

KING BILLY'S TOWERS

Loyalist Bonfires
of

Northern Ireland
2009-2015

Renée Tosser

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School of Canadian Irish Studies

Fr. McEntee Reading Room

Room H1001

1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.

Thursday, 26 May

11:00 – 14h30

Renée Tosser's photographs of Loyalist bonfires in Northern Ireland underline the importance of symbolism and interrogate the part it plays in a society where ethnic division is predominant. She tries to address the question of identity and to show the way symbols act to reinforce identity for one ethnic group in a contested political space.

Renée specialized in Irish nationalism and is interested in the relationship between culture and politics. She has studied visual displays for almost ten years, especially in Belfast. Taking photographs and exchanging with residents play an important part in her research. She is a senior lecturer at the University of La Réunion (France), where she can be reached at renee.tosser@univ-reunion.fr.