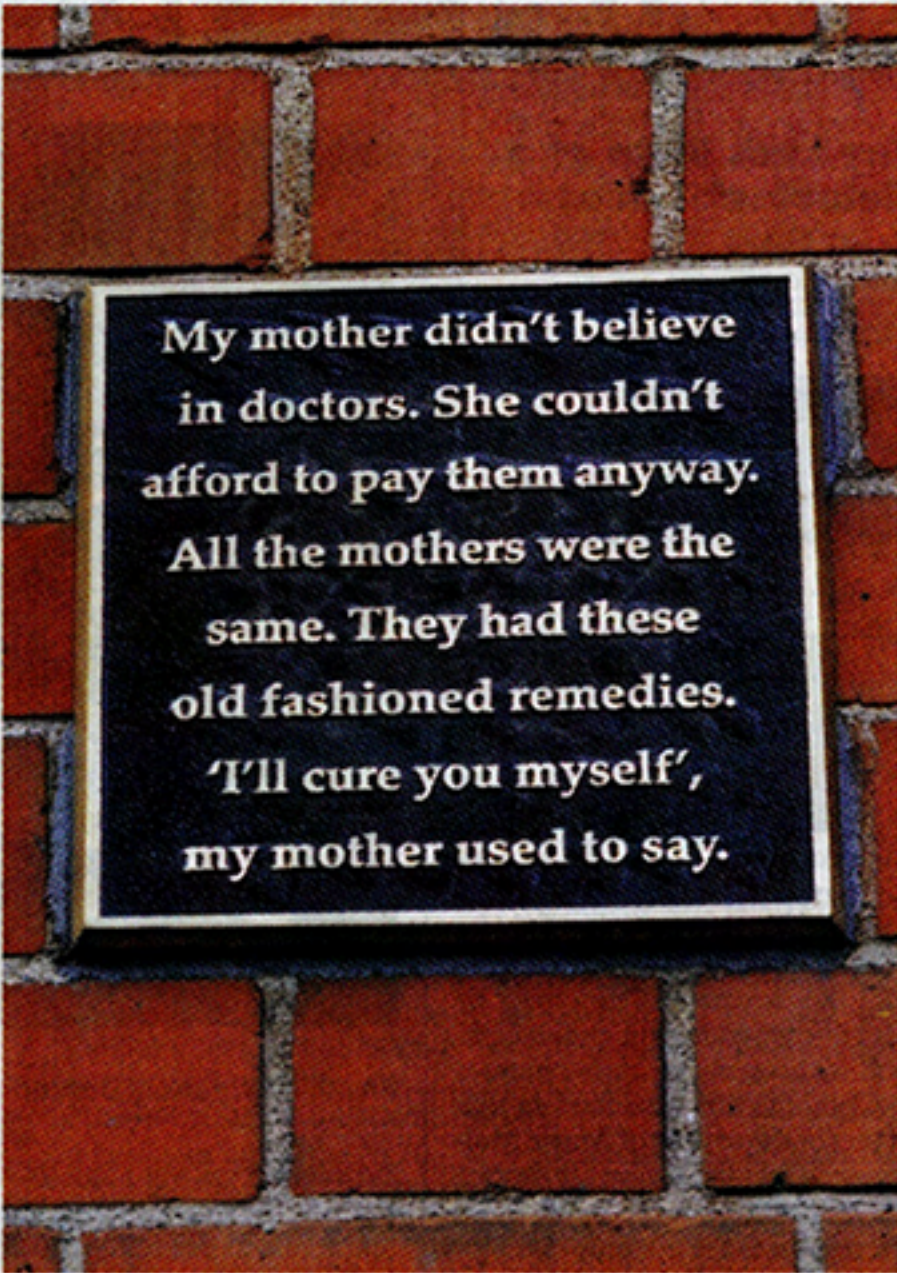


I never really had a conversation with my father. Sometime in the 1960's he caught me mitching from school and gave me an awful hiding. Ripped the clothes off me, lashed me with the belt and punched me in the eyes.



My mother didn't believe in doctors. She couldn't afford to pay them anyway. All the mothers were the same. They had these old fashioned remedies. 'I'll cure you myself', my mother used to say.

EXHIBITION

Although parts of Dublin 8 and the Liberties are rich in history and heritage, the voices of the residents of some of the old Victorian flats around the locale often go unheard. Between 2004 and 2008, artist Chris Reid recorded conversations with residents and people associated with the area; and these dialogues have inspired a series of artworks.

Under the government's Per Cent for Art

Scheme – arising from the renovation of flats on Nicholas Street, Ross Road, Bride Street and Bride Road – Dublin City Council commissioned Reid to complete artwork which would become a permanent fixture in the area. He has produced a series of 21 bronze plaques which resemble the commemorative plaques used on the city's heritage trail, based on his conversations (pictured above).

In one, for example, a woman recounts the changed behaviour of returned British Army soldiers after World War II.

In another, a man shares a joke through his

first-floor open window with curious bus tourists. Others reference the Church's influence over family planning, which sometimes had tragic repercussions, while in another, a recovering drug user plans a new life for his family.

This permanent exhibition has been installed about seven feet from the ground on the redbrick walls of Nicholas Street, Ross Road, Bride Street and Bride Road. Reid is in the process of completing a book which expands on the texts chosen for the plaques.

Helen Boylan