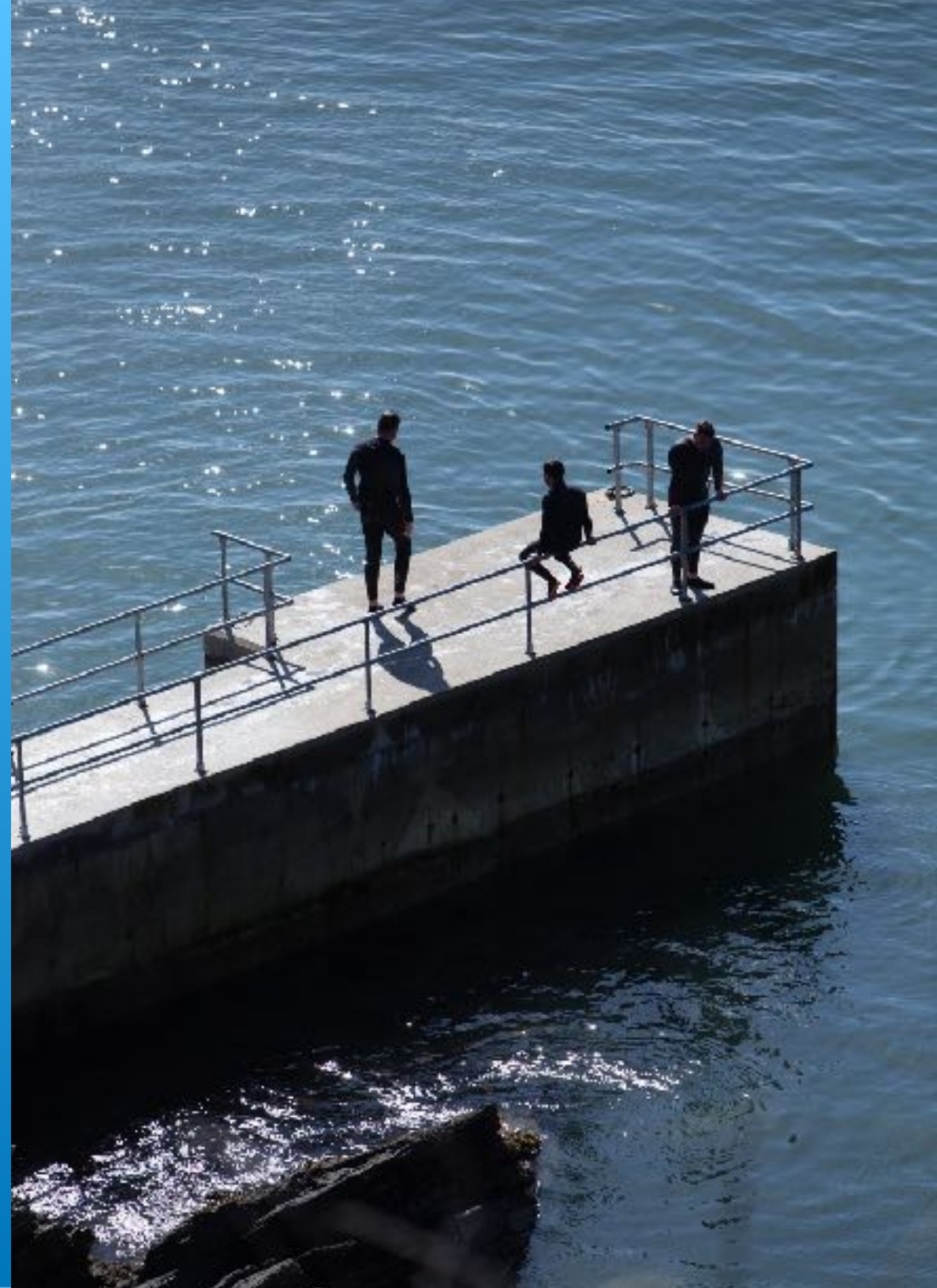


ARTLINK

PROGRAMME REPORT

ACTIVITIES 2021



ARTLINK

Artlink is an artist-led organisation, formed in 1992, run by a team of professional artists working from onsite studios at the historic and inspiring location of Fort Dunree, Inishowen, County Donegal. It exists to support the ambitions of local, national and international artists at all stages of their professional career. Artlink makes a valuable contribution towards the creative development and wellbeing of the local community and helps build a strong sustainable culture and economy in the region. This is achieved through a programme of regional, national and international exchanges and residencies, exhibitions, practical creative workshops and participatory community events. In an area packed with ancient history and breathtaking scenery, Artlink connects and inspires people to produce creative projects uniquely rooted in 'place' and inspired by this rural, coastal context.

In 2021 Artlink continued with its successful programme of artist residencies, this year selected by a panel which included Mark Hill of Artlink Board of Directors; Martha McCulloch of Artlink Creative Team, Jeremy Howard, Acting Manager of The Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny; Esther Alleyne, Arts & Cultural Facilities Officer, Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, Limavady and Catherine Hemelryk, Director, CCA, Derry. More than 570 applications were received, from artists in 61 countries. Applications came from artists across Europe, from Russia, the Middle East, India, Japan, North, Central and South America and Africa. The four artists selected were photographer and filmmaker Jessica Auer, based in Iceland; Israeli artist Itamar Gov; Irish artist photographer Anthony Haughey; and Áine McBride, originally from Letterkenny and living in Dublin/Berlin. With Covid restrictions still in place three of the artists had to postpone their visit till 2022.

In addition to these residencies Artlink continued to develop partnerships with other organisations to build a programme of well supported international exchange residencies so that Donegal artists would also have opportunities to develop their practice and at the same time be ambassadors for Donegal. In early 2020 Cliodhna Timoney was selected for a residency at Eastern Edge Gallery, Newfoundland which took place in October/November of 2021. Moira McIver, whose residency was originally planned for 2020, was finally able to visit Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow in August 2021.

The exhibitions programme is an essential element of Artlink's artist development activities, supporting artists at all stages in their careers. As well as exhibitions by local Artlink members Hannah Tucker, Bethany Garvey Williams, Geraldine Timlin and Matthew Porter, the programme this year included The Storm Tamer's Collection by Anais Tondeur (artist-in-residence in 2018/19) in collaboration with Yesenia Thibault-Picazo and Recess by Lucy Andrews building on her research at Dunree in 2019. In addition, with public access to indoor spaces still uncertain, we began to look at the outdoors as an exhibition venue. Begin the Begin, a site specific group exhibition around the landscape of Fort Dunree, was staged as part of Turas, a linked series of visual arts events presented by The Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny, An Gailearaí, Gweedore and The Glebe House and Gallery, Churchill.

The Potting Shed, an open air creative space developed by Irish artist Christine Mackey in 2013 has since evolved into a thriving community garden and educational facility to encourage sustainable living that encompasses holistic health and wellbeing. Building on this in 2021 we began working with ChangeMakers, Creative Ireland and Buncrana Town Gardener on a pilot project to develop 'Miyawaki Forests' in residential locations in Buncrana. We also developed a second space 'The Garden of Reflection' in collaboration with the Ulster Canada Initiative. The garden is designed to compliment the recently erected Laurentic Memorial and be a space of reflection for those lives lost then and since.

Arts and wellbeing also forms part of a national project where we were invited to partner on the Compassionate Culture Network. Initiated and funded by the Irish Hospice Foundation it aims to create community spaces where we can explore ways to deal with loss and grief through creativity.

2021 was another year of uncertainty but this led us to a period of deep reflection on the purpose of Artlink, how we connect to and amplify the place where we are, how to build a plan for sustainability and what have learned from the past two years of living in a pandemic. This process of reflection led us to fundamentally reshape our approach going forward. Artlink is delighted and privileged to have the continued support of The Arts Council of Ireland and Donegal County Council. We are grateful to Fort Dunree Military Museum for this stunning and inspiring location.



