeking early trial dates in their proceedings against parties including the HSE. As part of their actions, lawyers representing the three women — two of whom cannot be named for legal reasons — went before the High Court on Thursday seeking the production of documentation and cervical smear slides which they say they urgently require as part of their claims. The women sought the

production of cervical smear slides taken from them so that appropriate pathologists and clinicians could study and report on them. The case was adjourned by Mr Justice Michael McGrath to see if matters could be advanced. Yesterday morning when the application returned before the court Patrick Tracey SC, instructed by solicitor Cian O'Carroll, for the three women said progress has been made in each of the three cases. Counsel said the slides, including ones which are in the United States, are to be transferred to their representatives. Counsel praised the efforts of the other parties who he said could not have been more helpful in regards to the provision of the slides. Counsel said all three cases could be adjourned until next Wednesday's sit-

ting of the High Court when other matters arising out of the case are due to be raised. Mr Justice McGrath welcomed the fact progress was made overnight and agreed to put the matter back to Wednesday. On Thursday, Mr Treacy told the court that his clients needed the slides straight away. He said negotiations with regards to the putting in place of a protocol for the handing over of slides by Medlab Pathology Limited Ireland and a New Jersey laboratory Quest had led to the loss of a vital six days in dealing with the legal proceedings. Lawyers for Medlab, and for Quest, told the court their clients were prepared to immediately hand over slides subject to directions of the HSE and the protocol agreed between the HSE and the plaintiffs. In reply, Eileen Barrin-

ton SC, for the HSE, said the matters raised, which the HSE accepted are critical and urgent, were being addressed. She said the HSE had been given only a half-hour's notice of requests for information from the National Maternity Hospital with regard to tests carried out in relation to two of the women in 2009 and 2010 and the hospital and the HSE were doing their best to deal with these new issues as quickly as possible. Counsel said everything possible was being done to meet the demands of the plaintiffs but she was unable to give an exact time when the slides and documentation would be handed over. Emma Mhic Mhathúna is one of three terminally ill women alleging their smear tests were misread. Picture: Dan Linehan





**BON SECOURS HEALTH SYSTEM**  
www.bonsecours.ie

Advanced Medicine Exceptional Care

Bon Secours Health System is the largest independent healthcare provider in Ireland, with a network of modern, accredited, acute hospitals. These world-class medical treatment facilities are located in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Tralee and Limerick, together with a Care Village in Cork.

As a leader in healthcare, the Mission of Bon Secours Health System is to provide compassionate, quality healthcare to our patients and their families within a Catholic ethos. The group employs over 3,000 staff, who, together with over 450 leading Medical Consultants work in partnership to provide the highest standard of care to over 280,000 patients each year. Our Strategic '2020 Plan' is an ambitious roadmap for change and growth, together with our new People Strategy "Strength through People".

**CORK HOSPITAL** JCI Accredited

**BASIC GRADE CARDIAC PHYSIOLOGIST**

Bon Secours Hospital Cork has a busy Cardiology Service catering for Interventional Cardiology, Electrophysiology, Cardiac Imaging, Heart Failure and Diagnostics. We are inviting applications from suitably qualified and experienced candidates.

**The ideal candidate will:**

- Possess a Physiologist/Clinical Measurement degree or equivalent recognised by the Irish Institute of Clinical Measurement Science (IICMS).
- Have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively with management, consultants, staff, patients and visitors to the hospital.

**Duties:**

- To conduct a range of non invasive cardiac diagnostic tests including the recording monitoring and interpretation of 12 lead ECGs, holter monitoring, event recording, blood pressure monitoring, stress testing, transthoracic echocardiography, tilt table testing and pacemaker. Internal cardiac defibrillator and bioventricular devices.
- To assist with a range of invasive cardiac diagnostic and interventional procedures including pressure measurement and analysis in coronary angiograms and angioplasty.
- To perform technician duties during transoesophageal echo, pacemaker/internal cardiac defibrillators and bi-ventricular devices.

**On offer:**

- Salary is based on the BG Cardiac Physiologist Point of Scale min €35,286 - €53,466
- We have 2 positions available: 1 Fulltime Probationary Permanent Contract and 1 x 12mth fixed term Contract working 37 hours per week.
- Position is located in Cork, Ireland.

**TO APPLY**  
Please forward your letter of application along with your CV to [ajosullivan@bonsecours.ie](mailto:ajosullivan@bonsecours.ie). Closing date for receipt of completed applications is **Friday 8th June 2018**.

BON SECOURS HEALTH SYSTEM IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

volkswagen.ie/182

## The 182 Arteon.

### From €399 per month.

Technology Upgrades

1.9% APR PCP Finance



Prepare to turn heads in the new Arteon, our fastback saloon of the future. \*Order before June 30th to enjoy 1.9%\*\* APR PCP Finance and a Technology Upgrade featuring Discover Pro SatNav with Gesture Control, a Panoramic Sunroof and a Heated Steering Wheel at a special 182 price.

**Request your quote online or visit your local authorised Volkswagen retailer.**

**We make the future real.**

Model shown is for illustrative purposes only. Arteon Range Fuel Consumption l/100km (high to low): urban 7.1-5.4, extra-urban 5.1-4.0, combined 5.9-4.5. CO2 emissions g/km (high to low) 152-115. Increased weight of a vehicle, including higher trim levels and the addition of options may have an effect on the fuel consumption and CO2 emissions produced. The CO2 and fuel consumption figures are the official figures obtained from tests under standardised NEDC test conditions. \*\*Typical Finance Example: Arteon Elegance BMT 2.0TSI 150HP. Recommended OTRP €43,070.00. Deposit/Part Exchange €13,006.98. 36 monthly payments of €399. Optional final payment €16,918.99. Total cost of credit €13,348.98 including acceptance fee (€75) and completion fee (€75). No minimum deposit required. Typical APR 1.9%. Subject to lending criteria. Prices are subject to change. This offer is made under a hire purchase agreement. Volkswagen Bank GmbH Branch Ireland is authorised by the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority in Germany and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland for conduct of business rules. \*Offers available on orders placed from 1st May-30th June 2018 and registered before 31st July 2018. This offer does not apply to fleet sales. These offers are subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. Information correct at time of print. See [www.volkswagen.ie](http://www.volkswagen.ie) for details.



Volkswagen