



1st April - 6th May 2017

St. Patrick's National School, Craanford, Gorey, Co. Wexford

With thanks to Principal Stephen Hayes and Teachers Marie Kinsella and Ann Marie O'Brien

Mary Claire Kehoe (Lead Artist)

Mary-Claire Kehoe is a professional printmaker, whose work through the Living Arts Project sought to explore thought processes while learning new printmaking and construction techniques in an enjoyable, engaging and uplifting manner. Her project encompassed a wide variety of art forms including: mark-making, construction, drawing, painting, monoprinting, collagraphy, plasterwork and screenprinting. Though new experiences for the pupils of St. Patrick's National School, they were embraced wholeheartedly, growing in artistic confidence as the project progressed. Drawing on abstraction and her intuitive experience as an educator, Mary Claire encouraged students to be free and open with their artwork, safe in the knowledge that there is no right or wrong answers. As a result of this nurturing and experimental process, she instilled in the students that creativity has no limits, and to trust in their own abilities and ideas.

Mary Claire graduated from Limerick School of Art & Design in 2005 and obtained a Masters in Printmaking from the University of the Arts, London in 2007. Since graduating she has worked as an art teacher, and has recently set up her own studio where she conducts art classes and concentrates on creating new work. Having exhibited in numerous group shows, Kehoe's recent solo shows include Draoiicht in Dublin (2014), Waterside Theatre in Derry (2015), Ulster Hall in Belfast (2015), and Iontas in Monaghan (2016). Mary-Claire completed a three-month residency in 2016 Creative Spark Print Studio in Dundalk, supported by Creative Spark, Create Louth and Artlinks. As part of the Residency Programme, she was included in the exhibition Breathing Space in An Táin Arts Centre. Mary-Claire is currently working on a commission with St. Joseph's Primary School in Dundalk, and completed the Living Arts Project with Loreto Primary School in Gorey in 2014-2015.



Cushinstown National School, Foulksmills Co. Wexford

With thanks to Acting Principal Muireann Furlong, and Teachers Anne Breen and Michelle O'Leary

David Begley (Lead Artist)

As a multi-disciplinary artist David Begley explored the theme of transformation with the pupils of Cushinstown National School. Realised through monochrome drawings, printmaking, collage and animation, David encouraged the students to playfully experiment with materials in order to discover new ways to find and make images. Key to this was developing the many 'accidents' created in the process of playing with ink and home baked charcoal. The pupils found surprising images in abstract marks, and using these as a source they developed beasts, new fantastical worlds, textures, and even sounds. Under David's guidance, they developed story, scenes, animations, and even made a soundtrack for their film using gargles, giggles, squawks and bubbles, amongst other things. Culminating in a short film composed of monotype prints, carborundums, a forest collage and subterranean animations, the pupils have represented their adventurous investigation, extraordinary imagination and ecological concerns through expertly crafted storytelling and dialogue.

The Living Arts Project was established in 2013 as a long term visual arts educational scheme, supporting the existing partnership between Wexford Arts Centre and the Arts Department of Wexford County Council. The goal of this project is to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary art. The project also seeks to support the primary school curriculum by introducing teachers to new techniques and teaching methods. The Living Arts Project exhibition represents a selection of work produced by the participating schools and artists, offering pupils and their families a chance to see their world presented in a professional gallery.

The following artists and schools were selected to participate in this year's programme: Mary Claire Kehoe with St. Patrick's National School, Gorey, Co. Wexford; David Begley with Cushinstown National School, Foulksmills, Co. Wexford; Tara McGinn with Kennedy Park National School, Wexford Town and Donagh Latchford, Our Lady of Fatima National School, Wexford Town.

Over the course of this fifteen-week project, participating pupils explored creative thought processes; developing how they visually represent and respond to the world around them. Through learning new techniques, stimulating sensory skills and embracing creative practices, pupils were encouraged to experiment and play, revealing their own artistic potential. Themes of transformation, discovery and construction are embraced within this exhibition, highlighted by the use of recycled elements, abstraction and the use of materials in familiar and unfamiliar ways. This has resulted in a playful and experimental exhibition filled with storytelling and joyful investigation.

Each artist brought their own distinctive talents and techniques to their partnered school, encouraging pupils to develop their collaborative, creative and critical skills. By learning to embrace mistakes and play with materials, themes and ideas, the artists strengthened the pupil's confidence as creators. This year, the project challenged pupils and teachers through a variety of art forms, including mark-making, printmaking, painting, construction, plasterwork and recycled materials.

