

**ARTLINK**

# PROGRAMME REPORT

ACTIVITIES 2020





# ARTLINK

Artlink, a thriving artist-led visual arts organisation formed in 1992, is based at Fort Dunree, Inishowen, County Donegal. It exists to support the ambitions of local, national and international artists at all stages of their careers. Artlink also 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, solo exhibitions by local artists, 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.

Along with the rest of the world Artlink's plans for 2020 were forced to change significantly due to the 'lockdown' imposed in March 2020, due to Covid-19. We adapted and embraced the possibilities afforded by working online, continuing to show new artwork and welcome visitors. This involved a steep learning curve but we made the best of this very difficult situation. Working with artist and animator Mark Cullen, the Saldanha gallery at Fort Dunree was reproduced in virtual form. To promote the virtual gallery and other online content in our programme a new website was developed [www.artlinkonline.ie](http://www.artlinkonline.ie). Some aspects of the programme could not be adapted to the new circumstances however. Travel restrictions and social distancing regulations necessitated the postponement of the artist residency programme. However in the meantime the artists-in-residence and Artlink community were brought together online.

Artlink's base at Fort Dunree was outwith the 5km travel limit for members of the core team and the work of Artlink deemed "unessential" so all of the work had to be carried out from home for all but a few weeks between March and December 2020. Despite this the team maintained regular contact with one another and with Artlink's members, residency artists and colleagues in other organisations locally, nationally and internationally. The opportunity to develop international links was one of the benefits of the move to online working.







# EXHIBITION

## A PLACE TO ESCAPE

**PATRICIA SPOKES**

**5TH APRIL - ONGOING**

With the Covid-19 outbreak changing the way everyone in the world was working and living their daily lives, artists were learning to adapt as exhibitions, workshops, residencies and events were in suspension.

During this period Patricia Spokes, project co-ordinator at Artlink, made good use of her time. She used her art practice to fill her time in isolation and used painting as a release from the stress and anxiety caused by constant news coverage and the requirement to stay put. She continued with her ongoing series of paintings of forests and woodlands. These landscapes are imagined spaces, not depictions of specific locations, and this is reflected in the way in which the exhibition, which doesn't physically exist, was presented.

The exhibition took the form of a video animation built using documentation of the paintings and photographs of the Saldanha gallery at Fort Dunree. The exhibition was launched in a Watch Party on Facebook on 5th April and continues on Artlink's YouTube Channel and Facebook page.

An imagined walk-through of the exhibition can be seen here:  
<https://youtu.be/w7c3hy8crgQ>





# PROJECT:VSG

## VIRTUAL SALDANHA GALLERY

In April 2020 we began working with Artlink Member Mark Cullen (pixelrogue.com) to discuss ways in which we could develop a virtual program. Mark designed a virtual 3D replica of the Saldanha Gallery at Fort Dunree from photographs and site plans.

The online experience, which was built on the Unity gaming platform, allows visitors to stroll around the space at their leisure. There is no need to download software; users can navigate the space from their computer using a mouse and keyboard to move around.

A virtual space also allows artists to show their work in an innovative way presenting new opportunities for installing works not possible in reality. Anyone can virtually 'wander' through the exhibition rooms, at any time during the day or night. Overall this is a great resource for both artists and audiences.







# EXHIBITION

## MARKY'S DOODLE DANDY

**MARK CULLEN**

**26TH APRIL - ONGOING**

Mark Cullen describes himself as a creative experimentalist. He works in both digital and traditional media in equal amounts and projects range from games production and animation to illustration and digital painting.

For the inaugural show in the new virtual replica of the Saldanha Gallery Mark Cullen presented an online exhibition of his doodles. He is a prolific doodler, constantly drawing characters and ideas; often comic, frequently political and sometimes heartbreakingly beautiful. Artlink was delighted to be working with Mark to create this very new piece of work that combines programming and 3D design with pen and paper sketches.

### Exhibition Tour

The exhibition launch, including a live tour of the exhibition presented by the artist, was streamed on a Facebook Live event at 7pm on Sunday 26th April.









# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## AMACH ANSEO COMMUNITY GARDEN

### 'How to' videos online

In March 2020 Amach Anseo Community Garden relocated to co-ordinator Rebecca Strain's home garden. Here she continued the processes of sowing, watering, nurturing, planting, weeding all aided by her 3 ¾ year old son who inspired the idea of the community garden in 2017. Every Tuesday they placed seeds and seedlings in a box and placed it on a public wall for passers-by to take home and grow. Every Friday they published a 'how to' for absolute beginners with no equipment and maybe no garden space.

#### Week 1: How to Grow Potatoes

It's simple! A short clip showing all you need to start growing your own potatoes at home.

#### Week 2: How to Grow Strawberries

It's really simple to grow your own delicious strawberries at home. This short guide demonstrates how to nurture hanging baskets of fruit.

#### Week 3: How to Sow Tomatoes

It's easy peasy to grow your own food, this short clip shows how to sow tomato seeds so that you can enjoy your own home-grown juicy tomatoes in the summertime

#### Week 4: How to Grow Peas

From sowing to making a tripod for peas to climb.



