

# Minister to launch Artlink book

**The Minister for Education and Science, Dr. Michael Woods, will be in Buncrana on Monday next to officially launch a book entitled 'Drawing a Balance: A Journey in Art, Education and Community' at Tullyarvan Mill.**

The book has been produced by Artlink, the Buncrana-based organisation working to promote visual arts in the community.

Guest speakers at the launch will include Sinead McLaughlin, principal of Scoil Iosagain and Traolach O'Fionnain, County Arts Officer. Mr. John Dennehey, Secretary General at the Department of Education and Science, will also be in attendance.

'Drawing a Balance: A Journey in Art, Education and Community' reflects on the development of Artlink and its practice since it was formed in 1992, as well as on its plans and ambitions for the future. In addition to providing an insight into the history, principles and processes of this unique organisation, the book includes candid reflection on the challenges and issues that are at the centre of the community-based visual arts practice.

Articles by leading professionals in the variety of visual arts/education are included and key projects are profiled. The book is generously illustrated and reveals the breadth and diversity of Artlink's work.

Aileen Barr, one of the three founders of Artlink, said: "We are delighted that Dr. Michael Woods has kindly agreed to officially launch our book as we

believe that it will make a significant contribution towards raising the standard of visual arts education in both formal and non-formal contexts.

"We see this publication as an important reference for artists, educators, community development workers, policy makers and others wishing to explore the visual arts."

## Renewal

Minister Woods said of the publication: "In a rural seaboard community such as the Inishowen peninsula active participation in the arts is a potential source of enrichment and renewal for the whole community.

"In Buncrana, the approach and practice of Artlink in community arts education realises this potential and shows what can be achieved through making the visual arts acceptable to all."

He continued: "It is the enthusiasm, dedication and impassioned approach of the Artlink team that makes its work special and effective.

"The work of Artlink, as described in the this book, makes exciting reading and is a model for current and future practice in the field of community arts education," he added.