



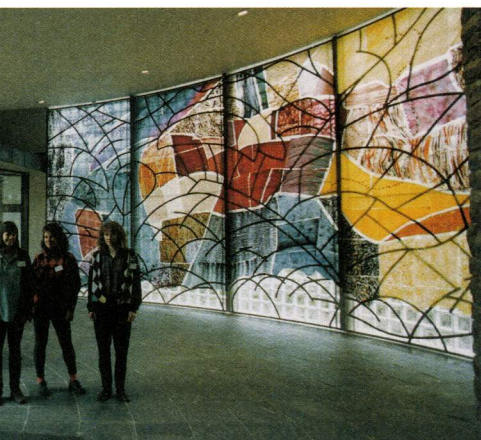
s from the island schoolhouse with their teacher, Nóra Ní Shé  
í ó scoil an oileáin lena múinteoir, Nóra Ní Shé

### Oibreacha Ealaíne

Mar chuid den ndearadh iomlán ailtireachta, tá oibreacha ealaíne fite fuaite leis an bhfoirgneamh agus leis an dtaispeántas. Orthu sin tá An Turas, an fhuinneog ghloinne dhaite ag an bhFáiltiú, a dhearr Róisín de Buitléar agus a thug Kawala's Glass Studios i mBaile Átha Cliath chun críche. Is dócha gurb é an saothar is mó dá leithéid in Éirinn. Michael Quane a dhearr An tOileánach, an obair dhealbhóireachta lasmuigh den bhfoirgneamh agus tá an dhealbhóireacht cré-umha Na Mná ag an dTobar le Cathy Carmen mar chuid de Thaispeántas an Oileáin. Brian King a rinne na hoibreacha phlástair sa tSlí, an pasáiste fada. Is í Barbara Lavery a dhearr agus a thug Áit an Uaignis chun críche. Is é Patricia McKenna a rinne an obair shnite sa Bhialann.