Week 5: How to Grow Cucumber

Have you heard of seed tape? Well it's a super easy way to plant seeds

Week 6: How to Grow Carrots

How to grow carrots in milk and juice cartons. It's a fun and easy way to grow your own food.

Week 7: Earthing up potatoes and growing from food scraps

Don't have seeds? no problem you can still grow your own food from food you have bought in the shops. Also make the most of your potato crop.

Week 8: How to make a wormery

Turn kitchen waste into nutritious compost to grow your own food. It's simple, economic and environmentally friendly





# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## THE GREEN PENCILS

The Green Pencils is a Facebook group set up in April 2020 to complement #LoveToDraw, a project developed by Voluntary Arts Ireland in partnership with Artlink, the Glucksman Gallery Cork and Take A Part Carlow.

#LoveToDraw aimed to use drawing as a gateway into the visual arts, encouraging people to interact with their familiar, everyday world and to share their creativity with others. The project was to involve a series of workshops with specific groups within the community with artist Elaine McGinn, to take place at Fort Dunree. These were originally scheduled to take place in April 2020 but had to be postponed so The Green Pencils stepped in to keep up momentum, keeping us connected to the community. With everyone restricted to moving in just a 2km radius from their homes The Green Pencils invited us to get drawing, inspired by the plant life our immediate surroundings and to share our observations with the world.



DAY IV. EVENING.

1. Day.

Chants.

Mass.





# EXHIBITION

## STILL

**1ST MAY - ONGOING**

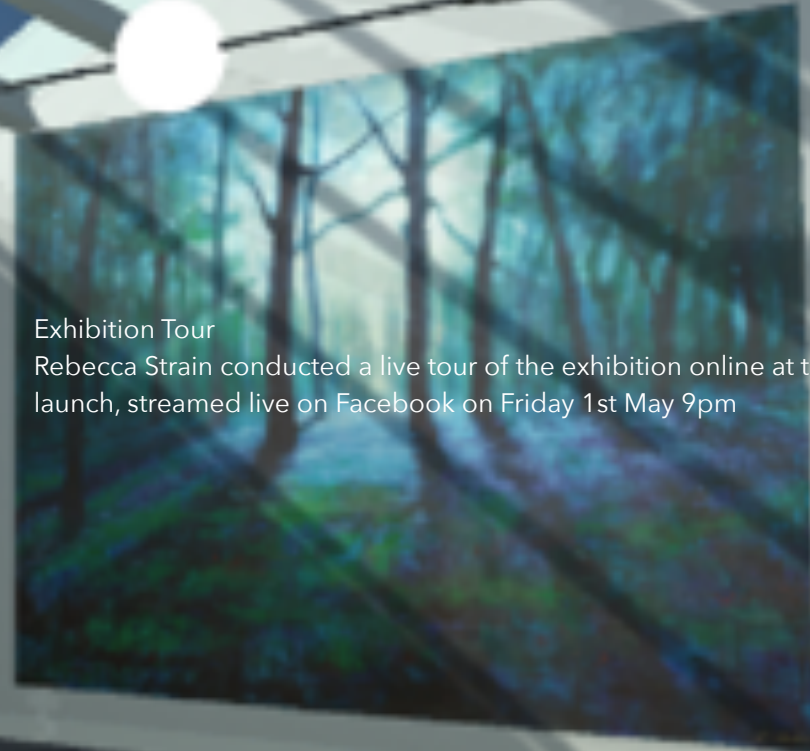
Still featured work by the Artlink studio artists, Patricia Spokes, Martha McCulloch, Matthew Porter, Janet Hoy and Rebecca Strain, who have responded to the theme "Still"..

The artists had all been missing the community and inspiration provided by working on site at Fort Dunree. But - still - they found creative inspiration in what they experienced around them, even if their world had shrunk so dramatically to their own household and a 2 km radius. In a sense everything stopped still during lockdown, but the artists are still artists and can still communicate with each other and an audience... so, in a sense, they wanted to make that statement and demonstrate the positive effect creativity can have on people during these strange times.

Meeting regularly online to collaborate on the exhibition and working with Mark Cullen to explore the potential of animation to present the work in new ways that would not be possible in the 'real' world, they discovered new ways to bring their work to an audience

### Exhibition Tour

Rebecca Strain conducted a live tour of the exhibition online at the exhibition launch, streamed live on Facebook on Friday 1st May 9pm







# EXHIBITION

## DRAWN FROM BORDERS

12TH MAY - ONGOING

PARTICIPANTS:

ANNA MARIE SAVAGE

ANNE LOVEDAY

BERNADETTE BRADLEY

BRENDA MC PHERSON

CAROLINE KUYPER

CLARE TOLAND

JACQUI DEVENNEY REED

JANET HOY

KATRĪNA TRAČUMA

MARIAN O'DONNELL

MARK CULLEN

MARTHA MC CULLOCH

MARY-JOYCE DAVIS

MOIRA MC IVER

NOEL CONNOR

ORLA MC KEEVER

PAUL CAIRNS

PAUL MURRAY

SALLY PATTON

SUE MORRIS & DNK

TINA O'CONNELL



Drawn From Borders was a project led by artists for artists which explored the concept and reality of borders, specifically the border created 100 years ago by The Partition of Ireland.