EXHIBITION

QUARANTINE DIARIES: ROBERTO URIBE-CASTRO

1ST - 25TH MAY

#quarantinediaries was an Instagram takeover and physical exhibition at Fort Dunree.

When his father died in 2008 and he lived away from his home country, Roberto Uribe Castro became aware of the extent of time he spent away from home and the difficulty of keeping track of the passing days. This inspired him to document the passage of time through an object that both he and his mother could keep until they were reunited. They agreed to keep their used bars of soap to share at their next meeting.

Then Roberto found himself back in Colombia. Like everyone else, he did not count on the pandemic that would leave him trapped for several months at his mother's house, unable to return to Berlin. He started to reflect on his memories of the house, prompting his mother to show him the soap she had been saving.

Roberto began posting photos of the old soaps that his mother had stored and the ones he was using during the lockdown, on his Instagram account, marking the passage of time when quarantine made it difficult

to differentiate one day from the next. The series of soap photos did not go unnoticed. People started sending him photos of their soap from different parts of the world. Since then his Instagram account has developed into a worldwide, collective and collaborative quarantine diary.

Although more than a year had passed since the beginning of the pandemic, the reflections which Quarantine Diaries invited were still relevant. The project raised awareness of the overlap between the personal and the collective, the intimate and the public, the hygienic and the infectious, the material and the digital and was an invitation to consider everyday life in the midst of a pandemic and reflect on the past year and its implications for our future.

Roberto Uribe-Castro studied architecture and spatial design. He has worked as a field researcher for urban studies and as a studio manager for Doris Salcedo and Mona Hatoum in site-specific installations. He currently lives and works in Berlin.

To complement the exhibition Artlink commissioned an essay by Adrianna Valderrama Lopez, PHD researcher at Ulster University (published on artlinkonline.ie) and collaborated with Claudia Zea-Schmidt to publish an article in the online magazine B26, written by Sandra Ellegiers. This was also produced as a beautifully designed limited edition book.

ONLINE EVENT

FROM (T)HERE ON

Roberto Uribe Castro in conversation with Itamar Gov

Friday 14th May 7pm Live

Interestingly Roberto is based in Berlin as is Itamar. Their conversation was enlightening, entertaining and engaging. In the background a carousel of selected images prompted their dialogue. It was a very difficult time for both, tension was high in both Columbia and Israel and Palestine where the artists' families and friends live. Before the public entered Artlink acknowledged the current events and situation and reminded the artists that they were free to talk or to avoid the topic as they saw fit. It was synchronistic that these two should have the opportunity to talk openly about their concerns around museums, authority and authenticity, colonisation and conflict and how this informs the present.



PROJECT

#LoveToDraw

#LoveToDraw Ireland was a project developed by Voluntary Arts Ireland in collaboration with Artlink, the Glucksman Gallery, Cork and Take A Part, Carlow. The idea was a simple one: to encourage people to take up drawing as a pastime in a way that brought people together, fired up their creativity, raised their spirits and widened participation in the visual arts. It offered people across Ireland a gateway into the visual arts and creative expression, encouraging them to interact with the world around them through drawing and to share their creative endeavours with others.

The project was due to involve artist-led drawing workshops during May 2020, followed by an exhibition at the Glucksman Gallery in November 2020. However they were postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions and rescheduled to autumn 2020. At the last minute restrictions were reintroduced, so the workshops were completely reimagined and hosted as free online workshops led in Donegal by artist Elaine McGinn. As it became clear that an exhibition at the Glucksman wasn't going to be possible the partners decided to produce a pack of postcards each featuring a drawing by a participant and a video documenting the outcomes of the project. In addition Artlink staged an exhibition in the windows of the former ESB showroom in the heart of Buncrana from March 29th till April 30th.



DRAWING WORKSHOPS JANUARY - APRIL

Because of the interest generated by the initial series of online #LoveToDraw workshops in December we decided to extend this, particularly because lock down had been extended well beyond the new year. Each Wednesday Elaine McGinn led two workshops, open to all and free of charge.

ARTLINK DRAWING CLUB APRIL - AUGUST

In response to feedback from participants in #LoveToDraw we initiated an online drawing club then in July the club moved to Rodden's bar in Buncrana where we ran drawing events in their outdoor space. Attendance figures were good and participants enthusiastic so we intend to resume sessions in summer 2022.



ENGAGEMENT

AMACH ANSEO

Tiny Forest/Choill Bheag Project

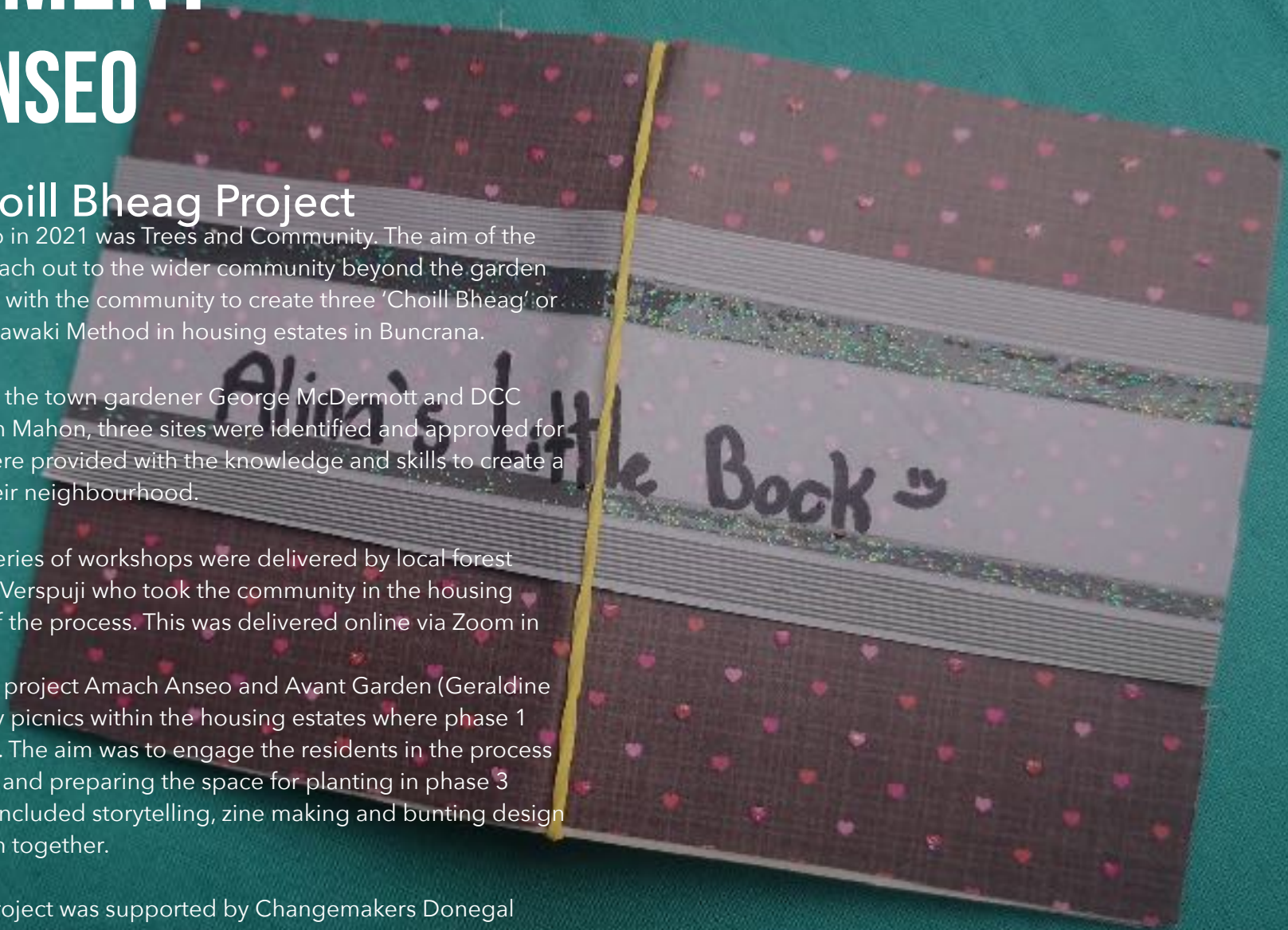
The theme for Amach Anseo in 2021 was Trees and Community. The aim of the Tiny Forest project was to reach out to the wider community beyond the garden at The Potting Shed working with the community to create three 'Choill Bheag' or Tiny Forest based on the Myawaki Method in housing estates in Buncrana.

