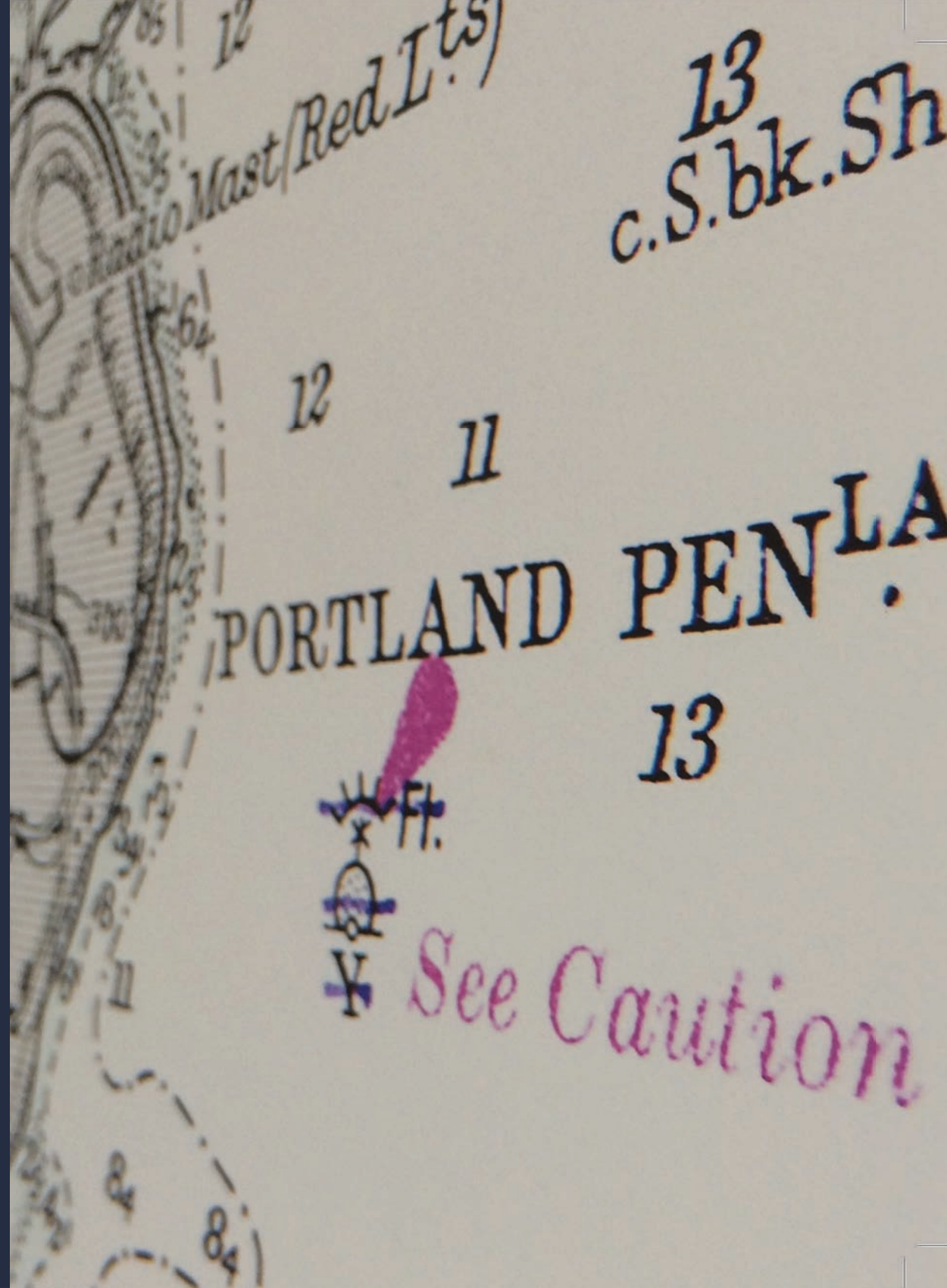




PROGRAMME REPORT

ACTIVITIES 2018

DETAILS AND PARTICIPANT NUMBERS



Front Cover image from "Project Cleansweep" by
Dara McGrath

ARTLINK

Artlink is an artist lead visual arts organisation, founded in 1992, currently based in the breathtaking cliff top location of Fort Dunree, Inishowen, County Donegal. Artlink supports the ambitions and profile of local, national and international artists by providing a platform for the realisation of innovative visual art projects. Through a programme of residencies, exhibitions and workshops, inspired by this stunning and historic coastal context, Artlink is helping build a strong, sustainable culture in the region. Artlink receives financial support from The Arts Council and Donegal County Council.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- **15.01.18 | GLASS WORKSHOP**

[1 Artist 1 Tutor 3 Participants]

The first of a series of glass workshops for small groups that took place throughout the year. Participants worked clear glass, dichroic glass, stringers and frit to create individual pieces that were fired in the Artlink glass kiln.

- **16.01.18 | ARTISTS MEETING**

[6 Artists / Participants]

A group of artists got together to discuss plans for the year.

- **17.01.18 | PHOTOGRAPHING ARTISTS WORK**

[1 Professional Photographer / 4 Participants]

Artlink arranged for a professional photographer to be onsite to make professional documentation of artists work to use in funding applications and on their websites. As a group the cost was much lower than if the artists had had gone individually to a photographer.



- 22.01.18 | Arts Council Meeting
[1 Artist 1 Board Member /Artist]

ARTS COUNCIL OFFICES, DUBLIN.

Following feedback from the Strategic Funding Application, Artlink were invited to meet with the Arts Council to discuss the future of the organisation and how it will be supported. It was advised that Artlink Ltd should apply for the Arts Grant.

- March 18 | Arts Council Grant Application
This extensive application took up all of our focus during the month of March. Studio artists were also exhibiting in two exhibitions at this time.

- 13.04.18
Board Meeting
[4 Board Members 1 Artist]
- 30.05.18
Board Meeting
[4 Board Members 1 Staff Member]