The project supported the Artlink members participating, enabling them to research and develop work collectively and independently that was initially planned to be exhibited in 2020 at the Tower Museum Derry~Londonderry and Fort Dunree.

Drawn from Borders formed part of a broad approach to explore events in Ireland 100 years ago using a museum exhibition, field trips, public talks, and critique sessions. After the lockdown the group started to meet online with the view to creating a virtual exhibition of the participants' work.

On Thursday 21st May at 12.30pm the exhibition was previewed in a Facebook Live event on Artlink's Page as part of Culture Ireland's #IrelandPerforms. Rebecca Strain, project coordinator, conducted a tour of the exhibition and gave an overview of the project. This was recorded and is available on [artlinkonline.ie](https://artlinkonline.ie).

Ireland Performs was presented by FACEBOOK Ireland and Culture Ireland, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht and delivered in partnership with First Music Contact and Poetry Ireland and in association with RTÉ. The programme was intended to support Irish artists and ensure that the arts continued to be enjoyed online during the Coronavirus crisis.

Drawn From Borders was a free creative engagement programme exploring key moments in Ireland's history, delivered by Artlink, Nerve Centre and the Tower Museum.

The programme was part of the 'Understanding the Decade of Centenaries' project delivered by the Nerve Centre in partnership with the Tower Museum and supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



# EXHIBITION

## PLACES WE LOVE

### ARTLINK MEMBERS SHOW

#### 3RD AUGUST - ONGOING

This year's annual Artlink Members exhibition was held at the VSG; a virtual replica of the Saldanha Gallery, an online experience of the space where we've hosted our members show since its inception in 2015.

In considering a suitable theme that reflected the issues of current times we turned to poetry and to Ivan V Lalic a Yugoslavian poet who knew much about change and place. We asked our members to contemplate the poem 'Places We Love' in selecting suitable artworks for this exhibition.

A total of forty five artists from Donegal and beyond were inspired by the theme and exhibited in this year's show. Artworks include painting, drawing, printmaking, moving image, photography, collage and performance. We were able to build rooms online to accommodate the additional interest this year and the space is open 24/7.

#### Online Events & Activities

Artlink hosted a live online launch and exhibition tour on Facebook Live 3rd August at 7pm, recorded and made available on [artlinkonline.ie](http://artlinkonline.ie).







# FILM

## PHILIP MCFADDEN

Philip McFadden is a long time supporter and member of Artlink. This video had somehow been left on the shelf for a while, so one of the few positives of our enforced lockdown has been the opportunity to finally get it edited and get it out there. With a career stretching back more than 30 years and with time spent here and abroad, Philip continues his practice now within a few hundred yards of Malin Head.









