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The Smiling Bridge

Last updated: 24 November 2005

The sixteen foot Smile pictured below, appeared on a bridge over the River Teifi between the 2nd and 16th February 2005. The sculpture was the work of the artist known as the 'Virus' who lives in the Llandysul area. See below for an explanation of the project sent to us by the artist.



"The giant sculpture hangs from the bridge, it's shape and scale interact with the architecture of the Bridge to create the appearance of an enormous smiling face. It is viewable from the A486 in the village of Pentrecwrt (a quarter of a mile away) and close up from the footpath that follows the old railway line next to the Bridge.

The Bridge is Pont Allt y Cafan, Pentrecwrt. It is one of the highest bridges over the Teifi River. It's halfway point marks the borders of Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, the sculpture straddles the boundary, linking them with a smile.



The sculpture is intended to be a temporary site specific exhibit and will remain in situ for 2 weeks. It is made from ply wood, laminated and bent into shape, then fixed to a supporting frame (this is viewable from the back).

The making process was informed by the way Coracles were made (in Cenarth, down river), for lightness and strength. It's boat like look also refers to the canoe shape and canoeing at nearby Llandysul, upstream from the bridge. Its colouring and look are intended to help it blend in with its surroundings.

The sculpture is the work of an artist who lives in the Llandysul area. He works under the pseudonym VRS, which is short for Virus. But this virus doesn't destroy, it heals, mends, adds to and enhances places with visual creativity. The virus exists to 'Commit Reckless Acts of Wanton Improvement'.

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Smiling Bridge is the latest in a series of Art Interventions that have happened silently in the Llandysul area over the past 6 months. These projects are initiated, made and installed by the Artist. No funding is received from any source, the projects are funded by the artist.

This sculptural event is intended to have a positive effect on the area, drawing attention to the bridge, the river Teifi and to create an extraordinary spectacle that will hopefully cause people to smile." ”

Article written by the 'Virus'

- [Click here to view more Art Interventions by the Virus](#)

your comments

Carla Evonne from Heaven

this has totally piqued my curiosity and amusement and inspiration to nudge me in my own creative endeavors however similar or not to this piece. I love it!!!

Mon Jun 15 09:53:55 2009

Timica Smith

I like the smiling bridge.

Wed May 16 09:49:25 2007

Felicity from Llanidloes

What fun - but why such a short time? Why not replace it on the same two weeks each year?

Tue Jan 17 11:45:39 2006

Janet from Cardigan

I didn't see the smiley bridge in place but the photo is great. Keep it up Virus, only give us a bit of warning so we can get to see the next installation please.

Sat Aug 13 10:21:44 2005

This site is now closed and cannot accept new comments.

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