

1st April - 4th May 2019

# LIVING ARTS

ARTS IN EDUCATION

In 2013, the Living Arts Project was established as an artist-in-residency scheme in primary schools, supporting the existing partnership between the Arts Department of Wexford County Council and Wexford Arts Centre. The aim of this project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. The Living Arts Project exhibition represents a selection of work produced by the participating primary schools and offers pupils a chance to see their work presented in a professional gallery.

The following artists and schools were selected for this year's project; Orla Bates with Rathnure National School, Clare Breen with Murrinctown National School, Caoimhe Dunne with St. Joseph's National School – Kilmuckridge, and Oonagh Latchford with St. Joseph's National School – Ballymitty. Over the course of a fifteen-week programme, pupils responded to the work of each residency artist and were introduced to film making, mixed media sculpture, printmaking, painting and drawing processes.

Supported by the Creative Ireland Programme, artists Els Dietvorst and Frank Abruzzese worked with pupils from Ramsgrange Community School for a second year. The residency, developed with Art Teacher Aoife Power, included workshops on drawing, printmaking and photography. Through the themes of climate change and sustainability, the activities focused on promoting artistic and interpersonal skills and enabled pupils to recognize the potential of art to be used as a tool for communication and learning.

The Arts Department of Wexford County Council and Wexford Arts Centre would like to take this opportunity to thank all schools, artists and mentors involved in the project, and the local community for their support and interest in the project to date.

The Chairperson of Wexford County Council & the Board of Wexford Arts Centre

has the pleasure of inviting you, family and friends to the official launch of the

## Living Arts Project Exhibition

on Saturday 30th March at 3pm

at Wexford Arts Centre

Opening Speaker: Artist & Filmmaker Els Dietvorst

The Living Arts Project is a partnership initiative between the Arts Department of Wexford County Council, Wexford Arts Centre and the Arts Council.

### Murrinctown National School, Murrinctown, Co. Wexford

With thanks to Acting Principal Fintan Whyte, Vice Principal Trish Frayne and Teacher Shane Howard

#### Clare Breen (Lead Artist)

Clare facilitated a project called "Imagine a dream school, run by kids", with 3rd and 4th class. The project imagined an ideal space to help the children better understand how to work with what they have and how to improve it. Each week they explored new processes in order to discover what a dream-school, run by kids, might consist of. This included considering what children would learn, what kinds of spaces the school would contain, what children would wear and when they would go there. It was the artist's aim to show that art is not just a thing it is something that happens and it is a way to help us learn with and from one another about the world we inhabit.

Clare Breen graduated from NCAD in 2011 with a BA in Fine Art, and from the Piet Zwart Institute in the Netherlands in 2016 with a Masters in Education in the Arts. In 2017, she travelled to Athens to work with the Documenta 14 education team and undertake a residency at Yellow Brick Art Space. She was a lead artist for the Living Arts Project in 2017/18 and won the first Arts in Education Portal Documentation Award. In 2018, Clare was awarded an Artist Bursary by the Arts Council to develop educational work with young people and children. She is currently an artist in residence with the THRIECE partnership and Learning Curator in Residence at the VISUAL, Carlow.



#### Patricia Kent (Assistant Artist)

Patricia Kent graduated with a BA (Hons) in Fine Arts from Wexford Campus School of Art and Design, IT Carlow in 2017, participating in the graduate exhibition *Beyond these Walls* in Wexford Arts Centre. She is a member of the Creative Community Panel- an outreach programme run by the Arts Department of Wexford County Council in conjunction with Creative Ireland Programme. A recent project involved working with residents from Farnogue Residential Healthcare Unit, Wexford as part of the Psychiatry of Later Life Team.



### Rathnure National School, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

With thanks to Principal Taragh Nolan, and Teachers Lisa Murphy and Alice Keogh

#### Órla Bates (Lead Artist)

Órla Bates worked with 5th and 6th class in Rathnure National School and was assisted by Aoife Banville. The project began with cross curricular links to a local history project. Children looked at an archive of historical objects and were asked to choose everyday objects that were important and meaningful to them. Children were invited to create their own archive and question the future of our everyday objects in 100 years time. Themes around artefacts, the everyday and obsolescence were explored. Over seven weeks these ideas were expanded through working with a range of media and processes which included drawing, printmaking, collage and sculpture.