# EXHIBITION

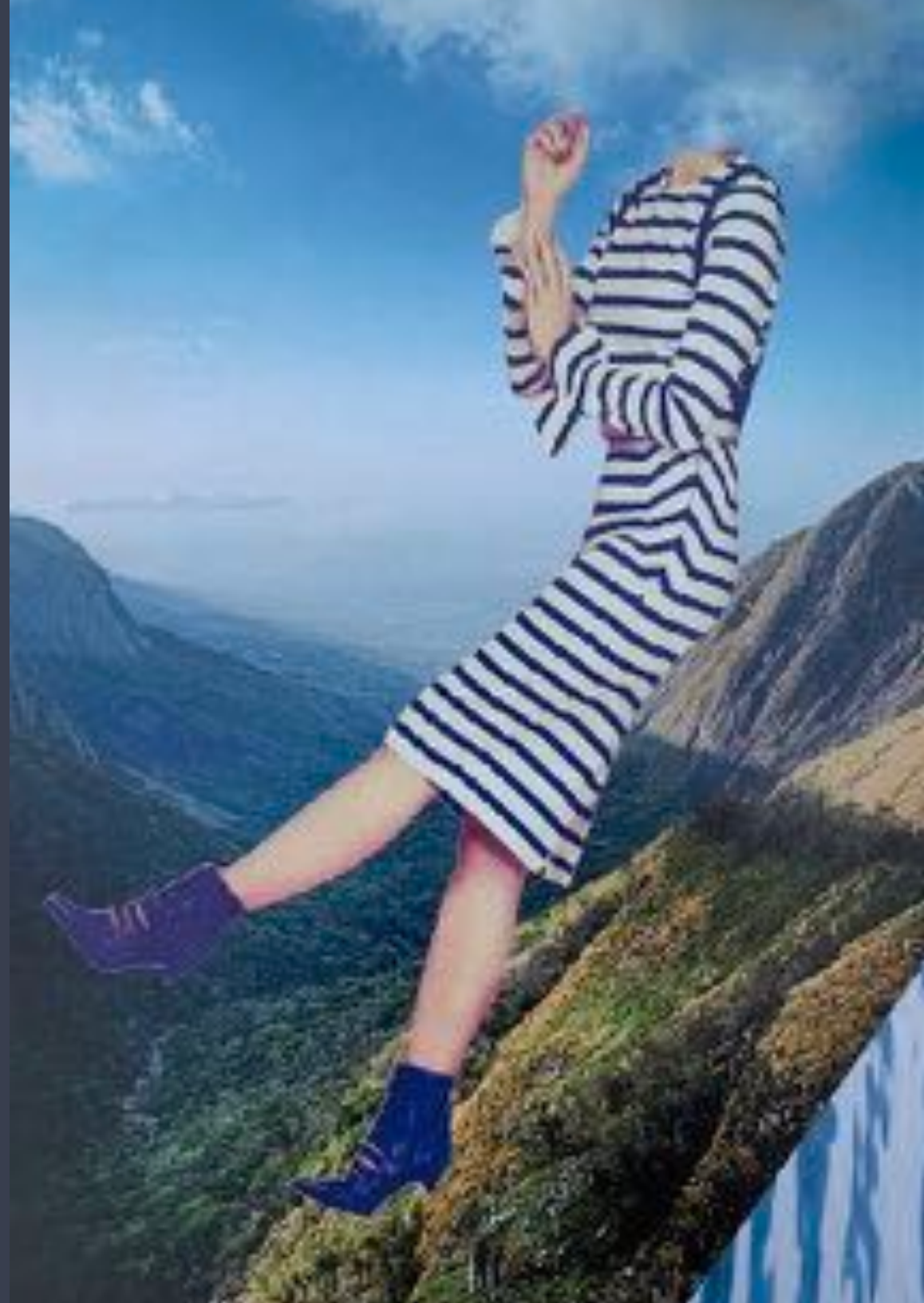
## PLACES WE LOVE 2

**ARTLINK MEMBERS SHOW**

**10TH AUGUST - 25TH SEPTEMBER**

As the year went on and the Covid19 pandemic impacted our ability to travel, to gather and to interact in the physical world, we all learned to adapt to the ever changing regulations and restrictions. In the latter half of the year, there seemed to be signs that life might move back towards a more familiar pattern. An easing of some restrictions meant that the Saldanha building could once again be open to visitors. On the spur of the moment Artlink hired the Saldanha Gallery to install what work we could from the online members show. We knew it wouldn't suit everyone but for those able to deliver their work (or have it delivered) ready to hang we installed it in the gallery space.

For a while we interacted with visitors in masks who dutifully followed the arrows on the floor and the distancing measures. A few artists sold works, more were just glad to be participating in an offline programme and sharing their work with the public. Little did we know how brief our freedom would be. On 25th September galleries in Donegal were closed again due to Level 5 Restrictions.





# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## AMACH ANSEO COMMUNITY GARDEN

### REWILDING YOUR GARDEN

WITH COLM GRANT, MICHIEL VERSPUIJ  
AND DANIEL GALLANAGH

6 WEEK ONLINE PROGRAMME FUNDED BY DONEGAL ETB

Everyone's beloved environmentalist Sir David Attenborough has told us time and time again that we need to care for our planet. He is deeply concerned about the extreme loss of wild habitats that support important flora and fauna. In response to his call and that of other world experts this year's theme for Amach Anseo is 'Biodiversity'. Before lockdown the ETB awarded funding for a course in re-wilding your garden so rather than cancel the course it was re-designed so that it could be delivered online via Zoom.

Through a series of workshops with local experts Colm Grant, Michiel Verspuij and Daniel Gallanagh we aimed to develop our understanding of the need for biodiversity on a local level and what practical actions we can take to improve our green spaces. The course covered how to provide food and shelter for insects and other wildlife, and how to make an outdoor sign so that you can share your knowledge with visitors

Using a detachable webcam on a fully charged laptop and connection via hotspot to a mobile phone we filmed the tutors in their gardens and workshops to live classes. Participants could see Colm walking around his garden in the sunshine, Mick calling our attention to the bee landing on his hand and looking through the shelves of materials in Daniels studio. Whilst we did our best to make the online sessions as engaging as possible we were all delighted to be able to meet up in person in smaller groups for a final workshop at Fort Dunree and in Colm's Garden. We built the finest bug hotel in Inishowen and began to make plans for future projects including exploring coastal biodiversity.





# EVENTS

## CULTURE NIGHT

18TH SEPTEMBER

With the participation of “Change Makers”, we hosted a celebration of creativity and biodiversity at Amach Anseo Community Garden at The Potting Shed attended by a strictly limited number of attendees wearing masks. Activities included a seed and plant swap, performances by Climate Clamour Choir and the unveiling of the refurbished garden area with hand crafted signage. There was also the inaugural exhibition by The Green Pencils - a series of watercolour drawings of pollinator friendly plants in The Potting Shed which had recently been fitted with a new roof and floor making it safe and dry for art and people. Copies of the national publication ‘Gardening for Biodiversity’ were distributed to delighted participants.

Change Makers Donegal started in July 2012. There are four Project Partners, Inishowen Development Partnership, Donegal Education & Training Board, Self Help Africa and Trocaire. Over the years they have worked hard to raise awareness of local and global development issues with adults across County Donegal. Change Makers work with local communities to help them become Fairtrade Towns. To date, Carndonagh and Moville have both achieved Fairtrade Town status and Buncrana and Dunfanaghy are making good progress towards this goal.









