

New art collection a homely backdrop for cancer patients

By CATHERINE REGAN

The official unveiling took place on Friday of an art collection in Inis Aobhinn, Cancer Care West's new residence and cancer support centre on the grounds of University Hospital Galway.

The new art collection has been donated by artists from all over the world.

According to Conor Kenny, from the Kenny Gallery, the idea to decorate Inis Aobhinn was a simple one.

"It originated from a visit to the oncology day ward of University Hospital Galway some years ago.

"The waiting room had nice comfortable chairs and the walls were decorated with original prints.

"The effect of the homely surroundings has without a doubt a positive affect on the patients and their families waiting for their next treatment or consultation."

Conor mentioned his idea to the former director of the centre Jim Sweeney, who was immediately interested.

"It was decided that we would contribute by trying to decorate

"We decided to write to a number of artists that we had been dealing with. When people started to hear about it, they started to contact us and ask us could they get involved.

"The artists involved have put so much work and thought into creating their pieces."

Almost all of the works in this collection have been donated by their creators; the rest were gifts from individuals.

"The willingness to share their work was heart-warming. The result is the Inis Aobhinn Art Collection which we hope will help create a better environment for those in the building.

"Working with Jim Sweeney, Chris Keane and the Cancer Care West team on this project has been a pleasure. In addition to the artists a special thank you is due to Martin and John Maloney who framed over 60 paintings which greatly reduced cost and to Dean Kelly who created the catalogue," concluded Mr Kenny.

Chris Keane, the General Manager of Inis Aobhinn, said: "We wanted to create an environment that felt like a home and not like an institution for both the patients and their families alike."

The official opening of the collection was performed by John O'Donoghue, the



At the opening of A Celebration of Art Therapy at Inis Aobhinn were Maria, Ignatius and Deirdre Flannery, Clibbin Road, with Selma McCormack, Spiddinstown.



Author and poet John O'Donoghue and Bernard Collins, Chairman Cancer Care West, at the opening.



Nurses Elaine Corcoran and Brigid Henry, at the opening.



Nurses Martina Hickey and Elaine Kelly, at the opening.