- 08.11.18
Consultation Workshop
[3 Board Members 1 Artist]
Artlink attended a workshop to inform the terms of reference of a cross border Donegal County/Derry City Strabane District-wide cultural engagement audience baseline survey and audience development programme

AMACH ANSEO

COMMUNITY GARDEN

- 08.01.18
Gutter Me Up - Water Harvesting
[1 Artist 4 participants]
- 13.01.18
Annual Meeting
[1 Artist 4 participants]
- 15.01.18
Water Harvesting & Watercolours
[1 Artist 4 participants]
- 01.02.18
Watering & Weaving
[1 Artist 3 participants]



- 05.02.18
How to develop a successful Community Garden
(Led by Joanne Lindsay Butler)
[1 Artist 6 participants]
- 10.02.18
Growing from Scratch
(Led by Michael Verspuji)
[1 Artist 1 Tutor 4 participants]
- 12.02.18
I Seed what you did there
Seed Planting
[1 Artist 1 Tutor 18 participants]
- 19.02.18
Ready for Bed
Planting
[1 Artists 3 participants]
- 24.03.18
Paddy's Purty Party
Potato Planting
[1 Artist 5 participants]



EXHIBITIONS



ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM CATHERINE ELLIS

16-29 April : Saldanha Suite.

Catherine Ellis presented a new body of work for the gallery space at Artlink. Her work draws on personal experience and the history of art and culture of the border regions. Often challenging, she is an artist who makes connections with the audience through shared memories and objects. She works in a variety of media, and many of her pieces have a striking sense of fun and left-field imagination – giant plaster eggs packaged in a half-dozen cardboard containers, wishbones cleaned and coated and strung together like Christmas decorations. A full-time artist based in Derry, she has a degree in Visual Communications from Ulster University Magee, and a Fine Art HND from the North West Regional College. This is the highest qualification achievable in Derry, but circumstances allowed her to commute to Belfast where she completed her degree. The contrast between life for artists in the two cities struck Ellis. Because Belfast offers a Fine Art degree, it draws groups, galleries, and facilities. 'There's an infrastructure there so individual artists can meet and you can feed off the creativity of others,' she says. 'That's why so many artists leave Derry and don't come back.'