# RESIDENCIES

## MYRID CARTEN

### ARTISTS' TALK

ONLINE EVENT 17TH NOVEMBER

Throughout lockdown we have maintained regular contact with our 2020 residency and exchange artists Michael Flaherty (Newfoundland), Sarah Duffy (England), Myrid Carten (Ireland), Moira McIver (Ireland) and Cliodhna Timoney (Ireland). Under the Covid regulations it was impossible for the artists to travel to Buncrana to undertake their residencies in 2020. However the artists have been facilitated to begin their research and establish links with people in the area in part by delivering online events.



## MYRID CARTEN

Artist Talk 17th November 2020

Myrid Carten makes films for cinema exhibition and galleries. Using documentary and fiction, and often a playful combination of both, her work interrogates both the struggle for intimacy and the ways we are compromised by our pasts. She explores, with generous ruthlessness, the universal desire to be both known and hidden, and the costs involved in both of these complicated commitments.

Myrid is from Gortahork Donegal. She studied Fine Art & History of Art at Goldsmiths University. She co-directs LUX Critical Forum Dublin, and was awarded the FSAS Digital Media Award 2018, the DAS Digital Residency 2019, and the TBG+S Project Studio Award 2018-19. She received the British Council International residency to India in 2017-18 as well as ACNI SIAP awards in 2016 and 2018. Her short film, *Wishbone*, made through BFI & NI Screen, screened at Galway, Belfast & Cork Film Fleadhs in 2019. RECENT EXHIBITIONS: Yalta Games, RCC Letterkenny 2019-20; *Urgencies*, CCA Derry 2019.

Myrid is developing a new body of work around inheritance, family and belonging in rural Donegal, through the support of the Arts Council of Ireland's Next Generation Artists Award 2018-19.



# RESIDENCIES

## SARAH DUFFY

### ARTISTS' TALK

ONLINE EVENT 17TH OCTOBER

Sarah Duffy 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: solo performance Om3am x Sarah Duffy hosted by Hans-Ulrich Obrist; Mount Florida Screenings at Glasgow Museum of Modern Art; Artists Behind Bars at Matt's Gallery; Enjoy The Silence at The Camden Arts Centre and The Frequency of Magic at out\_sight, Seoul. Duffy has participated in several residency programmes' including at The Seoul Museum of Art and at Lugar a Dudas in Cali, Colombia as part of The Triangle Network's International Fellowship programme.

In recent work, Duffy has been thinking about the shifting nature of the spaces we inhabit and the borders and maps we create to delineate our environment. She has been questioning how we orientate our own aging bodies in a world that keeps morphing and moving - politically, environmentally, spatially - and the effect this has on our sense of self. In what ways do we become reconfigured alongside our environment and how is our inner space - both psychological and physical - altered by all of these changes?

For the Artlink Fort Dunree residency, Duffy plans to make a series of field recordings around Fort Dunree of ordinarily undetectable electrical, ultrasound and infrasound noise. These recordings of Fort Dunree's hidden acoustic soundscape, will then be molded into a complex, layered composition; building up textures of sound that she will begin to harmonise with; creating chords comprised of layers of her voice and these spectral sounds. Duffy intends to expand this composition into a multi-channel sound installation, sculpting sound in space and possibly returning these sounds to the spaces they were originally recorded in.





# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## FEEL GOOD FORTNIGHT

Feel Good Fortnight is organised by local suicide prevention charity Insight Inishowen, to share, celebrate and enjoy all that is good, healthy and positive about our community and to promote positive mental health. Individuals, community groups and businesses are invited to organise events and projects to put a smile on everyone's face.

In April 2020 Amach Anseo still had seed potatoes left to distribute and only a rural 2km in which to manuver. In a bold move Rebecca Strain made a sign, acquired a nice wooden box and placed them out on a prominent wall for passers by to take home and plant. And they did. From then on, on behalf of Amach Anseo, she placed a box of free seeds and seedlings on the wall every week and soon people began to bring their own seedlings to offer in exchange.

It seemed to be perfectly fitting to bring this to a wider audience and so when The Exchange Community Hub enquired about Artlink's contribution to Feel Good Fortnight 2020 we proposed to move the box to the Market Square. Of course the wine box was inadequate for the town centre so, as a nod to our base at Fort Dunree, Artlink acquired the use of an army storage box to display the increased number of plants on offer. Despite unseasonal torrential rain again people arrived, some with offerings, some with requests and all with a renewed connection to their community.