### Art Works

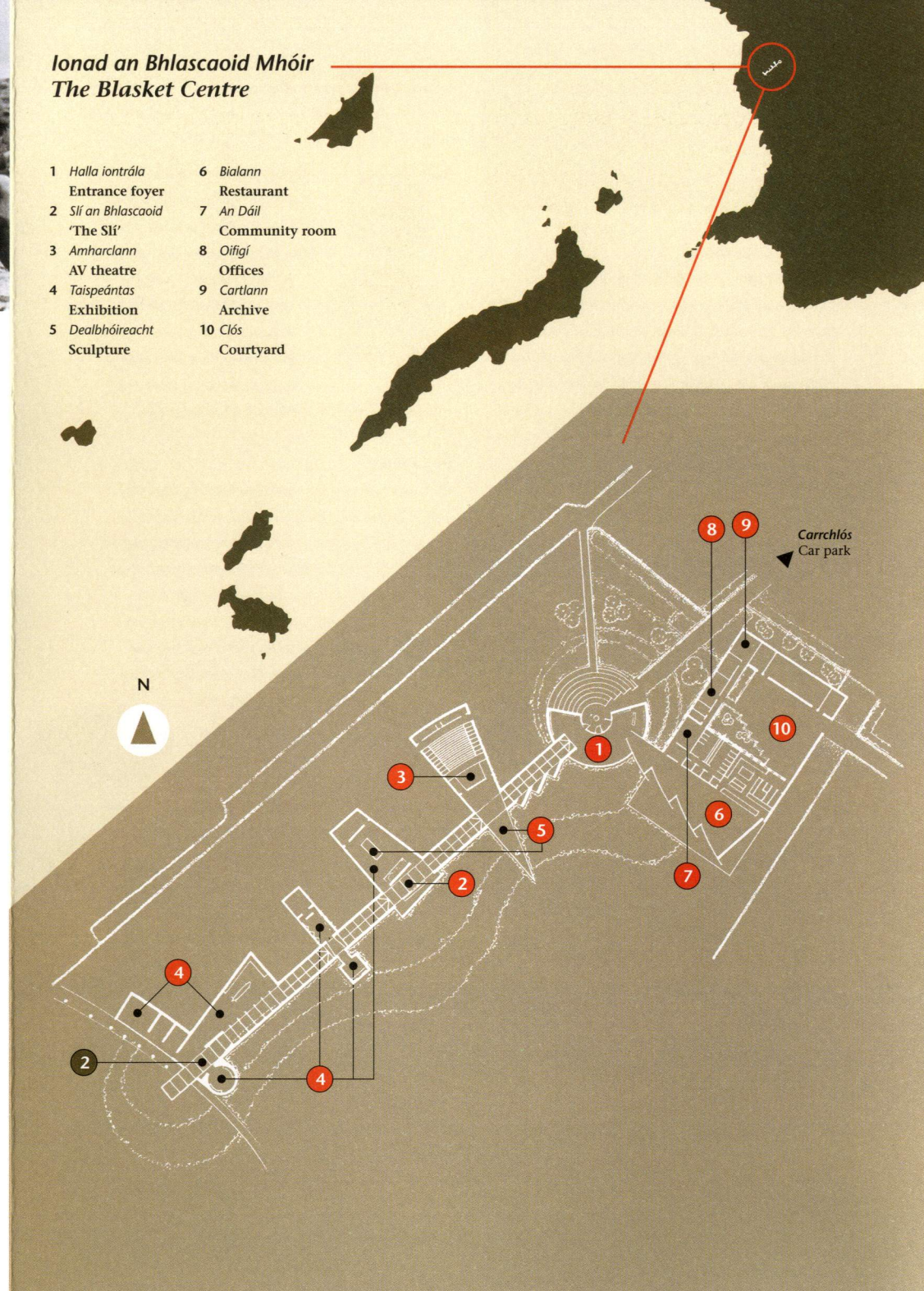
As part of the overall architectural design, art works have been incorporated as integral elements of the building and exhibition. These include The Journey the glasswork window at the Reception area, designed by Róisín de Buitléar and executed by Kawala's Glass Studios. It is probably the largest secular glasswork in Ireland. The life-size stone sculpture outside the building of The Islandman was designed by Michael Quane, while Cathy Carmen's Women at the Well bronze work is part of the Island Exhibition. There are plaster castings by Brian King on the right hand wall of Slí an Bhlascaoid, the long corridor. Barbara Lavery designed and executed The Place of Loneliness. Patricia McKenna designed the woven piece.



The entrance foyer with the magnificent stained glass window  
An halla iontrála leis an bhfuinneog thaibhseach ghloinne dhaite

## Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir The Blasket Centre

- |                                    |                             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Halla iontrála<br>Entrance foyer | 6 Bialann<br>Restaurant     |
| 2 Slí an Bhlascaoid<br>'The Slí'   | 7 An Dáil<br>Community room |
| 3 Amharclann<br>AV theatre         | 8 Oifigí<br>Offices         |
| 4 Taispeántas<br>Exhibition        | 9 Cartlann<br>Archive       |
| 5 Dealbhóireacht<br>Sculpture      | 10 Clós<br>Courtyard        |





## Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir The Blasket Centre

*Tógadh Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir i 1993 in ómós do oidhreacht shuaithinseach an Bhlascaoid agus don dteanga dhúchais.*

The Great Blasket Centre, built in 1993, honours the unique heritage of the Blasket Island and celebrates the native Irish language.

*Do mhair daoine go leanúnach ar an mBlascaod, atá 5km amach ó Chorca Dhuibhne, ar feadh trí chéad bliain ar a laghad go dtí gur tréigeadh an t-oileán ar fad i 1953. Mar gheall ar iargúlacht an oileáin do choimeád na hoileánaigh greim ar a gcultúr agus ar a dtraidisiún féin agus go háirithe ar labhairt na Gaeilge, croílár an traidisiúin sin. Tá scéal na n-oileánach á chur i láthair san Ionad chomh maith lena mbearta litríochta.*

*Tógadh an tIonad mar thoradh ar chomhoibriú fiúntach idir Fhondúireacht an Bhlascaoid, eagrais áitiúil, agus an Rialtas. Is le Heritage Services, OPW, an tIonad anois.*