Órla Bates is a visual artist living and working in County Wexford. She studied at the Limerick School of Art and Design and graduated in 2000 with a BA in Printmaking. She completed a Higher Diploma in Art and Design Education in NCAD following this. Bates has exhibited extensively throughout Ireland and recent group exhibitions which include RHA, Dublin, Peripheries, Gorey School of Art, Cairde Visual, The Model, Galway, RUA RED Arts Centre, Dublin, Impressions, Galway Arts Centre. In 2016 and 2012 she was awarded the Artlinks Bursary Award and the Tyrone Guthrie Residency Award from Wexford County Council



#### Aoife Banville (Assistant Artist)

Aoife Banville is a visual artist specialising in site-specific installation. She completed studies in fine art, photography and philosophy at Massey University, New Zealand and University College Dublin. In 2012, she undertook the La Fragua Artist Residency, Spain. In her work, commonplace objects and materials are repeatedly employed to create immersive environments. Aoife extends this preoccupation by working outdoors, creating aerial sculptures to challenge and disrupt the viewers' sense of familiarity with a space.



**St. Joseph's National School, Ballymitty, Co. Wexford**

With thanks to Principal Audrey McCarthy and Teacher Orlaith Keogh

**Oonagh Latchford (Lead Artist)**

During the project, students explored a wide range of processes, using both traditional and non-traditional materials. They were encouraged to experiment rather than to consider an end result. Empowered to look and respond, the project developed in response to the children's interests and abilities and two co-existing themes of identity and light/shadow emerged. Engaging with a range of processes and materials ensured that the children found ways of art making they enjoyed. Exposure to the work of contemporary artists challenged preconceived ideas and inspired enthralling discussions about what constitutes art.

Oonagh Latchford holds a BA (Hons) in Fine Art. She was a recipient of an Artlinks Bursary in 2018 and Wexford County Council's Tyrone Guthrie award in 2014. She has been awarded primary school residencies under the auspices of the Living Arts Project in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2018. She is a facilitator on County Wexford Arts Department's Arts Ability programme and worked on Wexford Arts Centre's Insight Education Programme from 2010-2017. Recent exhibitions include Scéilini in Paint, a solo show in the Anita Chan Lai-Ling Gallery, Fringe Club, Hong Kong, which was part of her residency in the Irish Festival Asia 2018 with the support of Culture Ireland.



**Michelle Colfer (Assistant Artist)**

Michelle Colfer is a multidisciplinary visual artist working primarily with print-making, origami and installation. She graduated with a BA (Hons) from the Wexford Campus School of Art and Design, IT Carlow, and was long listed for the RDS Visual Art Awards 2017. Michelle's practice is influenced by personal reflection, classical literature and nature. Her work addresses the complexity of identity; chiefly how life experiences can cause an individual's identity to alter and the resulting inner conflicts this can potentially elicit within the self.



**St. Joseph's National School, Kilmuckridge, Co. Wexford**

With thanks to Principal Con Hourihane, and Teachers Irene Cullen and Aoife Ryan

**Caoimhe Dunn (Lead Artist)**

Caoimhe met her first giant aged 15 years, a rare sight in Ireland: a fire breathing giraffe at a street theatre performance, which led her on a journey that began with studying fine art-sculpture, then model-making at IADT, leading to work with Bui Bolg Productions as an artist, model and mask-maker, puppeteer and puppet maker, and Youth Arts Facilitator. Caoimhe has facilitated workshops and created work, nationally and internationally, in a variety of areas related to Street Arts & Spectacle and this year she facilitated the first Kerry Street Spectacle project with Kerry County Council.



