



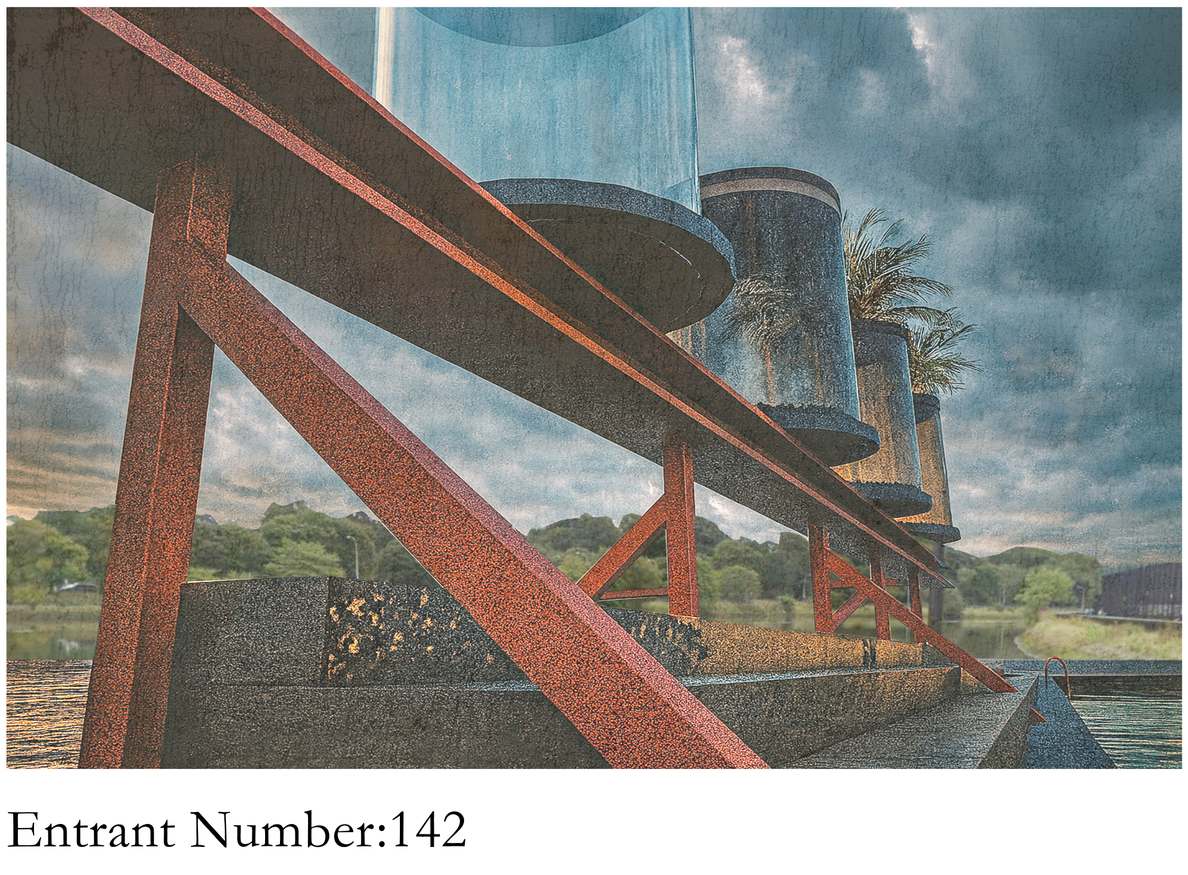

Uisce Beo – Living Water

Belfast was built around a river it can no longer touch. The Lagan, once alive with movement and trade, now lies still, polluted, forgotten, and fenced off from daily life.

Uisce Beo – Living Water reimagines that relationship. This prototype filters the river's water through a living sequence of reeds, gravel, and charcoal, nature's own machinery. It shows how a city can clean what it once destroyed, turning contamination into clarity. From Paris to Venice, this technology already works. Here, it begins again, a small structure with a radical message:

Our rivers can live once more.

This is more than sculpture, it's a lesson in renewal. Beneath the red steel frame, visitors gather, listen to the quiet sound of moving water, and watch as it transforms from murky to clear. It invites people to slow down, to see the process of cleansing as something both physical and symbolic, a reminder that healing the Lagan is not an impossible task but a collective act of care. Uisce Beo is proof that even the dirtiest river can become alive again, not through industry or machinery, but through the gentle persistence of nature, design, and community working together.

Entrant Number:142