<http://www.artlink.ie/soloshows/category/catherine-ellis>

1 Artist : 98 Visitors

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

PUSHKIN TRUST

26 April : Barronscourt Estate. Co. Tyrone
[2 Artists 24 Participants]

The theme for this year's Pushkin Trust, Barronscourt days, was 'Opening Ground'.

Two of Artlink studio artists designed and delivered workshops that involved visualisation through meditation and sun print or cyanotype using soil dug from Donegal to create contrast in the imagery. The pupils of both schools were fascinated by the magic of the reaction of the cyanotype medium to UV rays outside in the sun.



EXHIBITIONS



PROJECT : CLEANSWEEP DARA MCGRATH

08-27 May : Saldanha Suite.

Project Cleansweep is a photographic survey and investigation into the legacy and landscape of the chemical and biological weapons program in the United Kingdom over the last century. Documenting over 80+ sites and focusing on 4 that were key sites/ events. The project explores the sites used in the manufacture, testing, storage and disposal of these weapons.

The exhibition took place as part of Remote Photo Festival curated by Paul McGuckin.

<http://www.artlink.ie/soloshows/category/dara-mcgrath>

1 Artist 1 Curator 150+ Visitors

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

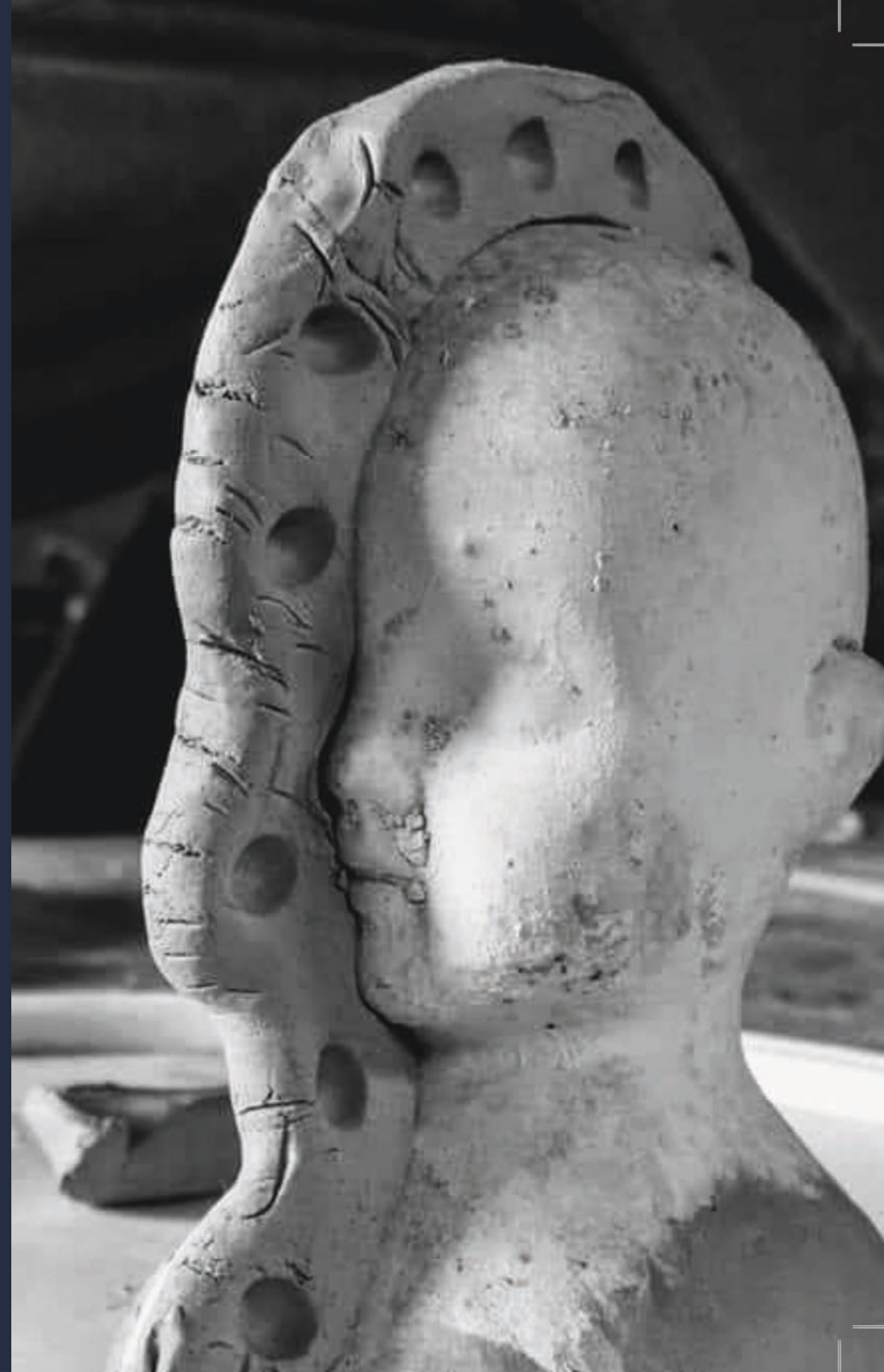
- **05-19.06.18 | CASTING WORKSHOP**
[1 Artist 5 Participants]

