



11TH APRIL - 9TH MAY

The Living Arts Project was established in 2013 as a long term visual arts educational scheme, further strengthening the existing partnership between Wexford Arts Centre and the Arts Department of Wexford County Council. The aim of this collaborative project is to make the understanding of, engagement with and the fundamentals of contemporary art more relatable and attainable for local audiences.

In April 2014, an open call took place for interested artists and schools to submit expressions of interest to participate in the programme, and after an overwhelming response the successful schools and artists began working together in September.

This year, the artists and schools selected for the primary school residency programme were; Oonagh Latchford with Ballycullane NS, New Ross; Mary Claire Kehoe with Bunscoil Loreto, Gorey; Els Dietvorst with Mercy NS, Wexford town; and Laura Ni Fhlaibhin with Scoil Mhuire NS, Wexford town. Each of these accomplished artists brought their own unique style and processes to the schools, encouraging each student and group to create diverse and original work; highlighting a huge variety of themes, materials and artistic approaches. The themes developed by these students have included representations of the body, landscapes and materiality. Abstraction, using varied materials and methods, was also explored as well as the use of technology. The project challenged young students to think and employ new, creative approaches, equipment and materials that they had not encountered before. The students engaged with contemporary and traditional art practices while gaining invaluable collaborative, confidence building skills.

An important aim of the residency programme was to prioritise the development of the artist's work within the project and use this development to encourage competent engaging work from the participating students. A mentorship programme ran alongside each residency, and each resident 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 artist. 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 students was challenging and productive. The following mentors were involved in the 2014/15 project: Carissa Farrell, Eamonn Carter, Karla Sanchez O'Connell and Sheena Barrett.

in association with the Arts Department of Wexford County Council

Saturday 11th April at 3pm

Official Launch

Opened by Eamonn Carter
Director, Gorey School of Art (Ret)

at Wexford Arts Centre

Scoil Mhuire National School

with thanks to Pat Goff, Kathy Kane and Tricia Sparling

Laura Ni Fhlaibhin (lead artist)

Laura Ni Fhlaibhin is a multi-disciplinary artist whose work through the Living Arts Project has truly expanded on many themes important to her own practice. The impossibility of return to a previous state of being after an impact, as well as physical engagement with discarded materials and bonding elements to create precarious sculptural forms underpins much of her work; utilizing text, sound and video. During the Living Arts Project, the artist's interest in altering and hybridising everyday materials was explored with the students over the workshop series. The children further experimented with narrative forms to contextualise their sculptural activities. Laura's mentor on the project was Sheena Barrett, Curator – The LAB Gallery, Dublin.

Laura graduated from N.C.A.D. in 2013, with a first class Honours Degree in Fine Art Painting. Sculptural work, text, sound, video and participative group projects have also become important facets of her practice. Laura is also a qualified and practicing primary teacher, and the playful inquiry of young learners is an influence on her art making processes. Laura is the recipient of numerous awards and bursaries, including the Emerging Artist 2013 Artlinks Bursary, Firestation Artist Studios Sculpture Bursary and Catalyst Arts Residency. Laura was selected as an artist on the Wexford County Council Artist in the Community Scheme and worked with Wexford Youthreach participants on the group project, *Flight*. Selected exhibitions include: *Emergence*, Wexford Arts Centre Annexe Space, Wexford; *Flight*, Annexe Space, Foundation 14, Tullamore; *Precognition*, Talbot Gallery Dublin; *C30 C60 C90 GO!*, NEUE Collective, Library Project Dublin; Graduate Show, Catalyst Arts, Belfast; *Periodical Review 3*, Pallas Projects Dublin; *Tunnelling Physics*, Temple Bar Gallery and Studios, Dublin; and *Cursed*, Catalyst Arts, Belfast.

Pavlina Kubelkova (assistant artist)

Through her personal work, Pavlina is mainly interested in interactions between humanity and technology. As we create and use technology, this very same technology shapes our lives in return. Pavlina's work questions the relationship between art, its environment and the world. Using and experimenting with projectors, interactive computer programs as well as with other, more common video editing software such as Skype, she highlights the human element of the use of technology in order to create a narrative which runs through those virtual channels.

Pavlina is a recent graduate of the Wexford Campus School of Art and Design (IT Carlow), where she graduated with a BA (Hons) in Art. She has recently undertaken visual arts projects in co-operation with the Faculty of Art in Ostrava, Czech Republic. These projects have allowed her explore technology and software on an artistic, experimental basis. It has also given her the opportunity to participate and exhibit on an international level. Pavlina has recently participated with exhibitions in the College of Art in Paphos, Cyprus and KABK Hague in Netherlands.



Ballycullane National School

with thanks to Margaret Furlong and Abi Walsh

Oonagh Latchford (lead artist)

Oonagh's personal practice is concerned with light, colour and the physicality of paint. As a painter working in acrylics from photographs, she is interested in the effects that high contrasts and over exposure have on images. She exaggerates high saturation within images, to incorporate vibrant colour. Oonagh's process often involves dialogical and publically engaging elements as well as the use of digital imagery; integrating people and places that she encounters online. She seeks permission from the authors of her source images and resulting dialogues are an important part of the collaborative process. Her own work as part of the Living Arts Project, a painting entitled *The Tooth Fairy*, is of a young girl, Viktoria from Slovakia, whose image appeared in her father's photo blog - VeriViki. Oonagh's mentor on the project was Carissa Farrell, Independent Curator.