Working with the support of the town gardener George McDermott and DCC Area Roads Engineer Eamon Mahon, three sites were identified and approved for the project and residents were provided with the knowledge and skills to create a densely planted forest in their neighbourhood.


In Phase 1 of the project a series of workshops were delivered by local forest conservation expert Michiel Verspuji who took the community in the housing estates through each step of the process. This was delivered online via Zoom in Spring 2021.

In Phase 2 of the Tiny Forest project Amach Anseo and Avant Garden (Geraldine Timlin) delivered community picnics within the housing estates where phase 1 had been completed online. The aim was to engage the residents in the process through sharing knowledge and preparing the space for planting in phase 3 (autumn 2021). The picnics included storytelling, zine making and bunting design as well as planting and lunch together.

Phase 1 of the Tiny Forest project was supported by Changemakers Donegal 'Seeds of Change' project. Mentorship by Patsy Toland was included in this support. Phase 2 of the project was funded by Creative Ireland.







VAI DONEGAL VISUAL ARTISTS NETWORK

Artlink and the Regional Cultural Centre teamed up with VAI to present a series of artist development events between May and November 2021 with the intention of developing a Donegal Visual Artists Network.

This kicked off with a Needs Analysis Café in May, exploring current Visual Arts practice in Donegal - strengths, weaknesses, gaps, infrastructure and opportunities. The VAI team facilitated a series of breakout room discussions addressing multiple topics in order to define the working aims of the Donegal Visual Artists Network in 2021 and beyond. Donegal artists were invited to join the event to contribute their voice and help further this Visual Arts conversation in the North-west. A number of key concerns arising from the Needs Analysis Café formed the basis of the following programme of artist development events:

July 2021 - Exploring artist Ecommerce and sales generation with Shopify

August 2021 - 3 hour speed curating workshop for Donegal Visual Artists with some of Ireland's leading curators.

October 2021 - Panel discussion featuring representatives for leading visual artist networks in North America and continental Europe discussing network best practice.

VAI Visual Artists Café: Artist Residencies June 1st
Rebecca Strain represented Artlink at this Café which aimed to explore and demystify the process of artist residency programme participation. Artlink was one of three organisations presenting at the event, billed as "3 of Ireland's top working examples". The other organisations were Cow House Studios (Wexford) and Digital Arts Studios Belfast.



EXHIBITION

BRING THE MIND HOME

MEMBERS SHOW | 3RD-26TH JUNE 9PART OF "TURAS" SEASON

Aodán McCardle, Nina Quigley, Michael Friel, Lynda Cronin, Caroline Kuyper, Paul Martin Campbell, Bernie Masterson, Susan Mannion, John McCarron, Tommy Feehan, Sallyanne Morgan, Jen Malone, Patsy Brennan, Vincent Kelly, Maria Noonan-McDermott, Alan Patterson, Éadaoin Glynn, L.A. Wiseman, Sinead Smyth, Tina O'Connell, Therese Morgan, Rebecca Strain, Maria Keane O'Mahony, Brigid Mulligan. Moira McIver, Katrīna Tračuma, Rikki-louise van den Berg, Mickey Rooney, Fiona Mulholland, Berni Bradley, Aoife Nolan, Josephine Kelly, Elaine Mcginn, Janet Hoy, Ciara Connolly, Deirdre Doherty, Myriam Rommers, Ian Wieczorek, Ani Mollereau, Anne McCallion, Róisín O'Sullivan, Marie Chatoua, Geraldine Timlin, Martha McCulloch, Patricia Spokes, Louise Spokes, Veronica Buchanan, Andrea Redmond

Almost 50 artists from 13 counties across the island of Ireland and Canada responded to the theme 'Turas' (Gaelic for journey) for the annual Artlink Members Show, which has been running since 2014. Forty wall based artworks, eight sculptures and three films make up this year's exhibition Bring the Mind Home, curated by Kaitlynn Webster from 126 Gallery in Galway. The journeys we've taken in the last year are almost certainly not the ones we envisioned for ourselves - we trekked from bed to desk, couch to kitchen, up and down the same routes in a 5km radius. We relied on screens to

transport us to concerts, classes, gallery openings, family gatherings. Stay-cations replaced holidays abroad. Faced with varying degrees of isolation, we had time to think - a blessing and a curse. Perhaps the most significant journeys have occurred in the surveying of our own minds.

"When you face your aloneness, something begins to happen. Gradually, the sense of bleakness changes into a sense of true belonging... In a sense this is the endless task of finding your true home within your life. It is not narcissistic, for as soon as you rest in the house of your own heart, doors and windows begin to open outwards to the world."

JOHN O'DONOHUE

Curator Kaitlynn Webster says "This exhibition asked the members to look at the journeys they've made over the past year - journeys that inevitably were not the ones they had planned on taking. We have all become intimately acquainted with our immediate 5 km radius, and we've had the chance to become even more intimately acquainted with our own minds. These pieces speak to those journeys - they speak to the meaning we have crafted while confined within our locales, perhaps while longing to be somewhere else, and always in the company of ourselves. They speak to ritual, connection, reflection, and resilience. It was a delight to be able to view these artist's journeys through their work, and by so doing, reflect on my own - and I believe the viewers can look forward to doing the same".

Kaitlynn Webster is an interdisciplinary artist and curator from California, now based in the west of Ireland. After completing her MFA in 2019 she joined the board of directors at 126 Artist-Run Gallery in Galway. Her practice looks at the way we create meaning through ritual and storytelling, and her curatorial research focuses on interrogating hierarchies within the arts.



ENGAGEMENT PUSHKIN TRUST

June 9th and 22nd

Artlink was invited to deliver two day long workshops for The Pushkin Trust in Aughnagarron NS in Cavan and Brackey NS in Ardara. The theme was the same as 2020 *Spark of Stillness* and Rebecca Strain delivered workshops incorporating action theatre and observational drawing of local wildflowers.

Founded in 1987 by the Duchess of Abercorn, the Pushkin Trust is a charitable organisation which works to provide and support a holistic model to spark imagination and deepen awareness of our collective creativity, our humanity and 'the child' within each one of us.

The Pushkin Trust is synonymous with creativity, inspiration and expression of the voice. Inspired by her ancestor, Alexander Pushkin, the great Russian poet, Sacha Abercorn planted the seed of the Pushkin Trust aiming to 'unite children and adults in the common bond of creativity which transcends all the factors which otherwise might divide them'.

The organisation has grown into an all-Ireland educational programme for the creative and personal growth of the individual, promoting a connected curriculum with an emphasis on creativity and imagination while also developing knowledge, skills and understanding.

At the core of the Pushkin Trust's work is the Schools' Programme which is a cross-curricular, cross-community and cross-border project involving primary, secondary, Irish medium and special needs schools.



THE POTTING SHED

Food Security through Seed Saving and Exchange With Social Farms and Gardens NI

Amach Anseo continues to be involved in this programme, meeting regularly online with the 30+ participants from across Ulster and activity contributing to the WhatsApp group. Amach Anseo have successfully grown Urbikany Tomatoes and Roveja Peas to save and distribute their seeds.