Local sculptor John McCarron led a series of casting workshops using resin, fibre glass etc for Artlink Members

- **03.07.18 | CYANOTYPE WORKSHOP**
[1 Artists 2 Facilitators 60 Participants]

As part of Feel Good Fortnight Artlink hosted two cyanotype workshops for the public including families and groups.

It was a great success and we were inundated with participants for this very hands on and magical process.



RESIDENCIES

AILEEN BARR

09-24.08.18

Aileen studied Craft Design at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, specializing in Ceramics and has been creating handmade tile projects for the public arena for the past 22 years. As well as establishing Artlink (with Marie Barrett and Lisa Spillane), she led a number of community based Public Art projects in Donegal through Artist in Residence in Schools projects and Artist in the Community projects before emigrating to the United States in 2002.

During her residency she delivered a talk and ran workshops in various techniques for working with clay and is working on a public artwork for the site.

[1 Artist 60 Participants]







RESIDENCIES

ANAIS TONDEUR

12-27.08.18

Anaïs Tondeur, a visual artist based in Paris is a graduate of Central Saint Martin's School and the Royal College of Art, London. Her art practice has included collaborations with anthropologists, philosophers, oceanographers and geophysicists and explores the interface between sense and science, fact and fiction. Her work dissolves the boundary between art and science, creating a mysterious and lyrical journey which traces absence, memory and loss.

During her residency Tondeur ran three participatory workshops and a talk and has plans to return in 2019.

[1 Artist 1 Facilitator 50 Participants]



EXHIBITIONS



ARTLINK MEMBERS SHOW

21.07-12.08.18 : Saldanha Suite.

This year the guest curator, Rita McMahon, from the 126 Gallery in Galway, asked Artlink members to respond to the theme of "Everyday Encounters".

Rita said, "I have been surprised and delighted by the variety and quality of the works that have been submitted for this exhibition. Each member artist was allowed to submit 3 pieces from which I would make one selection for inclusion in the show. This has given me the scope to create a themed exhibition that flows around the beautiful gallery spaces at Fort Dunree. The setting for this exhibition is far from 'everyday', with the spectacular views from the gallery looking out across the Atlantic; it helps to create a very special atmosphere for this exhibition."