A mentorship programme ran alongside each residency, and each artist nominated an independent artist or curator they felt was relevant to their professional practice. This mentorship helped to ensure the effectiveness and integrity of the programme on an ongoing basis, while also providing positive critique for the resident artists. In addition, the programme helped to refine methods of engaging with the students throughout each residency, ensured that the work and processes were of high quality and the dynamic between artists and pupils was challenging and productive. The following mentors were involved in the 2016/17 project: Damian Flood, Michael Fortune, Joanna Kidney and Patrick Redmond.



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

Living Arts Project Exhibition

on Saturday 1st April at 3pm

at Wexford Arts Centre

Opened by County Arts Officer Liz Burns

In association with Arts Department of Wexford County Council and the Arts Council

Deirdre Buttmer (Assistant Artist)

Deirdre Buttmer is a Wexford based visual artist and recent graduate of Wexford School of Art and Design, IT Carlow. Over the course of a varied career, Deirdre worked in Financial Services before returning to her studies, achieving distinctions in Art at Selskar College, Wexford, before undertaking a Bachelors Degree. Deirdre's work explores transient human contact in a potentially isolationist world, where concerns surrounding politics, kinship, and craft are a feature of her work. With an emphasis on experimenting, using non-standard surfaces and mark making, her interest resides in the marks and documentation left behind by humankind. Within her process, this moves to consider photography, drawings, rubbings and collecting anecdotes and local texts, societal issues and human interaction, particularly in urban environments.

Deirdre graduated with First Class Honours in 2016 from the Wexford Campus School of Art & Design (Carlow IT), and has exhibited in several group shows. Her works are also held in private collections in Dublin and Wexford.



David Begley is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Blackwater. His work has been presented at Cinema Club, New York; Animfest Athens, Greece; Oriel Myrddin and Oriel Davies, Wales; VISUAL, Carlow; The RHA, Dublin; DAS2015, Belfast; The Linenhall Arts Centre, Mayo and Wexford Arts Centre. David was awarded The Artists Film Award at In Motion, Wales, in 2015 and an Artlinks Visual Arts Bursary in 2014. Recent residency awards include The RHA, Tyrone Guthrie Centre and Gill Rialaig. His work can be found in the collections of AXA, The Contemporary Irish Art Society, The EPA, OPW INTO and Wexford County Council. David is also a featured artist at The Drawing Suite.

Nick Jarman (Assistant Artist)

Nick Jarman is an English born multi-media artist who engages with drawing, painting and sculptural forms. His work is primarily nature based with a growing interest in how the natural world adapts to distortions created by man. Nick's process concentrates on working with a dip or nib pen and ink on

Fabiano paper, taking his inspiration from how we take away, change, or re-arrange the environment to suit our needs. Nick's work features a strong ecological concern through his acknowledgment of other species who have adapted to our adjustments. Working from photographic and observational studies of animals and documentation taken from around Wexford and the Irish Wildlife Sanctuary, he seeks to identify the human connection within these drawings, expressed through subtle suggestions of humanity and machine made objects.

Nick completed a graphic design course with IT Carlow in 2007, and more recently is a graduate of Wexford School of Art and Design, where he graduated in 2012. Following his graduate show, he was awarded a solo exhibition in the Pig Yard Gallery, Wexford.



Kennedy Park National School, Wexford Town

With thanks to Principal Patricia Tynan, and Teachers Elizabeth Nolan and Sorcha Traynor

Tara McGinn (Lead Artist)

Tara McGinn is an interdisciplinary artist whose approach encompasses performance, photography, film, sound, publication and sculpture. Her creative process also incorporates modern technologies, projections and screens. As the methods of her practical work tend towards research by doing, Tara's approach with the pupils of Kennedy Park National School involved extensive and enthusiastic experimentation with materials and creative processes. Together, they created sculptures from recycled cardboard and drawings beautifully illuminated with handmade light boxes. Fusing traditional art making skills with modern technology and processes, the pupils explored mark making, drawing and sculpture as they created clay figures and abstract paintings, while also investigating photography and the use of light sources within their work. Reasserting and embracing the fluidity of this year's Living Arts Project, Tara's work with the pupils focused on fundamental visual art skills while encouraging exploration and conversation.

Tara is an emerging performance and visual artist currently based in Wexford and Cork. She graduated in 2015 with a First Class honours in Fine Art from Wexford Campus School of Art and Design. Following her graduate show she received the IT Carlow Student Purchase Award. She has recently performed in the Temple Bar Gallery + Studios as part of her collaborative Beef or Salmon, which was shortlisted for the Cow House Studio's Artist Residency 2016. She was also shortlisted for the Temple Bar Graduate Residency Award 2016 and the Burren College of Art Emerging Irish Artist Residency Award 2016.