Gone Fishing May - July 2021

Amach Anseo have been participating in Greencastle Community Centers project Gone Fishing where we have been learning how to make a ink well lobster pot from willow. Big Green Art aka Brendan Farren has guided us through each step and we are proud to be exhibiting our pots at Greencastle Maritime Museum on Thursday 22nd July.

Home Ed Art Club at Amach Anseo

Since Thursday 23rd September and continuing every week a group of Home Educators, parents and children visited the community garden at Amach Anseo to take part in arts/crafts and horticultural activities. The children range in ages from newborn to 15 and a variety of activities have been offered, including scavenger hunts, rock painting, seed saving and a

long term project where we are building a friendship seat from Ecobricks, recycled plastic drinks bottles stuffed with waste soft plastics which can be join together to build with.

Donegal Women's Network (at The Potting Shed)

19th June

Last September Danielle Bonner of Changemakers and Donegal Women's Network first visited The Potting Shed as part of Artlink's Culture Night programme. She promised then she would be back. We were delighted to provide a space for her and Eco therapist Michaela McDaid to facilitate a day long workshop that included a mindful wander, meditation, lunch and a dip in the sea at Crummies Bay



EXHIBITION

BEGIN THE BEGIN

PART OF THE 'TURAS' SEASON

1ST JULY - 1ST AUGUST

Artlink invited seven artists to help create Begin the Begin, an outdoor art trail at Fort Dunree. Walking around the site, visitors encountered sculptures along the pathways, installations on platforms and inside pill boxes, and in some cases were invited to interact with the works.

The participating artists were Noel Brady, Catherine Ellis, Brendan Farren, Julie Griffiths, Kevin Harkin, Kate McSharry and Sue Morris. The artists were asked to gain inspiration from the concept of "Turas", a term meaning pilgrimage or journey, chosen to form part of the "Colmcille 1500" celebrations marking the legacy of St Colmcille. Each artist has created work which they feel complements both the theme and the special location at Fort Dunree.

The artworks were diverse: from installations in corrugated iron, concrete and sound to sculptures using wood and willow; from journeys walking across the grass to evocations of journeys past, across the ocean.

Sue Morris' *Forever and Always* work was a site-responsive installation located in one of the pillboxes perched on the headland looking out to the Atlantic. The work was a gentle intervention; its intent was to dis-arm or neutralise the building of its original usage and make it a space of

contemplation. Transparent layers, with suggestions of landscape, pulled the viewer into and through the space, towards the sea.

Brendan Farren created *Turas Arch*, a woven wooden arch, made from branches foraged and grown by the artist. Each journey begins with that first intentional step, crossing the threshold between the ordinary and the sacred, and this arch aimed to define and delineate this beginning, your first step into the other.

Catherine Ellis' piece *Then as Now* explored departure. Looking out at the calm waters of Lough Swilly it's difficult to imagine that the waves can be as high as houses out in the open sea. It takes resilience and fearlessness to put out to sea, more so in a less than seaworthy vessel. This work is inspired by anyone who has had to take that journey, now or in the past.

In *We Make a Path by Walking it*, Julie Griffiths produced a spiralling path by walking it repeatedly, over the time of the exhibition, as an invitation to others to follow. This path dissolved back into the landscape after the exhibition ended. It was accompanied by drawings and documentation.

Kate McSharry's concrete sculptures were accompanied by audio that encouraged the viewer to take time and listen. *Still standing, Standing Still* invited the audience to establish a collective context. Art is a universal language and also a unique experience as our interpretations are affected by knowledge and environment. Kate suggested we take time to pause; to feel the ground beneath.

Kevin Harkin began to work on *The Armoured Irish Elk* during the lengthy Brexit process which brought up many bad memories of the corrugated military zones on the Northern Ireland border, with their large lookout towers and barbed wire compounds where people were detained for hours. So he decided to redefine the lookout tower. He built his own corrugated lookout tower in the form of a mobile Irish

Elk, (reminiscent of a Trojan Horse), defiant, ready to do battle to defend our right to move freely like deer, to journey without limits. The Elk appeared to materialise from the rusty vestiges of the abandoned military huts around the fort.

Noel Brady's *Gathering* was an invitation to participate; three vessels for gathering, which echo the form of wicker baskets and creels, shaped in part like ballistic shells. He chose a location on site suggestive of arrival or departure. Visitors were encouraged to carry with them a stone (preferably white) to locate in one of the vessels.

Turas was a visual art 'journey' traversing through Donegal's cultural landscape via a multi-venue exhibition featuring artists based in Ireland. Participating venues – Artlink Fort Dunree, An Gailearaí Ghaoth Dobhair, Glebe House & Gallery Churchill and Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny.

BEGIN THE BEGIN ARTISTS MEETING THE POTTING SHED | JULY 25TH

Six of the seven artists taking part in Artlink's Earagail Arts Festival event Begin the Begin joined the Artlink team for lunch and an informal talk about their experience of taking part in the exhibition. The artists were Noel Brady, Catherine Ellis, Brendan Farren, Julie Griffiths, Kevin Harkin and Sue Morris. Interviews with each of the artists were recorded on video for inclusion on the website and Artlink's Youtube channel. Kate McSharry couldn't attend but made a special trip to Dunree mid September for the video interview. The artists all valued the opportunity to exhibit together and to see how each of the works interacted with each other and the site.







EXHIBITION

THE STORM TAMER'S COLLECTION

ANAÏS TONDEUR & YESENIA THIBAUT PICAZO

**(PART OF TURAS SEASON)
1ST - 29TH AUGUST**

Anaïs Tondeur couldn't help but be blown away by the wild winds at Fort Dunree, in Donegal, when she first visited Artlink's site as International Artist in Residence in 2018. It quickly began to inform her work during the residency, which included a workshop with the local community to explore new rituals as a way of reflecting on our relationship with the earth and natural elements. "The Storm Tamer's Collection" was born from this experience, and has evolved into a collaborative project between visual artist Anaïs Tondeur and interdisciplinary designer and musician Yesenia Thibault-Picazo.

Anaïs Tondeur's artistic practice dissolves the boundary between art and science, exploring the intersections between natural sciences, anthropology, myth making and new media processes, fashioning speculative narratives to deepen our understanding of the world. Yesenia Thibault-Picazo is equally inspired by the exploration of the narrative

potential of materials. Defining herself as a "material teller", she uses design as a tool to engage audiences with contemporary ecological challenges, and examine our evolving relationship with nature.

The exhibition played off a subject of contemporary concern - climate change and our related quest to control our environment. Anaïs and Yesenia have taken an anthropological view of this most human of impulses and explored narratives that revolve around the ability to control the weather. There are many objects and practices represented in the collection, spanning time and continents. These stories of the "tempestarii" or "storm tamers" are captured within and represented by a series of physical objects that make up "The Storm Tamer's Collection". The collection was gathered through calls to contribute, public workshops and site specific research highlighting local folklore and rites around one natural element.

Today we are enthralled by the promises of our scientists and engineers to develop solutions to harness the power of the sun, or cool the atmosphere, or seed the clouds with rain; this collection is a timely reminder that our hopes and human frailties in the face of unconquerable nature is nothing new.

The installation was developed with the support and curation of COAL. It was first presented in PLEIN VENT, an exhibition curated by COAL at La Halle aux Sucres, Dunkerque, France (Oct. 2019 to Oct. 2020).



EXHIBITION

SHARED

BETHANY GARVEY WILLIAMS

SHORE FRONT | BUNCRANA
AUG 24 - 21ST SEP

Artlink has always been a community based organisation and the restriction on indoor events in 2020/21 presented a significant challenge in maintaining our relationship with our members and the wider public. Through a series of initiatives, we have brought exhibitions to our audience in a virtual replica of the Saldanha Gallery at Fort Dunree, in the windows of the former ESB Showroom, in the grounds of Fort Dunree and in this exhibition by artlink member Bethany Garvey Williams, along the old factory wall at the shorefront.