Exhibiting artists were: Patrick Jude Clafferty, Deirdre Doherty, Jacqui Devenney Reed, Hilary Morton, Janet Hoy, Veronica Buchanan, John McCarron, Terry Tedstone, Sinead Smyth, Lisa McGill, Catherine Ellis, John Black, Patricia Spokes, Mary McCarrol, Leanne Mc Laughlin, Josephine Kelly, Richard O'Connor, Danielle Eve Griffin, Katrina Tracuma, Kevin McLaughlin, Geraldine Timlin, Sally Patton, Myriam Rommers, Ann Vance, Bernard De Couster, Mhairi Sutherland, Mathew Porter, Tansy Cowley, Martha Mc Culloch, Sinead Walsh, Bernie Masterson, Michael Mc Cleary, Eileen Welch, Nicola Gunwhy, Utopia Ducks, Aodan Mc Cardle, Ailbhe Hines

[1 Curator 44 Artists 200+ Visitors

<http://www.artlink.ie/group-exhibitions/everyday-encounters-curated-by-rita-mcmahon>

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

22.08.18 | THE GATHERING

[1 Artist 4 Tutors 60 Participants]

This was a partnership project between Artlink and a range of locally based groups and creative producers from the area. "The Gathering" presented an insight into, and an opportunity for the public to engage with, a wealth of local knowledge in areas of history, heritage and tradition. Sited at Fort Dunree, and developed from "Fortifying Beds", an original installation by renowned Irish artist Christine Mackey, The Potting Shed is now the centre for the activities of a community based group 'Amach Anseo'. Members of Amach Anseo are developing The Potting Shed to grow indigenous vegetables in a natural way, and to provide an educational resource for the community. "The Gathering" brought together like minded individuals with a story to tell in the preservation of our natural environment and food heritage. This enlightening event involved demonstrations centred around organic vegetable production, seaweed, traditional bread making, bee keeping and honey harvesting.





Rebecca Strain of Amach Anseo welcomed some 60 people to The Gathering, giving an introduction which outlined the purpose and programme for the event and how it fitted in with the aims of National Heritage Week.

Moving through the fort, the audience then were given an explanation and demonstration of the development of a Wormery, outlining its value in the regeneration of the soil in 'The Potting Shed', an overview of the range of Heritage Variety vegetables which are grown there, and an explanation of the water-harvesting system which allows the beds to be maintained in an area with no mains water.

After the general introduction, Fergal and Svetlana Megannety delivered a talk about honey, a food old as the hills that appears throughout the history of Ireland. In fact the bee industry was so important that a significant number of pages of Brehon Law called the 'Bee-judgements' set down the laws around bees, hive and honey. With some of the tools, equipment and clothing involved an engaging demonstration was presented along with the opportunity for those attending to ask questions.

With the audience (and the produce) gathered, William McElhinney, a.k.a. "The Seaweed Man" / "Dulamanfada" (An accredited Heritage Guide) then gave a practical - and at times interactive - demonstration of the use of locally sourced produce including seaweeds, plants and herbs. At the centre of the evening was the idea that the people gathered should take a 'hands-on' part in the event, sharing their skills, stories, ideas and experience of our common heritage. With food and drink prepared collectively, the participation of all those attending rather than a passive audience event, represented a real involvement and manifestation of the ideals of the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

"To encourage the sharing and appreciation of Europe's cultural heritage, to raise awareness of our common history and values and to reinforce a sense of belonging in a common European space. European cultural heritage allows us to understand the past and to look to our future."

Artlink documented the event by way of photographs, video documentation of the evening and interviews with the key participants. The documentation and recordings of the event will form a part of Artlink's ongoing archives and will be available online via Artlink's website and YouTube, while also being made available as a developmental tool for the groups and individuals involved, and as an educational resource.

