

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IRISH HUNGER MEMORIAL WALK & TALK

A guided tour through the Memorial by its designer and more...

Date: Sunday May 3, 2015
Time: 2pm
Place: Irish Hunger Memorial (Corner of River Terrace and Vesey Street)
Rain Location: 6 River Terrace
Subways: 1, 2, 3, A, C, J to Chambers Street / E to WTC / 4, 5, 6 to Brooklyn Bridge / R to City Hall
Cost: FREE!
Information: <http://bpcparks.org/event/irish-hunger-memorial-tour/>

When it opened in 2002, the New York Times called the Irish Hunger Memorial an “unconventional work of public art that strikes a deep emotional chord, sums up its artistic moment for a broad audience and expands the understanding of what a public memorial can be.”

Starting with a guided tour from the artist himself, Brian Tolle, the Irish Hunger Memorial will be the focus of a multi-disciplinary talk that will also discuss the experience of Irish-Americans in New York, the Famine that drove them here, as well as the landscape and flora of Ireland.

Brian Tolle will discuss the choices he made in designing a memorial for the Irish Famine and how the work serves as a contemporary monument dedicated to world hunger. BPCPC staff horticulturist Richard Fariano will show attendees how recreating the look of an abandoned Irish field on a cared for and cultivated plot of land is more difficult than you might suspect. Historian Lynn Rogers will discuss Irish immigration during the Great Hunger and the immigrants’ experience arriving in the New York City of the 19th century.

Dedicated on July 16, 2002, the Irish Hunger Memorial (which takes its name from the Irish term for the famine of 1845-52, *An Gorta Mór*, “The Great Hunger”) stands on a half-acre site at the corner of Vesey Street and North End Avenue in Battery Park City. The Memorial depicts a rural Irish landscape with an abandoned stone cottage, stone walls, fallow potato fields and the flora of the north Connacht wetlands.

The Battery Park City Parks Conservancy is the non-profit organization that manages, operates and maintains the parks of Battery Park City. It offers over 1,500 events and outdoor recreational activities for families, children, teens, and adults from May 1 through October 31. For a free 2015 program calendar, call 212-267-9700 or e-mail info@bpcparks.org.

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