During this time of great emotional and social upheaval, artist Bethany Garvey Williams was inspired to research media sources to create a series of art works which reflect on the powerful emotional connection we all share in times of grief, political unrest and cultural celebration. These works, reproduced from original paintings, highlight the most human of responses at times of intense emotions - to gather and share our experiences. The work celebrates the energy of community that occurs through these gatherings and specifically this community, not an abstract idea, but the real people who make up this place. Collective gatherings, whether joyful or mournful, are a part of what weaves us together.

Bethany uses photographs, 'factual' representations of events, to base her compositions on, then applies her personal perspective by adapting the imagery. Her vision is realised by highlighting certain characters, loose and gestural mark making and adjusting colour, composition and perspective. Bethany's art practice is rooted in traditional painterly techniques while incorporating elements of contemporary news and commercial and social media as source material.

Bethany Garvey Williams, currently based in Dublin, has familial connections to Buncrana. Her work exhibited in the 'This is...,' Graduate exhibition, TU Dublin (2018) was purchased by the Irish state collection. She has been artist in residence in Abbey Church, Parnell Square, Dublin since 2018. This resulted in her first solo exhibition 'Parabola' (2020). Bethany has created installations, site-specific work and regularly contributes to community arts festivals in Donegal including The Amazing Grace Festival and Feel Good Fortnight.



PROJECT BEAUTIFUL BIODIVERSITY

THE MORE VARIETY THE BETTER SOCIETY

In 2020 Rebecca Strain helped set up The Green Pencils as a way to encourage people to be mindful and creative through drawing plants. During this time she began to make watercolour drawings of plants which provided food for pollinators. She created eight drawings which were shown in an exhibition at the newly refurbished Pong Shed on Culture Night 2020.

With support for Donegal County Council Artist Bursary in 2021 Rebecca developed a broader body of work of botanical studies of local pollinator friendly flowers, shrubs, trees and other plants. These were reproduced on ceramic tiles using a variety of processes including Decal. This project began in springtime and documented many of the common pollinators found locally. Rebecca employed local ceramicist Matthew Porter for technical assistance and sought assistance from Donegal ETB to enable the delivery of a series of community workshops where members of the public were invited to respond to the native flora and to design and make tiles. Tiles designed by the artist and in collaboration with the community have been installed permanently on site at The Potting Shed with a public unveiling on Culture Night 2021.





EVENTS

CULTURE NIGHT

18TH SEPTEMBER

Artlink marked this national day of culture with an open air event at The Potting Shed. Local musicians Nine Hazel Trees (Mickey Herron, Louise Doherty and Gary Raymond) provided the atmosphere with traditional and contemporary music and visitors were treated to afternoon tea. Artlink used the occasion to celebrate a number of recent achievements.

Aileen Barr, one of the founders of Artlink recently installed a series of site-specific ceramic tile panels produced as the result of her residency. These formed a trail around the fort so we marked the publication of a map showing the locations.

Local ceramic artist Matthew Porter of Puca Pottery worked with Rebecca Strain and the community to produce tiles illustrating native flora around the community garden so this was an opportunity to unveil the tiles.

Hannah Tucker's solo exhibition 'Paper Wave', consisting of collage works, was on show in the Saldanha Gallery. Hannah invited the public to engage with her creative process by making free collage packs for visitors. Twenty Artlink members produced a beautiful publication based on their work for "Drawn From Borders", shown at the Virtual Saldanha Gallery in 2020. Four of these artists were selected by writer and curator Garrett Carr to develop new work for an exhibition at the Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny in January 2022. Selected artists were announced at Culture Night.

Over the winter, over 50 people took part in online drawing workshops with artist Elaine McGinn as part of #LovetoDraw, a collaboration with Creative Lives. The project took place in Donegal, Carlow and Cork and a series of 60 postcards were produced from the drawings by participants across the three sites.

Artist in Residence Sarah Duffy hosted an open studio with audio demonstrations throughout the course of the event.





EXHIBITION

PAPER WAVE

HANNAH TUCKER

SEPTEMBER 10TH - OCTOBER 10TH

Hannah Tucker uses photomontage and collage to conjure images from her imagination. She dismantles found images in order to build new 'skins' or 'covers' that fuse the natural and man-made, often critiquing our relationship with both. Creating new images by camouflaging and disguising the originals, feathers morph into hair, a cityscape merges with oil tankers, using found images to create statements about living systems. She collects and designs images reflective of the natural world in conflict with the man-made environment.

"Moving to Donegal while continuing to work across the Arts & Heritage sector has increased my proximity to nature. Finding and photographing patterns and textures daily that I use within my work. I'm fascinated with patterns and form, I capture and collect images that have something in common, energy expressing itself as form."

Some of Hannah most recent work uses mixed media with paint, paper and marks. She often creates her own mixed media collage materials and incorporates them into her work to add dimension. Collage scraps she

finds and ephemera she collects at markets are woven into her mixed media work.

Hannah studied sculpture at Wimbledon School of Art and over the past 10 years has exhibited in the UK and Ireland. Since graduating she has moved from sculpture to print-making to photo-montage and mixed media. Eight years spent working at the Natural History Museum increased her interest in the natural world and our relationship with living systems. Hannah's print work was first exhibited in 2012 in a group exhibition at the Red Bull studios, London. She regularly exhibits at Brixton Urban Art and contributes to group shows at Artlink, all the time working on private commissions.



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EXCHANGE

STREET LEVEL, GLASGOW

Moira McIver, whose residency at Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow was originally planned for 2020 was finally able to visit in September 2021.

In her recent work she has used digital manipulation of family photography and official documents to explore three generations of migration between Donegal and Glasgow, from the 1930s-1980s. She draws attention to elliptical shapes as repeated patterns in the family photographs and official documents; the frame of the photograph, the official passport stamp allowing entry into another country, the lens of the eye in a medical chart. The ellipse is reminiscent of the artist's family's seasonal migration between countries, and revolving orbits of closeness and distance.

The residency at Street Level enabled her to further explore narratives around migration, travel and social connections between Glasgow and Donegal. In the 1930s, Jerome Photography Studios in Glasgow were very popular with Irish migrants. Many would have their studio photograph taken to send back, as postcards, to family in Donegal. She is interested in this popular history and also how projections of self have changed within the digital age. She is also interested in the private bus companies which have transported thousands of people back and forward between Donegal and Glasgow since the 1970s, through periods of border control, the Troubles and now into the era of Brexit. Malcolm Dickson and the team in Street Level were welcoming and supportive, linking her with local people and putting her in touch with other artists/photographers. She interviewed a number of people who were relevant to the project and took part in an Open Museum

Community online event where she connected with people who generously shared stories of their family's experience and showed her their family photographs. She also met with Frank McElhinney the artist who had completed a residency at Artlink in 2019 as part of the Artlink/Street Level Photoworks exchange and interviewed his father Frank, who had spent his summers in Donegal as a young man. Moira's photography and video works have been exhibited nationally and internationally, including USA, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands and included in group exhibitions such as; Northern Ireland; 30 Years of Photography, MAC Gallery, Belfast (2013). She worked on a number of site-specific public artworks for the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, Belfast, Maternity Unit (2007) and the Victorian Walled Garden, Bangor (2009)



