

# Innovative art project brightens up North Street Arcade site



Belfast artist Deepa Mann-Kler was recently commissioned to complete a series of Warhol inspired soup tin stencil paintings on Belfast's North Street, entitled 'The Product' on North Street, Belfast, on the wooden facade in front of the burnt out Arcade. The artwork was commissioned as part of the Trans Urban Street Art Festival 2010, which was a joint Belfast City Council initiative and supported by Belfast City Centre Management. The final art piece is a stencil image replicated 11 times.

"The story of 'The Product' is a play on Warhol's iconic 'Campbell's Soup' image with a Northern Irish twist - it picks up on political themes that were vocalised during the recent devolution of policing here, when Gregory Campbell of the DUP repeatedly used the term that policing would only be devolved when there was 'community confidence' and that the community needed a 'product'. At the time these terms intrigued me in the sense of what they actually meant and how one could quantify them. Both these terms were and continue to be fairly abstract concepts. This led to the visual image and the reworking of 'Campbell's Condensed Community

Confidence'. Although this street stencil work has a light hearted interpretation on a very serious political issue, I felt deeply motivated as an artist, to offer my own viewpoint on the circumstances at that time." says Deepa.

"Politically the situation was extremely tense at the time of the policing negotiations and this image of reinterpreting Warhol's classic work just wouldn't leave me. It got to the point that I started to dream about it, and it was then I realised, that I had to get this down on paper and communicate my own thoughts on this. The final images are approximately one metre high, repeated 11 times and work really well on North Street - they reflect and stay true to the Warhol style of repeating one image many times. Feedback on my work has been generous, insightful and I relished the opportunity to complete this very time specific piece that reflects a certain point in political discourse here." added Deepa.

To find out more about Deepa's work visit [www.deepamannkler.com](http://www.deepamannkler.com) or to be added to her mailing list contact [deepamannkler@gmail.com](mailto:deepamannkler@gmail.com).