Y Lle Celf

Sir Gâr
Dan y Wyneb

Codi'r llen ar rai o hynodion Sir Gâr yw amcan *Dan y Wyneb*. Wrth ystyried natur yr arddangosfa arbennig y dylid ei chynnal yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru Sir Gâr 2014, trawodd yr Is-bwyllgor Celfyddydau Gweledol ar y syniad o drefnu sioe yn ysbryd yr 'ystafell hynodion' neu'r 'cabinet of curiosities'. Wedi'r cwbl, roedd ffynhonnell barod yn Amgueddfa Sir Gaerfyrddin yn Abergwili. O esgyrn mamothiaid i aur Rhufeinig, dodrefn gwerin a phortreadau'r bonedd, yn hen balas yr esgob, mae ystod ryfeddol o arteffactau. I'r perwyl, dyma gomisiynu'r artist amlgyfrwng Peter Bodenham ynghyd â'r hanesydd lleol a'r storïwr Y Parch. Towyn Jones i guradu a chreu arddangosfa yn deillio o gasgliadau'r amgueddfa a mynd ati i dynnu gwrthrychau a delweddau at ei gilydd. Yn ogystal, comisiynwyd gweithiau celf yn ymateb i rai o'r creiriau.

Dyma ganfod ffotograffau anghofiedig, yn tystio i'r gwmnïaeth a chyfeillgarwch sy'n deillio o berthyn i dîm rygbi neu griw nofio dŵr agored; cwpanau coffa sy'n diogelu achlysuron arbennig rhag mynd yn gwbl angof; a phedol buwch yn atgof o bwysigrwydd y porthmyn i economi a diwylliant Sir Gâr slawer dydd. Gwir neu gau, mae gan bob un gwrthrych ei stori. Wrth ddethol yr arteffactau dyma ychwanegu at y chwedloniaeth. Tybed a oedd yr esgid fach yn perthyn i wraig gyfrinachol Tywysog Cymru? A ddefnyddiwyd y gragen dro i alw Merched Beca yn ardal Talog? Mewn gwirionedd, a oedd W M Rees yn forwr ar long ryfel yr HMS Temeraire? Yn ogystal, wrth greu platiau, cwpanau, ffyn cerdded neu fedalau, onid yw'r gwaith celf sy'n ymateb i'r creiriau yn rhoi crebwyll pellach at hanes a chwedl?

Yn ôl Peter Bodenham a Towyn Jones, mae'r gwrthrychau mwyaf di-nod yn gallu meddu ar yr ystyron mwyaf anghyffredin cyn gynted ag y maent yn gysylltiedig ag unigolion neu ddigwyddiadau enigmatig neu arwyddocaol.

Cerddwch ac fe ddaw'r ateb (manylyn / detail)
Peter Bodenham

Os oes storïau personol neu hanesion cymdeithasol a diwylliannol wedi crynhoi wrth y gwrthrychau, drwy eu gosod ochr yn ochr â'i gilydd mae modd creu arwyddocâd ac ystyron newydd iddynt.

Ynghyd ag ymchwilio'r modd yr ydym ni'n rhoi ystyr a gwerth i greiriau, dyma ddatgelu ychydig bach, boed hanes neu chwedl, ar storïau, pobol a ffenomenau cymdeithasol Sir Gâr, ddoe a heddiw. Ac fel mae teitl y label ar y ffyn yn awgrymu – 'Cerddwch ac fe ddaw'r ateb'.

Revealing some of Carmarthenshire's curiosities is the aim of *Dan y Wyneb* (Under the Surface). Whilst considering the nature of the special exhibition to be held at the Carmarthenshire 2014 National Eisteddfod of Wales, the Visual Arts Sub-committee came upon the idea of organising a show in the spirit of the 'cabinet of curiosities'. After all, a ready source was to be had at the Carmarthenshire Museum in Abergwili. From mammoth bones to Roman gold, folk furniture to portraits of the aristocracy, the former bishop's palace houses an astonishing wealth of artefacts. With this aim, multi-media artist Peter Bodenham and local historian and storyteller Rev. Towyn Jones were commissioned to curate an exhibition derived from the museum's collection and to set about drawing objects and images together. Moreover, artworks responding to some of the artefacts were also commissioned.

Abandoned photographs, that testify to the companionship and friendship of rugby and wild water swimming teams were discovered; commemorative cups that safeguard those special occasions from being forgotten completely; and a cow-shoe that reminds us of the drovers' importance to Carmarthenshire's economy and culture in days gone by. True or false, each object has its story. Each artefact selected adds to the narrative. Did the tiny shoe belong to the Prince of Wales' secret wife? Was the conch shell used to call Rebecca's Daughters at Talog? And was W M Rees really a sailor on the battle ship HMS Temeraire? By the act of creating plates, cups, walking sticks and medals, doesn't the artwork made in response to the relics give further credence to myth and legend?

According to Peter Bodenham and Towyn Jones, the humblest of objects can possess the most extraordinary meanings as soon as they are associated with enigmatic or significant individuals or events. If personal stories or social and cultural narratives gather around objects, by their juxtaposition they are invested with new meanings and significance.

Cwpan dathlu Towyn Jones /
Towyn Jones commemorative cup
Peter Bodenham

Cerddwch ac fe ddaw'r ateb (manylyn / detail)
Peter Bodenham

Together with investigating the way we give meaning and value to artefacts, be it history or myth, this exhibition discloses a little about the stories, people and social phenomena of Carmarthenshire, yesterday and today. And as the labels mounted on the sticks suggest 'Cerddwch ac fe ddaw'r ateb' – 'Walk and you will discover the answer.