<http://www.artlink.ie/community-engagement/category/the-gathering>



EXHIBITIONS

THREE SQUARE MILES JOSEPHINE KELLY PAINTINGS

20.08-16.09.18 : Saldanha Suite

1 Artist 1 Facilitator 1 Technician 1 Photographer 800 Visitors

One of the most important abstract painters in the north-west of Ireland, Josephine Kelly developed her unique vision early in her artistic career.

The landscape of a very particular corner of her native Donegal is her singular preoccupation. These paintings are intimate, gentle and balanced in composition; rich and imaginative in colour.

They are about the landscape she inhabits, the local townlands and her daily passage through them rather than the spectacular, sweeping landscape vistas of tourist brochures. Clonglash, Druminderry, Clonblosk and Clamperland - four townlands on the outskirts of Buncrana - are her 'Three Square Miles'. The authentic flavour of the west of Ireland pervades her work.

Born in Buncrana, Co. Donegal, Josephine studied Fine Art at the University of Ulster graduating in 1997. She has exhibited extensively in Ireland and also in Paris and London over the past 20 years. Her paintings are held in many of the important public and private collections including the OPW collection, The Civil Service Collection, Northern Ireland, IBEC, The Housing Executive at NI and The Carvel Group.





Of her work she says "These works are elevations of the rural; the everyday. I am fascinated by the local light which is ever changing in a day. They are snatches of place, daily rituals and people. These paintings are a visual diary of transient fleeting encounters built up over months. They are taken from memory and experience and are both representation and abstraction. I enjoy our preoccupation with the weather, the approaching storms which we endear with first names; passing showers, light and dark. It transforms these ordinary places into another world of colour and light".

<http://www.artlink.ie/soloshows/category/josephine-kelly>



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- **12.09.18**
SLAB BUILDING RAKU WORKSHOP
[1 Artist 1 Facilitator 12 Participants]

Prior to Culture night artist Matthew Porter ran a slab building workshop creating vessels that would be fired later in the week at a public event on Culture Night.

- **21.09.18 | CULTURE NIGHT EVENT**
[1 Artists 2 Facilitators 50 Participants]

As part of a national program of cultural events Artlink organised a public Raku firing event at The Potting Shed. The twilight event was well attended and the spectacle the demonstration offered was thrilling and informative.



EXHIBITIONS

THE OUTER EDGE

JACQUI DEVENNEY REED

20.10-25.11.18

1 Artist 1 Curator 200+Visitors

Since the 2007 "Edge Centring" project, Artlink have been forging creative connections with arts organisations and artists based in similar remote communities on the edge of the Atlantic, in both Iceland and Norway. This forms an element of a long term cultural project supported by Donegal County Council Arts Service. As part of this initiative, Donegal artist Jacqui Devenney Reed visited Skriduklaustur in East Iceland. Here she was able to pursue her creative quest to "trace the journey of the Monks who left Donegal, to travel in a hide-covered boat to Iceland" and understand more about the connections forged over centuries.

The selected works draw inspiration from the raw authenticity of the landscape, evoking the spirit of challenging self-discovery that characterizes the narrative of Gaelic monasticism from centuries past. These images suggest not simply a sense of isolation but also examine the lure of such barren places.





ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

PAGES OF THE SEA

Commissioned and produced by 14-18 NOW, the UK's arts programme for the First World War centenary, and delivered with partner organisations across the UK: National Trust; Activate Performing Arts; Creative Foundation; Eden Project; National Theatre Scotland; Nerve Centre; Sunderland Culture; Taliesin. In association with Aberystwth Arts Centre; The Grand Theatre of Lemmings; Magna Vitae; MOSTYN; SeaChange Arts; Swansea Council; Swansea University; Theatre Orchard; and Visit Blackpool. Supported by The National Lottery and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. With additional support from Backstage Trust, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch) and National Rail.