EXCHANGE

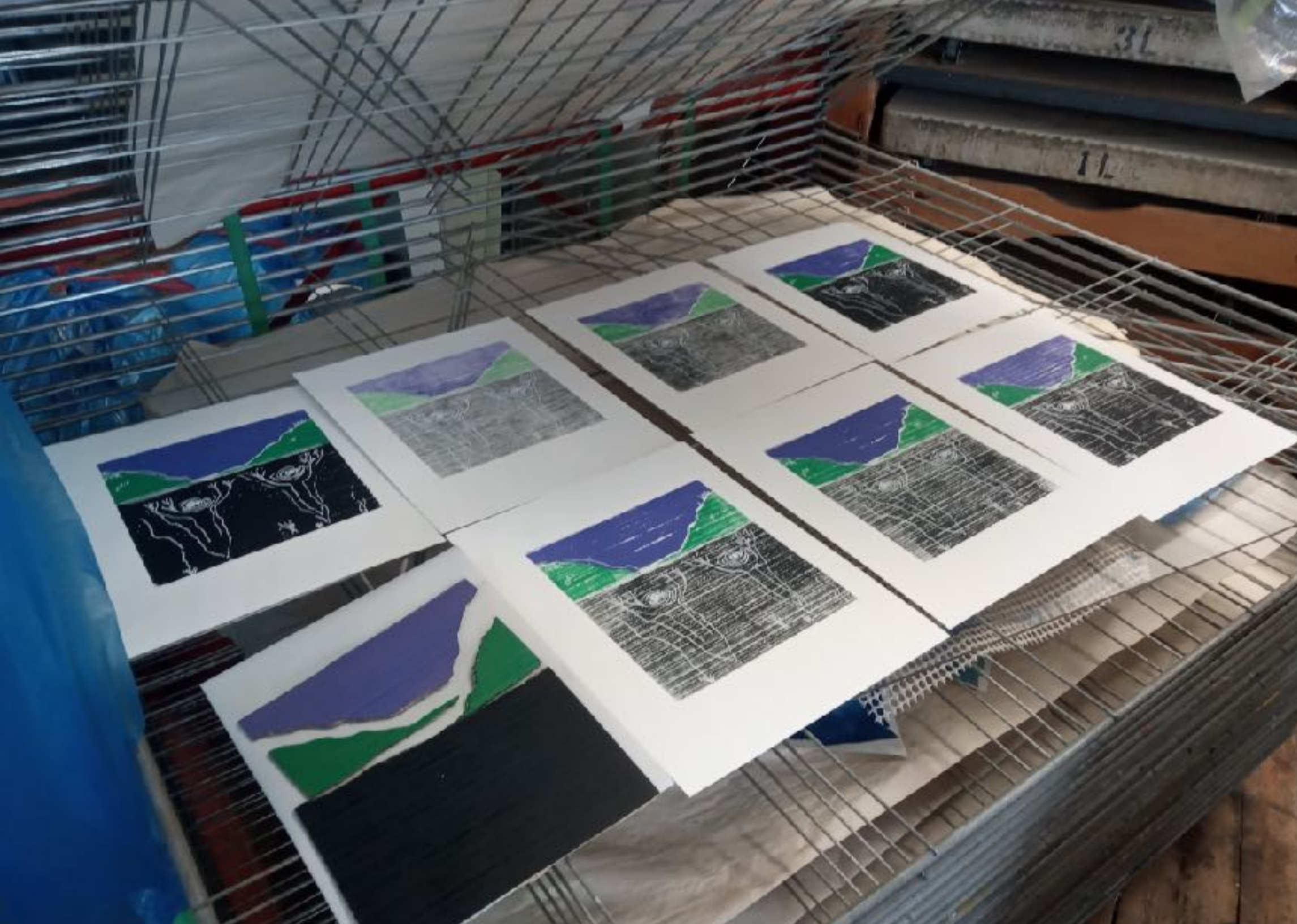
EASTERN EDGE ST. JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND

In 2019-20 we sought to establish International links with like minded organisations. These exchanges seek to strengthen professional relationships, develop professional practice between organisations and pave networks for artists from both regions.

Clíodhna Timoney was awarded the International Atlantic Residency Exchange alongside Newfoundland artist Michael Flaherty in 2020. Due to Covid restrictions the residency had to be postponed till October 2021. During this residency Clíodhna began the development of a series of sound works in response to the Transatlantic cable that runs between Valentia Island, Ireland and Hearts Content, Newfoundland. This cable was used as a starting point to explore our relationship to the subterranean and the Atlantic Ocean in the era of the Anthropocene. Over the course of six weeks, Clíodhna did daily walks along the harbour of St Johns, The North Head Trail, The Quidi Vidi Trail and East Coast Trail, which were all accessible from downtown St Johns where she was staying. On these walks she collected field recordings and material for the work as she went, research was also gathered on local folklore through several visits to the archives in The Rooms Museum. As well as this Clíodhna developed new imagery through various drawing processes within the Eastern Edge studios and had the chance to develop a print series in St Michaels Printshop through the generous help of their 2021 Don Wright Scholar Shazia Ahmad. Clíodhna also had the privilege of visiting fellow exchange awardee Michael Flaherty in Union House Arts, Port Union where she was offered a beautiful quiet workspace to build on the foundations of her new body of work.

Clíodhna would like to personally thank Mireille, Matthew, Shazia, Mike, Jane, St Michaels Printshop and the whole of the Eastern Edge Team for their generosity, support and wonderful conversations.

Clíodhna Timoney is a visual artist from Donegal. She graduated from IADT's Visual Arts Practice with a first class honours in 2015 and completed an MFA in Fine Art Sculpture at The Slade School of Fine Art, London, in 2020. Recent exhibitions include 'AE86', The Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny (2021); 'The Last Great Album of The Decade', The Lab, Dublin (2019), 'Periodical Review #8', Pallas Projects, Dublin (2018), 'Time after Time', 126 Artist Run Gallery, Galway (2018), 'Whoops', Triskel Arts Centre, Cork, (2018), 'Tatty Green Lampshade', Eight Gallery Dublin, (2018). She is currently a resident with The Fire Station Artists Studio's Dublin through the FSAS Residential Award 2021-2023.



ENGAGEMENT WALKING FESTIVAL

10TH - 12TH SEPTEMBER

Eleven community organisations in Inishowen came together to deliver the first Inishowen walking Festival, celebrating the history of Colmcille over the weekend of September 10 - 12. At the heart of the concept, when planning an Inishowen Walking Festival, it was acknowledged that there was a need to re-connect people following the pandemic. Artlink organised five walks around Duree. Artist in residence Sarah Duffy conducted an Audible Art Wander leading walkers to a viewpoint over the land of Cill Ard where recently the West Inishowen History and Heritage Society engaged archaeological geophysics organisation, Earthsound, to undertake an electromagnetic survey. According to local legend the site was a settlement, possibly monastic or Viking. This exploration has uncovered strong evidence for this. Sarah Duffy, with the cooperation of local artist and historian John McCarron, acquired the electromagnetic data and transformed it into a sound work to reveal something of the hidden history that lies below the soil. During this short wander, walkers listened to this newly created soundwork for the first time, with the land and surrounding areas in view.

A family friendly nature walk was guided by Artlink member, historian and environmentalist Terry Tedstone who previously worked on site and established Fort Dunree Wildlife and Nature group. Terry has a wealth of experience and knowledge on wildlife and knows the site like the back of his hand. Ecotherapist Michaela McDaid was the guide for a mindful wander around the majestic site at Fort Dunree. Meeting in Amach Anseo Community Garden for tea first, the group then embarked on a gentle walk leading to a 'sit pot' for a sunset meditation

around. After the guided communal meditation participants were invited to a solitary reflection.

Glór Inis Eoghain is a community group formed to promote the use of Irish in the Inishowen peninsula. Glór accompanied participants on a walk and talk as Gaeilge for all those interested in hearing and using Irish. Starting at Dunree Beach going on the hillside walk to Mamore gap road, then to the well of St Colmcille/St Eigne and back via the Pinch Road.

Green Hill Hike

The most strenuous walk in Artlink's programme was a 12 km hike led by walking expert Sharon Porter. This varied route included an old monastic site, turf cutting, windmills, a lough and the flora and fauna of the bogland, stopping on the summit of Aghaweel Hill giving panoramic views of Lough Swilly and West Donegal. Throughout the walk Sharon shared her extensive knowledge of local lore. The Inishowen Walking Festival is a co-funded project that has been supported through the Colmcille 1500 Grant Scheme (which is funded by the North West Development Fund and Creative Ireland, in conjunction with and supported by The Executive Office and The Irish Government) and Donegal Sports Partnership. DSP supports communities to increase and sustain levels of participation in sport and physical activity.