FREE

SEEDS +  
SEEDLINGS



- \* Liquorice
- \* Dill
- \* Fennel
- \* Lemon Balm
- \* Mint
- \* Parsley
- \* Rosemary
- \* Sage
- \* Thyme
- \* Vervain
- \* Yarrow
- \* Zinnia
- \* Lavender
- \* Marigold
- \* Nasturtium
- \* Petunia
- \* Pinks
- \* Primrose
- \* Roses
- \* Tulips
- \* Violets
- \* Zinnias
- \* Lupines
- \* Peas
- \* Beans
- \* Cabbages
- \* Carrots
- \* Onions
- \* Potatoes
- \* Spinach
- \* Kale
- \* Lettuce
- \* Cucumbers
- \* Eggplants
- \* Tomatoes
- \* Peppers
- \* Mushrooms
- \* Garlic

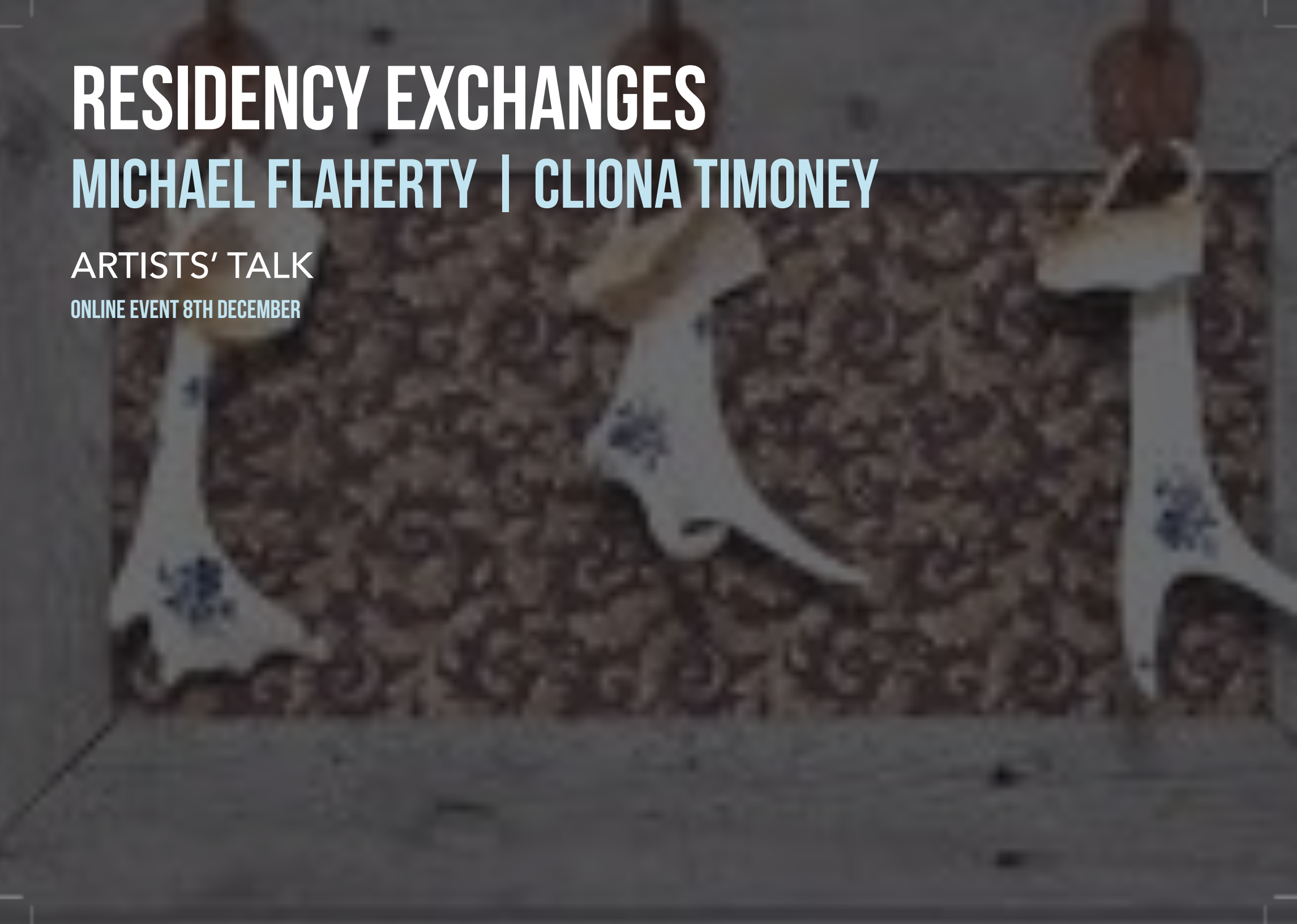


# RESIDENCY EXCHANGES

MICHAEL FLAHERTY | CLIONA TIMONEY

ARTISTS' TALK

ONLINE EVENT 8TH DECEMBER



Together with Eastern Edge (St Johns, Newfoundland) Artlink hosted an online gathering featuring an artist talk from each of our Atlantic Residency Exchange Artists: Michael Flaherty from Newfoundland, Canada, and Clíodhna Timoney from Donegal, Ireland.

While plans to send Michael to Ireland and welcome Clíodhna to Canada had been postponed, we'd wanted to introduce them to both of our communities. In this event, Michael and Clíodhna shared recent developments in their practice, followed by a Question & Answer period.

Clíodhna Timoney's (b.1993, Ireland) practice encompasses image-making, sculptural installations, sound and video. Her current work is centred on the relationship between gesture, rhythm and forces at particular sites. Sites such as the back roads of rural Ireland or the dilapidated nightclubs of provincial towns are used as both a vantage point and a stage for the network of ecologies at play. Taking inspiration from reference points such as memory, rural histories and the vernacular, Clíodhna pushes this matter into new contexts revealing strange and uncanny mutations. She gleans cultural detritus from these sources alongside the debris of everyday life to create allusions of other realities or fictional states.

