

Milton Keynes Public Art Paintings by Boyd and Evans



www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/arts

'Some Day' (Section) by Boyd and Evans (1984)

Fiction, Non-Fiction and Reference (1984)

Located at Central Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3HL



Milton Keynes Council has 3 paintings by artists Boyd and Evans in its civic collection. This leaflet provides some background information to the two paintings in Central Library, and one painting at Woughton Centre.

Artists Fionnuala Boyd and Leslie Evans were invited to Milton Keynes by the Development Corporation in 1980.

'We were asked if we were interested in creating a big painting in Milton Keynes, and they would pay us. The two things together seemed perfect so we borrowed bikes and explored the town and painted the big picture at Woughton Centre'

Fionnuala Boyd

The artists became intrigued by Milton Keynes and asked if there was any possibility of a residency.

'So we stayed on the understanding that we would be making an artwork.'

Leslie Evans

'It was left to us to find a suitable site. We spent a lot of time looking around not quite knowing where we were going to do something. Then we were asked if we would like to look at the library before it was finished, we said we only wanted to do a picture that people wanted to have here. We didn't want to plonk a picture in a space'

Fionnuala Boyd

The artists spent a year exploring Milton Keynes, gathering material for the painting. They took photographs of people and places and sketched ideas of how these could work together.

'This was before digital cameras, before Photoshop and so it was a scissor and paste job. We took lots and lots of pictures, and then we drew some.....we discovered early on that it was going to be an amalgamation, it wasn't one scene'

Fionnuala Boyd

The painting mixes fictional with real events, people and places whilst playing with perspective. This in part documents Milton Keynes during its development. There is also a reference to the great master Georges Seurat's and his painting 'Bathers at Asnières' (1884)

'We copied the dog from Seurat's painting; otherwise we replaced the figures with our own images but they are the same scale and in similar poses'

Leslie Evans

The viewer is encouraged to seek out the references that are Milton Keynes specific as well as those the artists put in to date it.

'For a long time the working title was 1984 and then we decided that was a wrong judgement for a new town. We put Margaret Thatcher and Arthur Scargill in the top left corner just to date it – We neglected to notice that everything else would date it, like the Casio watch the clothes, etc'

Leslie Evans

Look out for the following and see what other Milton Keynes specific references you can find:

- Porte Cochere – road crossing shelters in Central Milton Keynes
- Red Balloons – used in advertising campaigns for Milton Keynes in the 1980's
- Conniburrow, Oldbrook and Fishermead housing styles
- Underpasses and redways
- Reflective glass facades of buildings as in the shopping centre, railway station and Norfolk House.
- Parks and open space - such as Willen Lake
- Central Library

The quotes within this leaflet are taken from a talk with Boyd and Evans in November 2009 at Central Library.

Boyd and Evans preparatory sketches for the paintings can be viewed by arrangement at Buckinghamshire County Museum Resource Centre



Situation Comedy by Boyd and Evans (1981)

Located at Woughton Centre, Rainbow Drive, Leadenhall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EJ

Situation Comedy (1981)

(pictured above)

This painting was the artists' first commissioned artwork for Milton Keynes and was designed to fit the space. It was painted during the early development stage of Milton Keynes before much of the housing was built. The painting refers to the housing of Netherfield as well as the location within which it is sited.

"We did most of our exploring for this painting during the winter; we were not living here at the time so we saw it like visitors"

"We called it 'situation comedy' in part because it includes the setting of the picture; for example the staircase in the painting is the same staircase you use to view it."

Leslie Evans

Some Day (1984)

(pictured on front cover)

Located at Central Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3HL

This painting was produced as part of the preparation for Fiction, Non-Fiction and Reference. The artists were trying out their ideas before working on a larger scale. It brings together design features and scenes from life in the 'new town' of Milton Keynes, particularly Central Milton Keynes. 'Some Day' was purchased by the Development Corporation and sited in Civic Offices. It was relocated to the Central Library in 2010.

A walking tour guide of artworks in the city centre is available to download from www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/artsguide or pick up the Arts Guide booklet from any library.

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/arts



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