

Arizona on horizon in Ards



Newtownards landscape painter Ray Elwood is pictured alongside Arizona landscape artist Andre Licardi and Robert Peters, community arts development officer with Ards Borough Council prior to the launch of their joint exhibition entitled "54.5830N, 5.6670W – 33.5810N, 112.2370W." The exhibition, being held at Ards Arts Centre, illustrates the contrasting landscapes of Arizona and Ards.

ARIZONA is on the horizon for local people with a unique cross-cultural landscape currently being exhibited at Ards Arts Centre.

Using the points of latitude and longitude as its title - "54.5830N, 5.6670W – 33.5810N, 112.2370W" - the exhibition will feature the work of two distinguished artists, Andre Licardi from Peoria, Arizona, and Ards painter Ray Elwood.

The exhibition not only illustrates the contrasting landscapes of Arizona and Ards but also highlights the similar approaches of the two artists.

Robert Peters, community arts development officer with Ards Borough Council commented: "Ards Arts is delighted to host the work of Arizona artist Andre Licardi and local painter, Ray Elwood together for this unique exhibition.

"Ards Borough Council's Sister City Agreement with Peoria, Arizona, has allowed us to develop a very dynamic Cultural Exchange Programme, which has been of tremendous benefit to artists and students in both regions. We are looking forward to facilitating artist, student and exhibition exchange opportunities of this nature in the years to come."

Both artists are displaying 12 pieces of artwork, which have been developed through a shared approach of painting directly from the subject. Focusing on contrasts in light, tone and colour they highlight the geographical and climatic differences between the two areas.

Mayor of Ards, Terence Williams, welcomed Andre Licardi to the borough and congratulated both artists on their commitment to the exhibition: "I am delighted that Ards Borough Council together with the City of Peoria has been able to support such a project and I am pleased to offer my congratulations to both artists, Andre Licardi, Director of Arts Education in Peoria and Ray Elwood, a renowned local painter and tutor.

"I hope this is just the first of many such shows to feature here in the Arts Centre and indeed, in its corresponding exhibition space across the Atlantic in Arizona."

The exhibition will be located at the Ards Arts Centre, Town Hall, Conway Square, Newtownards until Thursday, June 30. Opening hours Monday – Friday 10am to 4.30pm Saturday 10am–4pm. For further information call Ards Arts Centre on 9181 0803 or email arts@ards-council.gov.uk