

# THE LOAN BUSH

An installation by **Marie Brett**

- Social memory, culturally constructed folklore and its relationship to place are integral in Marie Brett's artwork.
- Ireland has changed drastically in the past 10 years and the social and cultural landscape of the country is actively evolving. Yet, in this New Ireland, highway construction will still be diverted to allow a thorn tree to remain in its ancient space, and at the same time, there are protagonists with chain saws that will cut off the tree's limbs to make their own statement about such compromises.
- The Hawthorn, especially the lone bush, has always been regarded with a mixture of fear and respect. There are many stories of harm, even death, coming to those who interfere with a fairy thorn. Likewise, the veneration of stones in the context of pilgrimage and patterns, still flourish. Private and public symbolic gestures of walking around, touching, scraping, kneeling, and leaving tokens on sacred stones are evident.
- Marie's work connects her audience to something that is basically intrinsic in every culture – a universality of ritual and myth, a visual language of symbols, taking one beyond the verbal to a place of silence and imaginative contemplation.
- Marie Brett was awarded a Masters Degree with distinction in visual art from London University Goldsmith's College.
- She lives and works in County Cork.



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