### An Litríocht

*I dtús na fichiú aoise do tháinig scoláirí ar cuairt go dtí an mBlascaod chun Gaeilge a fhoghlaim agus chun seanchas a bhailiú. Do spreagadar cuid de na hoileánaigh chun scéal a mbeatha a scríobh ina dteanga féin agus tá léargas suaitheinseach ina saothar ar an gcruatan a bhain lena saol ar an oileán. Is iad na trí leabhar is mó a bhfuil cáil orthu: An tOileánach le Tomás Ó Criomhthain, Peig le Peig Sayers agus Fiche Bliain ag Fás le Muiris Ó Súilleabháin.*

The Great Blasket Island, lying 5 km off of the West Kerry coast, was inhabited continuously for at least three hundred years until finally abandoned in 1953. Because of its isolated location, the Blasket islanders retained their own culture and tradition, at the heart of which lay their continuing use of the native language of Irish. The Centre tells their story and celebrates their unique literary achievements.

The Great Blasket Centre, is the result of a partnership between The Blasket Foundation, a local organisation, and the Irish Government. It is now managed by Heritage Services, OPW.

### The Literature

In the early years of the 20th century scholars visited the Great Blasket to learn Irish and to collect folklore. They encouraged the islanders to write their life stories in their native tongue, and the books they wrote give a unique insight into the hardship of Island life. The three best known Island books are — An tOileánach (The Islandman) by Tomás Ó Criomhthain, Peig by Peig Sayers and Fiche Bliain ag Fás (Twenty Years A-Growing) by Muiris Ó Súilleabháin.



The island village viewed from the sea  
*Radharc ón bhfarraige ar Bhaile an oileáin*

### Tomás Ó Criomhthain

*Ar an mBlascaod a saolaíodh Tomás Ó Criomhthain i 1855 agus thug sé a shaol ina iascaire agus ina fheirmeoir. D'fhoghlaim sé conas léamh agus scríobh i mBéarla ar scoil, ach bhí sé daichead éigin bliain nuair a fhoghlaim sé conas scríobh as Gaeilge, rud a chur ar a chumas scéal a bheatha a insint ina theanga féin.*



### Tomás Ó Criomhthain

Born on the Great Blasket in 1855, Tomás spent his whole life fishing and farming.

He had learned to read and write in English at school, but it was only in his forties that he learned to write in Irish, enabling him to describe his life in his own language.

### Peig Sayers

Peig was born on the mainland in Dunquin in 1873 and married an Islander when she was 18. She became a masterful storyteller and of all the Island writers Peig resorts most often to traditional tales to illustrate her own observations. She never learned to read and write in Irish and it was her son Mícheál who wrote down her stories from her oral account. She died in 1958.



### Peig Sayers

*Saolaíodh Peig Sayers ar an mintír i nDún Chaoin i 1873 agus do phós sí fear ón oileán nuair a bhí sí 18 mbliana d'aois. Seanchaí den scoth ba ea í agus is í is mó de scríbhneoirí an oileáin a bhaineann úsáid as an seanchas chun a cuid scéalta a mhaisiú. Níor thug sí léamh ná scríobh na Gaeilge riamh léi agus is é a mac, Mícheál a scríobh a cuid scéalta. D'éag sí i 1958.*

### Muiris Ó Súilleabháin

*Sa bhliain 1904 a saolaíodh Muiris Ó Súilleabháin ar an mBlascaod Mór. Do spreag an scoláire Seoirse Mac Tomás, a thug a chéad chuairt ar an oileán i 1923, an Súilleabhánach chun scríbhneoireachta. Tá cúntas sa leabhar Fiche Bliain ag Fás ar a óige ar an oileán. D'fhág Muiris an Blascaod chun dul isteach sna Gardaí agus d'éag sé go tragóideach i 1950, is gan é ach 46 bliana d'aois.*

### Muiris Ó Súilleabháin

Muiris was born on the Great Blasket in 1904. The English scholar George Thomson, who visited the island for the first time in 1923, encouraged Muiris to write. His book Twenty Years A-Growing describes his early life on the Island. Muiris left the Island to join the Gardaí and was tragically drowned in 1950, at the early age of 46.



The island harbour with naomhóga (canoes)  
*Caladh an oileáin le naomhóga*