- **04.-06.11.18**
"PAGES OF THE SEA" : Schools Workshops
[2 Artists 1 Project Manager 90 Participants]

Two artists worked with local schools to discuss the themes of the project including war, loss, death, remembering, symbolism and traditions. The resulting work was displayed at Saldanha Gallery

- **07.11.18**
"PAGES OF THE SEA" : Public Talk
[1 Speaker 1 Project Manager 14 Participants]

A talk by Seamus Breslin at Buncrana Community Library Wed. 7th Nov 6.30pm - 7.30pm.

A talk about the post Armistice experiences of all WW1 veterans from the North West of Ireland, but in particular that of the Nationalist veterans whose story has seldom been told.

- **10.11.18**
"PAGES OF THE SEA" : Poetry Workshop
[1 Poet 1 Facilitator 6 Participants]

Poetry Workshop on the theme of remembrance with author Aileen Mc Gee at Buncrana Community Library; Sat 10th November 10am - 12pm (for Children): 12.15pm - 2.15pm (for Adults)



- 04.11.18
"PAGES OF THE SEA" : TRIAL RUN
[1 Artist 1 Project Manager 4
Producers]

At the launch of "Pages of the Sea" Project, Danny Boyle said: *"Beaches are truly public spaces, where nobody rules other than the tide. They seem the perfect place to gather and say a final goodbye and thank you to those whose lives were taken or forever changed by the First World War. I'm inviting people to watch as the faces of the fallen are etched in the sand, and for communities to come together to remember the sacrifices that were made."*



PAGES OF THE SEA PORT BAN

- 11.11.18
"PAGES OF THE SEA" : Public Event
[1 Artist 5 Producers 6 Participants
2 Project Managers 2 Photographers
1 Co-Ordinator 350+ Participants]

Dunree joined over 30 beaches across the UK and Ireland on Sunday 11 November for Pages of the Sea, Danny Boyle's commission for 14-18 NOW to mark the centenary of Armistice Day. The event was an informal, gesture of remembrance for the millions of men and women who left their home shores during the First World War, many never to return. It will be delivered in Northern Ireland and County Donegal by the Nerve Centre and National Trust, in partnership with Big Telly Theatre Company, Stendhal Festival, UV Arts, Artlink and Live Music Now.

<https://youtu.be/jG9VaJGQUF4>



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- SOIL TO SEED

18.11 + 25.11 + 02.12.18

[1 Tutor 1 Facilitator 8 Participants]

Local Horticulturalist Mik Verspuij ran an ETB funded gardening course which while being fun and informative also enabled us to develop The Potting Shed area.

INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS

with MATTHEW PORTER

21.11 + 28.11 + 05.12.18 + 12.12.18

[1 Tutor 1 Facilitator 10 Participants]

Now that we have reinstated our kiln and have a local qualified ceramicist we decided to make the best use of these resources and to find out what kind of interest there would be in this area. We barely had the word out before we were fully booked.



EXHIBITIONS

THERE'S ALWAYS A REASON FOR SOMETHING HILARY MORTON

01.12-21.12.18

1 Artist 200+Visitors

The exhibition captured the artist's singular vision of the world in an exhibition ranging across materials and mediums, though always displaying an affinity to the beauty of the found object - "the ready-made".

Playing with found objects and exploring their potential for the communication of ideas, Morton examines the preoccupation of contemporary society with our emotional landscape. Though her work is often playful and quirky, on closer inspection you will see reflected darker subplots, with such themes as displacement and alienation, estrangement and exploitation. Morton tackles challenging concepts - such as the meaning and meaninglessness of labels when considering gender and identity - through to playful ideas drawn from fairytale visions from childhood.





Image from "There's Always A Reason For Something"
by Hilary Morton



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



ÁR NOIDHREACHT:
MAR A CHASANN ÁR SEANCHAS
AR A BHFUIL ROMHAINN



An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

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