Clíodhna Timoney graduated from IADT's Visual Arts Practice with a first class honours in 2015 and recently completed an MFA at The Slade School of Fine Art, London. Exhibitions include '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).

Michael Flaherty is an artist from Newfoundland, Canada, where he spends a great deal of time getting lost in the woods. As part of his art practice he has lived alone on a deserted island, crisscrossed North America by bicycle, and re-inhabited abandoned communities in his home province. His work meanders freely between craft and conceptual art, and his studio activities include installation, sculpture, performance, and pottery.

A dedicated volunteer, Flaherty has been instrumental in establishing rural art initiatives including the Cultural Craft Festival and Union House Arts. He studied ceramics at NSCAD University (BFA) and University of Regina (MFA). He is currently Ceramics Instructor at Haliburton School of Art and Design in Ontario, and operates his studio, Wild Cove Pottery, in Port Union, Newfoundland.

# PROJECT LOVE TO DRAW

ORGANISED BY  
VOLUNTARY ARTS IRELAND

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

ARTLINK

GLUCKSMAN GALLERY, CORK

TAKE A PART, CARLOW





#LoveToDraw Ireland is 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 grew participation in the visual arts. Nobody needed to be "gifted" or "qualified" to take part, just enthusiastic. 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 with a range of community groups during May 2020, followed by an exhibition at the Glucksman Gallery in November 2020. However they were postponed due to Covid-19 social restrictions and, after a number of meetings over the summer to discuss the way forward, were planned for 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. People were invited to sign up online to take part and were sent drawing packs in the post by Artlink, in order to get them started.

Everyone involved was pleasantly surprised by how much people said they had benefited from joining in. Participant feedback included these comments:

*"I enjoyed how the class worked so easily on Zoom, it was very inclusive and felt like we were in a room together."*

*"I genuinely learnt new skills."*

*"It was a great thing to look forward to."*

*"I loved it. It suited me especially as I work during the day and the class was accessible from the comfort of my home. It is a*

*wonderful way to connect during isolation but also in future for those who can't attend live classes, it provides another option on how to get involved".*

*"It was absolutely brilliant. It gave me new confidence in my abilities to learn something new, even if I always considered drawing being something reserved for "gifted" people."*

100% of the people who took part say they intend to continue drawing in the future. Artlink are already running more online drawing classes.

There was an unexpected benefit to the way the project had to adapt for the artists from Donegal and Carlow who paired up to share and support one another in the development of their digital teaching skills. They stretched their own comfort zones and were resourceful, they were glad of the opportunity to share and learn together. Some of the digital resources created for the project also remain as a legacy and could be used to encourage drawing practice in the future.

By the end of 2020 it was beginning to appear that a real world exhibition at the Glucksman may not be possible so the project steering group decided to produce a set of postcards featuring participants' drawings and a film about the project, including artworks created during it and stories of the people and artists involved.

In addition each of the partners in Donegal, Carlow and Cork decided to look for opportunities to exhibit the drawings produced in their own localities.



**EXHIBITION**

# **TWO BIRDS SANG**

**ROS HARVEY & TIM STAMPTON**

**ESB SHOWROOM, BUNCRANA**

**19th November - 3rd December**



Harry Kerr and Martha McCulloch produced a short film documentary on the inspiring work of two artists, Ros Harvey and Tim Stampton. From their home and studios near Malin Head, Inishowen, they have, for the past thirty years, continued to develop their practice in this most remote of locations. Artlink supported the film by hosting the launch on Facebook Live and organised a "Covid-19 compliant" exhibition of the artists' work in the windows of the former ESB showroom at the West End, Buncrana.

Ros and Tim's work draws inspiration from their environment, its history, heritage and wider culture. Choosing to forego the 'benefit' of working in a more convenient location, being cut off in some respects from the amenities that life in a more urban setting might offer, these artists have chosen to locate themselves in this rural, coastal context while maintaining links with artists and galleries internationally.

Ros's grew up in Malin, lived in England and Australia before returning to Ireland in the 1960s. She became an accomplished ceramic artist, working in Dublin from 1966 -79 and in England until 1988. Tim Stampton was born in Brighton, emigrating to Canada when he was seven years old. He returned to England to study at Canterbury College of Art, followed by a four years apprenticeship to the renowned ceramicist Bernard Leach, in St.Ives in Cornwall, after which he taught ceramics at Memorial University, Newfoundland. Tim and Ros met through their mutual interest in ceramics. They moved to Ireland In 1988.

They restored Ballagh, a vacant two-storied house, which now houses a printing workshop, gallery, paintings studios and a framing shop. Here Ros paints and Tim makes handmade prints and prints limited edition artists' books. Generations of young Irish artists have felt the need to study abroad and later emigrate in order to succeed in their career. Ros and Tim demonstrate that, with enough determination and conviction, this needn't be the case.

