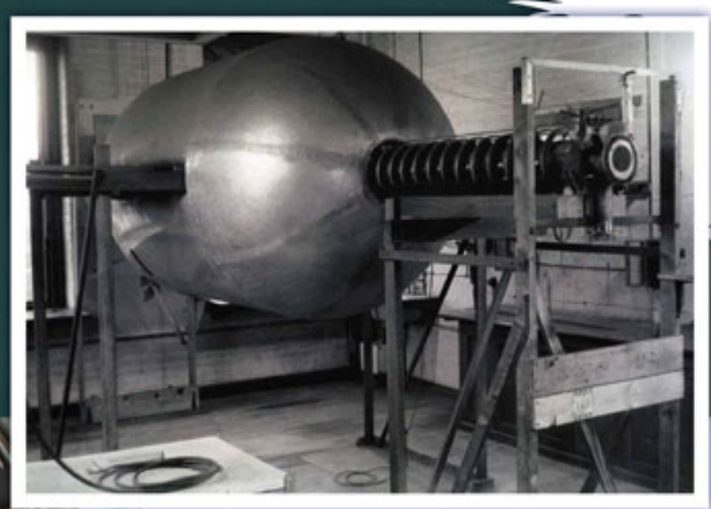
CELEBRATING ERNEST T.S. WALTON: IRELAND'S NOBEL LAUREATE IN SCIENCE

NEW CAMPUS SCULPTURE
SCHOOL OF PHYSICS
THE FITZGERALD BUILDING

$^{7}Li_{3} + {}^{1}H_{1} \rightarrow {}^{4}He_{2} + {}^{4}He_{2} + Energy$

$E = mc^2$



6 ARTISTS INVITED TO COMPETE

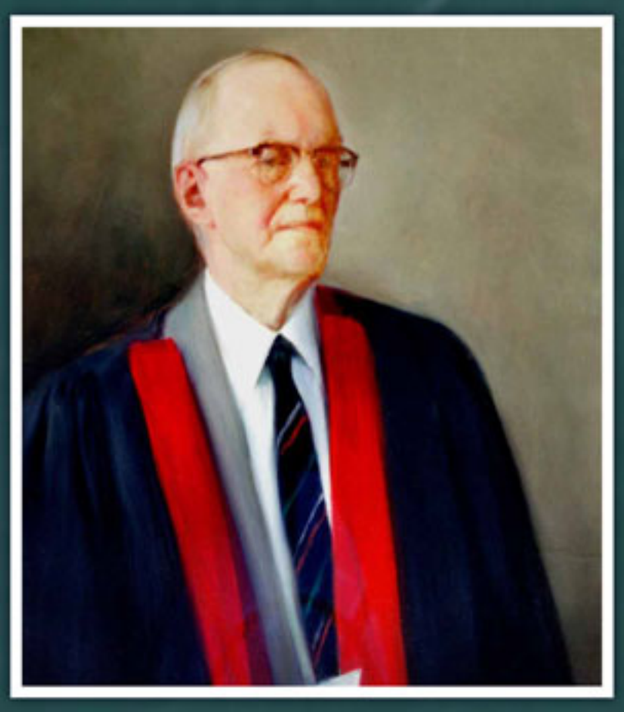
WINNING DESIGN:
EILÍS O'CONNELL, RHA

Artist's concept:

Having researched Walton's drawings at the Churchill Archives in Cambridge, I noted that he could convey the maximum amount of information with minimal line drawing and text. His minimal, reduced aesthetic approach influenced what I propose to make.

The design is a tall stack of mirror-polished spheres, reflected in them are specially planted native Irish apple trees. Spheres as a formal sculptural element appealed to me because they were used to create spark gaps for the particle accelerator with which Walton and Cockcroft 'split the atom' in 1932.

This sculpture refers to what I perceive as Walton's most important characteristics - his intellectual rigour and hands-on ability to actually build the particle accelerator with which he and Cockcroft 'split the atom', and his nurturing ability as a teacher and, privately, as a grower of fruit trees. A man is not only defined by his academic achievements but also by the memories he leaves behind in others.'



Portrait of ETS Walton by and © Thomas Ryan, RHA
Sculpture design and concept © Eilís O'Connell, RHA

ERNEST T.S. WALTON (1903-95), Professor of Physics, TCD (1947-74)

Commemorating 80 years since the 1932 experiment by Sir John Douglas Cockcroft and Ernest T.S. Walton, for which The Nobel Prize in Physics,1951, was awarded, 'for their pioneer work on the transmutation of atomic nuclei by artificially accelerated atomic particles' "The Nobel Prize in Physics 1951". Nobelprize.org. 10 Jul 2012 http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1951/

The commission is made possible by the support of the Walton family, the School of Physics, the Trinity College Association and Trust, and the Department of Education and Skills.
The commission project is managed by the Trinity College Dublin Art Collections.

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