



Eight Parts One Whole

You are being taken on a brief journey through time - the architectural painting *Out of Curiosity* by Lothar Goetz that adorns the rest room in Ashbourne combines the past with the present through his use of colour. Time travel is a complicated thing because how do you know where you are? Can colour direct you? May it depend on what is fashionable? or What our knowledge of history is like?

I have no real answers, except to say we all bring our own point of references to understand the world at large. However, I do have a starting point that relates to Goetz's artwork. In 1971 The Rotary Club of Ashbourne and the Women's Voluntary Services commissioned the architect and Rotary member Anthony Short to make a temporary structure that could be used as a rest room for pensioners. Situated in the heart of the market town of Ashbourne in Derbyshire, tucked behind the market place, surrounded by Georgian buildings and immediately in front of a Tudor style building, emerged a modernist, simple, single room structure.

The rest room is a geometric building that is representational of the 1970s and sits awkwardly within the town's predominately Georgian architecture. It is a wonderfully designed and built temporary structure of its time. However, thirty-three years later the rest room still remains and like the Georgian buildings, it provides a valuable reminder of the past.

Many decorative metamorphoses have taken place with the structure remaining the same - built on a brick foundation, horizontal slatted wood clads the outside, with a large expanse of windows that encompasses all four sides of

the building. It was made as a shelter, a place to meet, to view the activities of the town from both inside and outside.

Now in 2004, inspired by the surrounding architecture of Ashbourne and bringing his own contemporary frame of references Goetz's designed his painting; "...to have the outside as it is in a Georgian town, having a Georgian colour - like a suit - and as if like magic, inside you have a lining of bright [contemporary] colours, with bits of the lining sneaking out at the window frames". For Goetz "...there is always an exchange between the inside and outside".

The outside wooden structure is painted using a Georgian heritage colour, and the inside is geometrically divided into eight different contemporary colours between ceiling, floor and the width of the space; the colours are divided equally on the window and door frames, making eight parts one whole. He wanted to "highlight with the design and the colours an aspect of time", as well as wanting to draw attention to the rest room for a specific period.

Through Goetz painting of colour we have journeyed through time and I raise the question - will what we consider what is called contemporary today be called heritage tomorrow? More importantly Lothar Goetz's *Out of Curiosity* provides a space for the imagination and curiosity to flow, he has renewed interest in Ashbourne's architecture and allowed us to travel in time while firmly standing in the present.

Deborah Smith
June 2004

Lothar Goetz lives and works in London. After studying in Wuppertal and Dusseldorf, Germany, he completed an MA in Painting from the Royal College of Art, London in 1998. He has shown widely in Europe and worldwide.

Out of Curiosity is a new work by Lothar Goetz commissioned by Derbyshire Arts Development Group in collaboration with The Rotary Club Ashbourne. 2004

Out of Curiosity by Lothar Goetz and *Memories of the Little Things* by Hannah Carvell (Erewash Museum, Ilkeston) are the culmination of a one year Visual Arts Action Research Project to develop a three year Derbyshire Visual Arts Exhibition Strategy. The research has been undertaken by Alice Angus (Proboscis), in collaboration with curator Deborah Smith for Derbyshire Arts Development Group (DADG): a consortium of independent arts organisations, local authority arts officers and representatives from other cultural and learning agencies.

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The Olds People's Rest Room, St John Street, Ashbourne, Derbyshire

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