ROSHARVEY

TIMSTAMPTON

# TWO BIRDS SANG

DRAWN HOME

MEMORYFACTORY PRESENTS

## "TWO BIRDS SANG"

A SHORT FILM ABOUT ART, LIFE AND PLACE

WRITTEN BY HARRY KERR & MARTHA MCCULLOCH

MUSIC BY KEVIN MCLEOD EDITED BY HARRY KERR

PRODUCED BY ULSTER CANADA INITIATIVE CO-PRODUCED BY CREATIVE IRELAND, DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE HERITAGE AND THE GAELTACHT





# EXHIBITION

## A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

TRISTAN POYSER

11TH DECEMBER - 15TH JANUARY

A Time of Uncertainty brings together two social documentary projects: ***The Invisible In-between*** and ***Masked - A Portrait of Amazon***. Each Project creates a narrative of the public's opinion, complemented by the artist's reflection on two dominant issues of our time: Brexit and COVID 19. The two projects follow the same principles. Evoking, then documenting real peoples thoughts and feelings unfiltered and independent of politicians and the media.

The COVID pandemic has introduced another layer of complication and confusion to the Irish border that is further compounded with the looming Brexit withdrawal. A time of Uncertainty explores identity and perceptions, challenging preconceptions of places and people, in a time when uncertainty has been imposed by elements not of our individual making and beyond our control.



Lockdown has helped me to mend  
bridges with my family  
After moving back home we want  
to get along after not speaking.

I have started to appreciate  
freedom in my daily life.



NO  
Trespassing  
Warning of  
Stomach







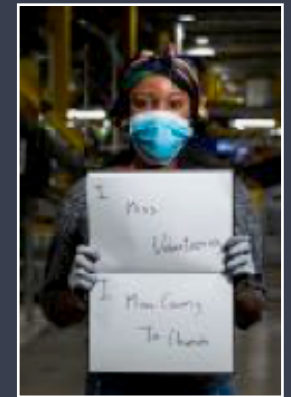
## The Invisible In-between

***The Invisible In-between: An Englishman's Search For The Irish Border***, is a visual interrogation into a place of uncertainty, the UK/EU land border, during a time of uncertainty; the period between the triggering of Article 50 and the withdrawal from the EU. Borders are intrinsically peripheries and projections of the state. The British/Irish Border is both an administrative & political division, an imaginary boundary, with little evidence of its existence to signify a physical border.

As an Englishman, trespassing to follow an invisible line through a historically troubled landscape, the uneasiness is compounded, creating a tension and an unspoken responsibility. In the photographs, the border is identified and the materiality of the border shown, through a physical tear, making the invisible, visible. Tristan walked areas of the border with Irish border born poet Conor O'Callaghan, writer & photographer, Jacqui Devenney Reed, and consulted with Garrett Carr, The author of *The Rule of the Land: Walking Ireland's Border*. He then invited the public to consider the impact of their referendum vote, how it will impact their future. He asked them to tear the photograph where they think the border is, and write a comment about this period of uncertainty and Brexit.

### Masked - A Portrait of Amazon

Masked is a series of portraits and, still life photographs of the 64 face masks and ephemera the artist was provided with whilst working at Amazon, during the initial COVID Pandemic Lockdown. The photographs are a reflection of his doubts, frustrations, anxieties, the change in identity, the lack of control over lockdown, the relinquishing of 17 years of self employed independence, to work nights as an Amazon Associate at Amazon's MAN 3 Fulfillment Center In the North West of England. While fortunate to be in a position to earn an income, there was a palpable tension brought on



by the restrictions of the Pandemic, the lockdown and the restrictions of employment.

Clocking in, Clocking out, timed breaks, compounded by the uncomfortable but necessary safety measures. Wearing masks for 10 hr shifts, doing manual tasks, struggling to communicate with only eye contact and muffled voices, quickly becomes overbearing. While at Amazon, Tristan created a typology of 130 portraits of associates from over 25 different nationalities. Participants had worked at Amazon from as little as 2 days, to as much as four years.

Each participant was asked to write down two ways they had been affected personally by COVID 19 and Lockdown. This ranged from missing the gym, to close family members dying from COVID-19. The opportunity to document participants' thoughts and feelings gives control of the narrative to the individual participants offering a different agenda to that of the media and politicians, creating a record of people in their own words.

#### About the artist

Tristan is a photographer, a board member of the Arts Council England's Sector Support Organisation Redeye - The Photography Network, a Tutor for the British Academy of Photography, guest lecturer on Professional Practice, and delivers participatory workshops. He's also judged for the RIBA awards

# 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](http://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**

Dr Sean Beattie is an historian and author. He is Editor of Donegal Annual and has written a number of books on Donegal history, heritage and folklore

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PHYSICAL EXHIBITIONS AT FORT DUNREE

680

PARTICIPANTS IN ONLINE TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

5

EXHIBITIONS ONLINE

44

ONLINE TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS HOSTED

37

ARTISTS COMPENSATED FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION

39,000

VISITORS TO 'VSG' EXHIBITIONS





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



etb  
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland  
Raidió Éireann



Voluntary Arts

Creative Ireland  
Creative Ireland  
Programme  
2017-2022



Peace  
Northern Ireland - Ireland  
European Regional Development Fund







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