Olivia O'Dwyer (Assistant Artist)

Olivia O'Dwyer is a mixed media painter who takes her inspiration from natural forms such as the lines of a mountain, the shape of trees in a forest or the silhouette of a bird in flight. Through her use of bold, tonal colours and softened representations of hedgerows, mountains and natural vistas, Olivia's work is a close observation of the Irish landscape. Natural forms become essential focal points within her work, and she looks to capture the overlooked nuances of her surrounding countryside. Essential to her work is the subtle, ethereal and changing mood of the environment, and the remarkable difference in colour that can occur through the play of light from one moment to the next. Her personal integration with the landscape and the lingering memories of its strength and energy are extremely vocal within her paintings.

Olivia studied at the Limerick School of Art and Design. Her first solo exhibition Landlines was held in D'lush Café, Wexford Arts Centre in 2015. Recent group exhibitions include Stranger than Fact, Wexford Opera Festival and Galway International Arts Festival (2016); Landscapes, The Pigyard Gallery, Wexford (2016); The Denis Collins Gallery, Wexford, 2012-15; Art-Bank, Bunclody, Co. Wexford (2015); Carrickmacross Arts Festival, Co. Monaghan (2015); and Five Glens Arts Festival, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim (2015). Olivia works are also held in private collections.



Our Lady of Fatima National School, Wexford Town

With thanks to Principal Rita Waters, and Teachers Georgina Helen and Joan Flanagan

Oonagh Latchford (Lead Artist)

Artist Oonagh Latchford emphasised the art making process through her work with Our Lady of Fatima National School. Throughout her sessions with the pupils, she actively sought to engage and stimulate their imagination and creative abilities while simultaneously building upon vital sensory and fine motor skills. The pupils were exceptionally creative, fully embracing new materials and ideas, many of which were both familiar and unfamiliar. Exploring scale ranging from miniatures to large collaborative paintings, they drew and painted on a variety of surfaces from rough sandpaper to shiny acetate sheets and foil and they became more comfortable working with different textures. Oonagh brought her own extensive experience as a painter to the project, as they worked with gouache, watercolour and acrylics, achieving unique and professional results. Construction was explored through Lego and plaster, and the children were encouraged to use a wide variety of recycled and other materials to create numerous unique objects, unusual figures and dynamic puppets.

Oonagh Latchford holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art from the Wexford Campus School of Art & Design, where she graduated in 2010. She continues to work with Wexford Arts Centre as a facilitator of both adult and children's workshops, and has delivered a number of classes on the National Gallery of Ireland's education programme. She is certified by Golden Artist Colours, New York, as a Golden Artist Educator. Her paintings are held in the collections of Wexford VEC, IT Carlow, Kelly's Resort Hotel, AHEAD Ireland, The Ashdown Park Hotel and in many private and corporate collections within Ireland and the US.



Ciarra Foley (Assistant Artist)

Ciarra Foley's visual art practice maps the memories attached to places from her childhood. Focusing on these memories and how they become altered and distorted with the passing of time is central to her work. Like memories, maps are often considered accurate and truthful, yet they are selective in the information they provide. They are subjective, providing a specific view and information about the world as intended by the maker. Ciarra's process considers historical maps and the language used within to create new maps reflecting her memories of place. Her process references the nature of memory through the layering of materials.

Ciarra Foley completed her BA in Fine Art Painting in 2006 at Limerick School of Art and Design. She also completed her Higher Diploma in Arts Education there in 2008. She has exhibited in numerous group shows with the most recent being in Garter Lane Arts Centre. In recent years, she has undertaken the roles of administrator, outreach officer and gallery assistant throughout the South East. She is currently studying towards a Higher Diploma in Digital Media Design at Carlow Institute of Technology and continues her own professional artistic practice.



The exhibition will run in the upper and lower galleries of Wexford Arts Centre from Monday 3rd April to Friday 6th May 2017, and gallery hours are Monday to Saturday from 10am-4pm.

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.



For further information please contact Catherine Bowe, Visual Arts Manager on +353 (0)53 9123764 or email catherine@wexfordartscentre.ie. For further information on Wexford County Council's full arts programme please visit www.wexford.ie/arts or call 053-9196441 or email arts@wexfordcoco.ie.

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