

Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

Artist:	Michael Warren
Title:	Countermovement
Medium:	Spanish chestnut wood
Location:	Between the playing fields, TCD Donated by the American Irish Foundation, 1985

b. 1950 Gorey, Co Wexford

Michael Warren is one of Ireland's most successful sculptors. After a foundation year at the Bath Academy of Art, he spent a year at Trinity College, Dublin, studying Psychology, Philosophy and English. During his artistic evolution, he was greatly influenced by his secondary school art teacher, Frank Morris, to whom he was apprenticed during 1971. From 1971-75 he attended the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera in Milan. He now lives and works in Co. Wexford with his wife and children. His work has been exhibited around the world, permanent pieces being in place in the United States, Europe, the Far East and the French West Indies.

His oeuvre mainly consists of large-scale, site-specific works, based generally on the precepts of minimalism. He enjoys working on a grand scale because the pieces stand in "real" space, in the same area as the spectator, allowing a real confrontation. For Warren, public sculpture incorporates the disciplines of architecture and sculpture, both being concerned with creating something that has an impact firstly, on the landscape, and secondly, on people. In terms of his own abstraction (and specifically in relation to his work at Wood Quay by the Dublin Civic Offices) Warren has spoken of the useful ambiguity of form and meaning:

"Whatever you might intend a form to suggest, people will find its significance from within their own culture, so that something that is read as a reference to Viking longboats in Dublin, is seen as evoking the art of calligraphy when viewed in Japan"

<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Michael-Warren>

Materials are all-important for the artist, their quality interacting with the well-considered proportions of his designs. In relation to *Countermovement*, Warren has remarked that he enjoys working with materials as close as possible to their natural state; as a result, he has left the piece untreated and unpolished, resembling the trees under which it rests.

Other works by the artist can be found in:

RTE headquarters

Irish Museum of Modern Art