RESIDENCY

SARAH DUFFY

SEPTEMBER

It was great to be able to welcome our first international artist in residence since 2019. Sarah arrived, tooled up with an intriguing variety of devices for recording inaudible sounds (infrasonic, ultrasonic). She stayed in a house fairly close to the fort and has spent almost every day in and around the Artlink studio, gathering sounds and developing ideas for a performance and film as well as delivering several community engagement events.

She presented new work at the first Inishowen Walking Festival. She guided a group to Cill Ard, where West Inishowen Historical Society had commissioned an electro-magnetic induction survey. It is suspected that Cill Ard is the site of a monastic settlement, burial ground and a holy well.

Sarah had been in correspondence with John McCarron (of the WIHS) who in turn connected her with Earthworks, the company who carried out the survey. They provided Sarah with the data gathered and she used this to produce a 10 minute sonic piece that walkers listened to while looking at the site. The flag produced by Niamh McCann on her residency at Artlink in 2018 was used to mark the place that the inaudible sound was taken from. Sarah also contributed to Culture Night by hosting an open studio and audio demonstration in the Saldanha gallery.

"I was International Artist-in-Residence at Artlink Fort Dunree in September 2021 and found it to be a highly rewarding and stimulating experience that opened up new avenues in my Art practice. The Team at Artlink were very helpful, both in terms of practical assistance and in the development of the work I produced. I had many engaging conversations with the team and felt very supported in pursuing my project, resulting in the production of two new works - A sound piece based on geophysical data extracted from a nearby archaeological site, and a site-specific performance that took place on the ruins of the former officers' mess at Fort Dunree. The team were deeply knowledgeable about artmaking, as practicing artists themselves, and about the site of Fort Dunree and its unique characteristics. This enabled me to take a more rigorous, critical and thorough approach to the site. Furthermore, Fort Dunree is a spectacular source of inspiration for any artist. There is so much to uncover, and every day I spent exploring there I discovered something new and surprising that contributed to my overall project".

Sarah Duffy (b.1986) lives and works in the UK. She graduated in 2013 with an MFA from Goldsmiths, after which she became the inaugural recipient of The Acme Goldsmiths MFA Studio Award. Exhibitions and performances include: Enjoy The Silence at The Camden Arts Centre, London; The Frequency of Magic at out_sight Gallery, Seoul; and A Far Away Rendez-vous at SixtyEight Art Institute, Copenhagen. Selected residencies include: seMA Nanji at Seoul Museum of Art, South Korea and a Triangle Network/Gasworks Fellowship at Lugar a Dudas, Cali, Colombia. In 2020 Duffy joined the 5-year Acme Fire Station live/work programme in London. In 2022 Duffy will take part in a 3-month residency at Schloss Wiepersdorf in Brandenburg, Germany.



EXHIBITION

RECESS

LUCY ANDREWS

Following her residency at the end of 2019, Lucy Andrews returned to Fort Dunree to present a site-responsive exhibition called Recess. The title is used to refer to both a temporal interruption and to an architectural cavity. Throughout this body of work, a feeling of absence is reflected in voids and volumes; subtle displacements of matter creating changes in atmosphere.

The exhibition draws on the idea of the ruin as a manifestation of the passage of time and a decline of order, on the apocalyptic atmosphere of the site and its long-term processes of decay. Andrews' work also reflects on the more recent slowing in human activity - allowing other, smaller lifeforms to assert themselves. The artist has boarded up all the windows of the main gallery building with plywood panels, onto which she has carved the patterns of woodworm exit holes. Upon entering the darkened room, these marks appear as tiny apertures of light leaking through the wood. Scattered on the floor are piles of concrete, embedded with the fossilised forms of various eating and drinking vessels. A series of

antiquated aluminium cans (found under the floorboards of the old military buildings) are displayed in such a way as to reveal a slow process of erasure. Their specificity as artefacts gradually giving way to a raw materiality.

The Dirt drawings are large membranes made from liquid silicone that was poured onto and peeled away from various patches of ground, extracting and displacing a layer of the earth's surface. The works have a bodily presence, like a skin discarded by something living



WORKSHOP

CASTING IN CONCRETE AND PLASTER 2ND 9TH AND 16TH NOVEMBER

Cement casting workshopsIn response to Lucy Andrews exhibition
Recess Artlink offered casting workshops with local sculptor John
McCarron. The workshops ran for 3 weeks and 6 participants
made cast objects to take home.

RESIDENCIES

JESSICA AUER

Jessica Auer, a photographer, filmmaker and educator from Montreal, Canada, was selected as one of Artlink's artists-in-residence in 2021. She lives in Iceland where she is actively researching on the historic links between remote places in the North Atlantic. She also owns a photographic research centre called Ströndin Studio. Auer's residency project is looking to explore the landscape around Dunree to share her experience through a series of photographic artworks. Auer aims to reflect on how landscape shapes us, and how we in turn shape the landscape, by examining places such as historical sites, tourist destinations and small communities.

The artist proposes to create photographic works, to recall the past yet speak to Dunree as a contemporary site, photographing with a large-format (5×4) view camera as well as a mirrorless digital camera. The images are likely to be landscape based but may also include people if personal encounters arise. Her artistic research process will involve fieldwork and creation in a studio that will combine historical analogue processes with digital resources. She is planning on experimenting with various practices within photographic image-making to have as one possible outcome the creation of an artist book. She is interested in photographing ancient sites. For her, landscape and architecture have an innate capacity to be understood as locations where time is layered and compacted.

Walk and Talk: Jessica Auer Online 14th November

Jessica conducted a live walk and talk virtual event on Facebook. She gave a tour of Seyðisfjörður in East Iceland ending at her studio and workshop Ströndin studio.



PROJECT

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THAT HEAD OF YOURS?
CREATIVE SCHOOLS : GORTAHORK

Saldanha Gallery 18th - 25th November

Students from Ghort an Choirce Youthreach and artists Martha McCulloch and Rebecca Strain worked together throughout October, as part of the Creative Schools initiative. Students looked at how identities are created, those we build for ourselves and those determined for us by others. Using just their smartphones and simple props they explored how they might present different personas. The creative process involved looking at contemporary photographic artists like Cindy Sherman and Gillian Wearing and discussing ways to make effective emotive images. The artworks produced have been manipulated using cyanotype (sun printing) and photomontage to produce the playful, inventive work which made up the exhibition.





PROJECT

COMPASSIONATE CULTURE NETWORK

NOVEMBER 2021 - MARCH 2022

The Irish Hospice Foundation are developing a Compassionate Culture Network across Ireland, which aims to use creativity to open conversations around the often hidden experiences of grief and loss; to lift the taboo on this difficult subject that we often run away from. In this first phase, seven artist-facilitators and support workers worked in seven venues around the country inviting local communities to explore loss as un-lockdown happens. The aim was to explore how creativity help establish places where people can talk openly about loss. All seven groups worked as connected peers, learning from each other, with IHF bringing awareness, training, and support. The programme began with online training and information exchange in September. Group work began in October and runs until March 2022.

Martha McCulloch and Rebecca Strain have been based at St Mary's Hall (Buncrana Cinema) every Wednesday and extending an open invitation to the public to explore a variety of slow processes including paper making, collage/montage, paper weaving, cameraless photography and handmade books and boxes, providing a tangible outlet for thoughts and emotions that can't easily be expressed in words.





EXHIBITION

SILENT SPRING

GERALDINE TIMLIN

NOV 12 - DEC 5TH

Silent Spring is a much anticipated solo exhibition by Geraldine Timlin, a well known local artist who has a long association with Artlink, working with the founders in the early days designing and delivering community-based arts projects. She currently works in Special Education in Co Donegal supporting individuals with Special Needs, and is founder of the Avant Garden, a space for nurturing creativity and exploring the natural environment. Her own artistic practice explores aspects of Deep Ecology and our interconnectedness with the natural environment. She uses photography and film as tools in her creative investigation of environment and space, building a visual narrative of place and being.

