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NEWS

ev+a curator announced / *Sculpture in Context* winner (Friday 17 September 2004)

Winner at 'the Bots'

compiled by Elaine Cronin



Michelle Maher: *The age of Christ*, installation shot, Botanical Gardens, Dublin;

Ireland's largest outdoor sculpture exhibition continues this week in the National Botanical Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin. The international, open-submission exhibition includes over 90 national and international artists working in a diverse range of media including stone, glass, video and performance (as well as the somewhat more obscure medium of toffee). The site-specific works which are displayed throughout the gardens, in the hothouses and the gallery, include those of artists Nina Tanis, Eamonn O' Doherty and Mary Mackey. A variety of work on display parallels the variety of individually chosen locations within the space itself. The surroundings of the gardens allow artists plenty of scope in using the environment as an integral part of their work, and artists, including ceramicist Michelle Maher, blended their chosen medium within the natural habitat.

Maher, who placed a series of ceramic box-shaped forms on the surface of a pond in the garden, was presented with an award for a work of distinction at the opening ceremony on 8 September. The installation, *The age of Christ*, reflects the artist's interest in Kinsella's poem *Mirror in February*, which uses the symbolism of earth to reflect the poet's own fear of death during his thirty-third year, the age of Christ, a number which arises in the number of boxes presented in the installation. ***Sculpture in Context*** continues in the Botanical Gardens until 8 October 8, when it will continue on to Farmleigh House in Phoenix Park, Dublin.

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