Using art as a means of exploration and discovery, students worked with different mediums and disciplines, from music as an inspiration for mark making exercises, to working with light, shadow and colour to create moody landscapes and even narratives. Through shadow play they had the opportunity to explore the inherent drama of light and dark – to change and layer objects, giving them new meanings and character and to explore different moods. This inspired fascinating stories and ideas from the students as they progressed.

**Sheena Furlong (Assistant Artist)**

Graduating with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from the Wexford Campus School of Art and Design, IT Carlow in 2018, Sheena Furlong has since been producing work using paint and ink. Her work is concerned with colours and textures in nature, heavily influenced by her environment. Sheena has work in the Wexford County Collection and has recently opened her own studio- The Ford Studio, Gorey, Co. Wexford.



**Ramsgrange Community School, New Ross, Co. Wexford**

With thanks to Principal Rachel O'Connor, Deputy Principal Tracey Edwards and Teacher Aoife Power

**Frank Abruzzese (Lead Artist)**

Frank Abruzzese is an artist, educator and Co-Director of Cow House Studios, a progressive, artist-run studio in rural Wexford. Originally from Philadelphia, he obtained his BA (Hons) in Moving Image Arts from the College of Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2000, and Master of Fine Arts from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2004. His work has been featured in Domus magazine, was part of the 2012 Istanbul Design Biennial and resides in the permanent collection of the Office of Public Works. He received the Emerging Photographer of the Year award from San Francisco Magazine, and as a photographer, exhibits internationally in galleries and universities.



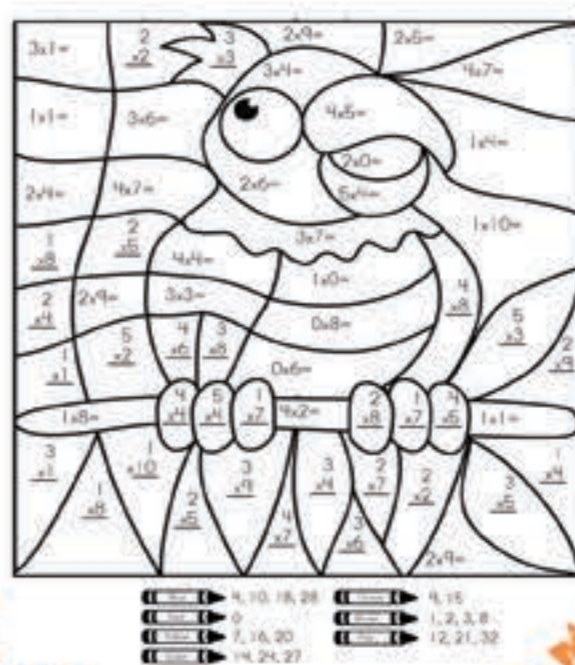
**Els Dietvorst (Lead Artist)**

Els Dietvorst is a visual artist and filmmaker. She graduated with a BA (Hons) from the Saint Lucas School of Arts, Antwerp, and holds an MFA from LUCA School of Arts, Brussels. Through her practice, Els focuses on encouraging social engagement and interpersonal relationships through a variety of media. Her work has been shown and supported by renowned art institutes and festivals, and in 2015, she was selected for the Moscow Biennial of Contemporary Art and awarded the bi-annual Evens Arts Prize. In 2017, Els received the Anthropology and Sustainable Development Award at the International Jean Rouch Festival, Paris for her documentary film, *I Watched the White Dogs of the Dawn*



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The exhibition will run in the lower and upper galleries of Wexford Arts Centre from Monday 1st April to Saturday 4th May 2019, and gallery hours are Monday to Friday from 10am-5pm, and Saturday from 10am-4pm. If your school is interested in participating in the Living Arts Project 2019/2020, please contact Catherine Bowe, Visual Arts Manager on +353 (0)53 9123764 or email catherine@wexfordartscentre.ie.

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For further information on Wexford County Council's full arts programme please visit [www.wexfordcoco.ie/arts-and-culture](http://www.wexfordcoco.ie/arts-and-culture) or call 053-9196441 or email [susan.murphy@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:susan.murphy@wexfordcoco.ie).

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