Silent Spring draws on the philosophy of Buddhism and Deep Ecology, looking in depth at the actual reality of humanity's relationship within the natural world. The exhibition presents photography and video, recorded by Geraldine during the lockdowns of Spring 2020 and 2021.

Photographic panels merge landscapes and rivers, human form and trees, representing our interconnectedness within the ecosystem. A short meditative film projection with immersive sound, designed by Pedro Rebelo, invites the viewer to share the stillness and flow of the natural world.

The title of the exhibition is a reference to a pivotal piece of writing by the mother of environmentalism, Rachel Carson. In 1964, Carson foretold of a future where we would experience a silent spring, where no birdsong would be heard because ecosystems risked being eradicated as an effect of the human overuse of DDT and pesticides. As we emerge from eighteen months of experiencing a global reduction of human activity, a spring without voices became one, not as Carson had foretold, but one where birdsong replaced human voices. The very audible sounds of nature emerged louder and clearer, because of the lack of air and land traffic. The birds were having their 'Silent Spring' with little human interruption.

Silent Spring is an invitation to come along and be present. It is a distillation of recorded space, sound and stillness - a chance to contemplate the questions: where do we go next, as individuals, as a community and society? Do we return to the speed of life before restrictions were imposed? Have we been offered this pause in our existence to reflect and recognise our place in the deep ecology of the planet?

Geraldine Timlin is a visual artist living and working in Donegal. Her work explores aspects of Deep Ecology and our interconnectedness with the natural environment. She uses photography and film to document the creative investigation of environments and space, creating a visual narrative of place and being.

Pedro Rebelo is a composer, sound artist and performer working across socially engaged sonic arts, immersive listening experiences and chamber music with electronics. He is Professor of Sonic Arts at Queens University, Belfast and Director of the Sonic Arts Research Centre.



EXHIBITION

FIRING LINE

MATTHEW PORTER

DEC 9TH - JAN 16TH

This was the first solo exhibition by Matthew Porter, an emerging artist who lives and works in Buncrana. He runs Puca Pottery and specialises in ceramics using hand building techniques, with a focus on vessel form, texture and surface decoration. Drawing inspiration mainly from the surrounding landscapes, he applies a combination of marks, slips and colourants, building up layers of texture and spontaneous brushstrokes. Each of his pieces is infused with a sense of place or narrative through the use of found materials and objects which he uses to make brushes, stamps or scrapers.

The exhibition included monoprints and recent drawings using a laser cutter as well as ceramic sculptures and vessels.





RESIDENCIES

ANTHONY HAUGHEY ANTHEM

At 1pm on Sunday December 5th artist Anthony Haughey and more than 50 participants gathered at Fort Dunree to produce an artist intervention. Anthem is the outcome of Anthony's 2021 Artlink residency co-created with residents living near Fort Dunree, Buncrana and Drumfries. This event marks the centenary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on the 6th of December 1921. At that time Ireland was largely defined in terms of Nationalist/Unionist cultural identities. One hundred years later Ireland is a more culturally diverse society. This artwork questions what national identity means in twenty-first-century Ireland.

Anthony was artist-in-residence between June and December, spreading his residency out to maximise networking opportunities and to give time to distil ideas and allow them to become embedded in the location. He connected with a number of local groups including the Desertegney and Buncrana Foroige groups, Geraldine Timlin (Avant Garden) and Ned's Point Swimming Group. He also engaged with John Hegarty and John McCarron (West Inishowen history & Heritage Society) and other people with a sound knowledge of local history. Anthony hosted a number of workshops with these groups, asking participants to design flags to represent both Fort Dunree and Neds Point Fort as well as proposing a future flag for Ireland.

Fort Dunree was a strategic military site for the British during World War One and played a significant role during the Anglo-Irish treaty negotiations. Part of the settlement included an agreement for the British to retain sovereignty of Fort Dunree as well as two other 'Treaty Ports'. The ceremony to hand back the fort to the Irish government in 1938 was officiated by lowering the Union flag and raising the Irish tricolour, by a coincidence the flag bearers from the opposing British and Irish military were also brothers-in-law

This art intervention invited some of the participants who designed flags to raise them on flagpoles above Fort Dunree, in a non-militaristic act of citizenship. All of the participant's flag designs were available to view in the Saldanha Gallery.

In talking about the work Anthony Haughey comments "I am interested in re-shaping acts of commemoration and inviting participants and audiences to connect with complex historical events in not just an intellectual but also an emotional level. Anthem is part of a larger project I'm working on during my National Museum of Ireland Decade of Centenaries artist residency; in fact the work carried out at Artlink has been important in the development of this larger project".

Anthony Haughey is an artist, educator and co-founder of the Centre for Socially Engaged Practice Based Research at TU Dublin. Recent exhibitions include the film trilogy Assemble, made in collaboration with the Global Migration Collective; Citizen Nowhere / Citizen Somewhere: The Imagined Nation, Crawford Gallery, Cork; Go Down Moses, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago; Field Notes From the Border, and 21st Century Ireland in 21 Artworks, Glebe Gallery, Donegal. He recently collaborated with Seamus Deane to produce a billboard work in Derry railway station and was appointed National Museum of Ireland, Decade of Centenaries artist-in residence 2021-2023.



EVENT

THE GLASHEDY GIANT

MARK CULLEN | BOOK LAUNCH
DECEMBER 8TH

A new book aimed at both children and adults has been written and illustrated by Artlink member and Buncrana native Mark Cullen.

The story follows Shedy the giant who travels around Inishowen stopping off at sites like Shrove Lighthouse, Blanket Nook, Urris Lakes and Fort Dunree with his young sidekick Lemmy in tow. The book also includes historical facts about each site written by local artist and historian John McCarron. See <http://theglashedygiant.com/> for more.

The book launch included an illustrated talk by Mark on his working process and the inspiration behind the story.



BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Hill

Mark Hill is a sculptor working in the public domain. He is Co-Director of LUXE - Landscape Theatre Company www.luxe.ie. He holds a BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Art from Liverpool Art College. His career in Arts and Theatre spans over 30 years. Mark enjoys long term creative relationships with artists, arts organisations, festivals and funding bodies across Ireland and Internationally. As a dedicated community artist his work engages and is enjoyed on all levels.

Martin McGinley

Music Development Manager at Donegal Music Education Partnership, part of the Donegal Education and Training Board. Former BBC NI television reporter, former editor of the Derry Journal and Donegal Democrat. Well-known traditional fiddler.

Esther Alleyne

Arts and Culture Facilities Officer at Roe Valley Arts Centre Esther was Arts Business Development Manager at Loaf Pottery in Crawfordsburn and has worked with various regional and international organisations including Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company for 6 years as well as Young at Art, Gary Rowntree Dance and LUXe

Rena Donaghey

Cllr Rena Donaghey has a background in Social Welfare where she worked for 13 years. She has been a County Councillor in Donegal for 21 years, served for 5 years on Buncrana Town Council and is currently the Cathaoirleach (Mayor) of Donegal County Council. She has been employed by Donegal Education & Training Board (ETB) for over 20 years and was chairperson of Donegal ETB 2017-2018.

Sean Beattie

Sean Beattie: research historian, editor of Donegal Annual, Macklin Festival and Colgan Heritage Weekend committee member, chairman of Ulster Local History Trust, author of a number of books on Donegal history, Ph.D. specialising in Congested Districts Board. .Worked as a teacher of English, History and French in St. Joseph's Secondary School, Derry, subsequently at Ballyfermot Vocational School, Dublin. In 2013 he was awarded an honorary degree by the National University of Ireland, Galway.

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OUTDOOR EVENTS