Oonagh holds a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from the Wexford Campus School of Art and Design (IT Carlow). In 2014, she was awarded Wexford County Council's Tyrone Guthrie Award and is on the Arts Department Artist in the Community Scheme panel. She works with Wexford Arts Centre as a facilitator of both adult and children's workshops. In 2014, she received training from Golden Artist Colors, New York and is a certified Golden Artist Educator. Her paintings are held in the collections of Wexford VEC, IT Carlow, Kelly's Resort Hotel, AHEAD Ireland, Ashdown Park Hotel and in both private and corporate collections within Ireland and the US.

Nancy Rochford-Flynn (assistant artist)

Nancy Rochford-Flynn is an interdisciplinary artist based in Co. Wexford. Her practise involves video through documentary and performance based formats; with social history, photography, video, text, sound, and narrative strongly guiding and informing her work. Her current work examines gender and identity and the physical and psychological effects of exclusion and oppression. As an activist her role provokes discourse in equality issues.

Nancy completed a BA (Hons) in Fine Art at Wexford Campus School of Art and Design (IT Carlow). Her practice incorporates participatory and community based art with multimedia to explore the relationship between art and people. Recently she has worked as a project facilitator with the Arts Department of Wexford County Council's Artist in the Community Scheme and is listed on their artist panel for 2015. She is currently working as curator with The Ros Tapestry Project, New Ross, Co. Wexford.



Bunscoil Loreto
with thanks to Aileen Kennedy,
Michelle Browne and Niall Quillinan

Mary Claire Kehoe (lead artist)

Mary-Claire Kehoe is a professional printmaker based in Gorey, Co. Wexford. The primary motivation for her work is an ongoing investigation of suppressed emotion and thought rediscovery, using printmaking as a form of self-expression. Her current body of work *Locked In, Locked Out, and Everything in Between*, 2015 focuses on the emotive state of isolation and the hopeful ideal of escape. Drawing on personal experience, these abstract concepts are open to the viewer's personal interpretation; however, for Mary-Claire they represent a constant emotional battle, one that may never be won. How she expresses this inner conflict offers very relatable themes and ideas for any viewer; ideas surrounding personal uncertainty, fear, anticipation, the constant threat of panic and the heightened feeling of isolation to a normally rational mind. Mary Claire's mentor on the project was Eamonn Carter, Director - Gorey School of Art (Ret).

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 then she has worked as an art teacher and has recently set up her own studio where she concentrates solely on creating new work. Having exhibited in numerous group shows, Mary Claire has recently shown in Draocht, Dublin, and she is currently exhibiting *Concentrate on your Breathing* at the Waterside Theatre, Derry. Her next solo show *Locked In, Locked Out, and Everything in Between* is in the Ulster Hall, Belfast in May 2015.

Claire Butler (assistant artist)

Claire Butler, an artist originally from Rosslare Harbour, Co. Wexford, explores nature, the Irish landscape and Irish folklore through painting. Her recent work takes a particular interest in the undergrowth and explores the small and perhaps overlooked ever changing beauty in nature. The marks in her paintings evoke a sense of imagination and a unique narrative for each viewer, capturing a fleeting moment of beauty in nature.

Claire studied at the Limerick School of Art and Design, graduating in 2005 with a BA in Fine Art Painting. She has been involved in various group exhibitions in Wexford in recent years. Now based in Foulksmills, Co. Wexford, she continues to take inspiration from the rural landscape that surrounds her.



Mercy National School
with thanks to Pat Gately, Karen
Shannon and Elizabeth McKiernan

Els Dietvorst (lead artist)

Els Dietvorst is a Belgian artist and filmmaker who lives and works in Duncormick, Co. Wexford. Her videos, drawings, and sculpture explore anti-utopian themes such as social conflict and survival in the margins. Els' work focuses on communication, collaboration and social conflicts, often returning to anti-utopian themes such as the notions of the outsider and the symbolic prison. Through her films, she works in socially contested sites collaborating with people who host/inhabit these places as instinctively she is drawn to unconventional individuals determined to live as far from the mainstream grid as possible. In 2012, she started the online film project entitled *The Black Lamb* which culminated as a feature-length documentary offering an intimate view into rural Ireland intertwining individual stories with larger universal issues such as globalization, food production, emigration and biodiversity. Els' mentor on the project was Karla O'Connell Sanchez, Independent Curator.

Dietvorst has had numerous international exhibitions and has shown work in Muhka, Antwerp, Belgium; Witte de With Centre for Contemporary Arts, Rotterdam, Holland; Palais de Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium; KunsthalleExergasse, Vienna, Austria; Danielle Arnaud Gallery, London, UK; and Viviane Klagsbrun Gallery, New York, USA. Her films have been presented in the Rotterdam Film Festival, the Argos Film Festival, and the Casablanca Film Festival. In 2014, Els presented a new series of works at the Brussels based Kunstenfestivaldearts and Argos, Centre for Art and Media.

Laurence O'Toole (assistant artist)

As an interdisciplinary artist, the core of Laurence's practice is photographic and sculptural. However, he utilizes other disciplines and medias and is currently developing filmmaking, print and painting skills for future projects. His work is concerned with the extrapolations of science fiction literature as a contemporary parable generator. This, combined with research into current environmental and economic concerns, produces works that examine aspects of greed, growth, sustainability and catastrophe.

Laurence originally studied graphic design, but ultimately gravitated to 3D design and metal fabrication. He studied sculpture at Wexford Campus School of Art and Design (IT Carlow) where he graduated in 2014 with a BA (Hons). He currently resides near Carnsore Point, Co. Wexford where he draws inspiration from the constantly transforming coastal environment.



For further information on the Living Arts Project or participating artists please contact Catherine Bowe, Visual Arts Manager, Wexford Arts Centre at catherine@wexfordartscentre.ie

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The Living Arts Project exhibition represents a selection of work produced by the participating primary schools and artists. 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 this year's project, and the local community for their support and interest in the project to date.

