



LIVING ARTS PROJECT

31 March | 20
10 May | 14



Established in 2013, the Living Arts Project is a long term visual arts educational scheme which consolidates the existing partnership between Wexford Arts Centre and the Arts Department of Wexford County Council and intends to make engagement with, and understanding of, the fundamentals of contemporary visual art even more attainable for local audiences.

In order to facilitate the development, the scheme is comprised of two key strands; an artist in residence programme for primary schools in the County and a curatorial residency for one transition year group in a local secondary school.

In April 2013, an open call took place for interested artists, curators 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.

For the primary school residency programme the artists and schools selected were; Orla Bates with St. Ann's NS, New Ross; Els Dietvorst with St. Anne's NS, Duncormick; Aileen Lambert with St. Colman's NS, Ballindaggin; and Kate Murphy with Our Lady of Lourdes NS, Bunclody. The secondary school chosen for the transition year curatorial programme was Gorey Community School who worked with curator and art historian Karla Sánchez-Zepeda O'Connell.

The aim of the residency programme was to prioritise the development of the artist's work within the project and use this development to in turn encourage competent engaging work from the participating students. In order to monitor the effectiveness of this programme on an ongoing basis, a mentorship programme ran alongside each residency, and residency artists nominated an independent artist or curator they felt pertinent to their practice. The aim of the mentorship was for positive critiquing of the artist's work to occur and for expansion and refinement of the methods of engaging the

students throughout each residency. This ensured that the aims of the project were met, the work and processes were of high quality and the dynamic between artist and students was challenging and productive. The following mentors were involved in the 2013/14 project: artists Orla Barry, Michael Fortune, Anita Groener, Alanna O'Kelly, and Director - RHA, Patrick Murphy.

This end of project exhibition represents a selection of work produced by the participating primary schools and artists, and a curated virtual show undertaken by Gorey Community School.

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. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Arts Council for their financial support.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Órla Bates is a visual artist and printmaker living and working in County Wexford. Her work is drawing based and her media spans a spectrum of drawing, printmaking, and photography, all of which are utilized in exploring ideas about the construction of memory and the nature of time. Órla studied at the Limerick School of Art and Design and graduated in 2000 with a BA in Printmaking. She has exhibited extensively throughout Ireland and has participated in numerous group and solo shows. Recent exhibitions include RHA, Dublin; RUA RED Arts Centre, Dublin; Galway Arts Centre, Galway; Limerick Printmakers, Limerick; The Norman Gallery, Wexford; and The Lavit Gallery, Cork. In 2012, Órla was awarded an Artlinks Bursary Award and a Tyrone Guthrie Residency Award from Wexford County Council. Other awards include an Artlinks mentoring award.

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.

She 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; Kunsthalle Exergasse, 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 May, Els will present a new series of works at Kunstenfestivaldesarts, and the Argos Centre for Art and Media, Brussels, Belgium.

Kate Murphy is originally from Dublin but has lived and worked in Co. Wexford since 2007. She graduated from the National College of Art & Design with a BA in Fine Art, Sculpture in 2000, and began to direct her practice through painting in 2003. Up until its closure in 2010, Kate was showing her work with Stone Gallery in Dublin, with solo exhibitions there in 2006, 2007 and 2009. She was short-listed for the Golden Fleece Award in 2010 and was awarded a Visual Arts Bursary by Wexford County Council in 2009 which supported a solo exhibition in Wexford Arts Centre in 2011.

She had a solo exhibition in Talbot Gallery in Dublin in October 2013 and regularly exhibits there in group shows. Kate's work is in numerous private and public collections including the Bank of Ireland, The Office of Public Works, and Wicklow County Council.

Karla Sánchez-Zepeda O'Connell has worked in many roles in the fields of art and education over her 16 years of professional experience. Mexican by birth, she completed a Master of Arts in Art History and Museum Studies (Texas Christian University) supported by a Fulbright Scholarship (1998-2000). She advanced her experience further with internships, and by working at various museums both in Mexico and the U.S.A.: the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, the Art Institute of Chicago, and Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso. Following this she became involved in the field of higher education, working for the Mexican Fulbright Commission (2001-2004). Since her arrival to Ireland in 2004 she has been actively involved in the arts. She participated in several research & curatorial projects at Wexford Arts Centre, where she held the Chair of the Board from 2007 to 2010.

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Opening reception on Thursday
3 April at 7.30pm

Guest speaker: Helen O'Donoghue, Senior
Curator: Head of Education and Community
Programmes, Irish Museum of Modern Art

Aileen Lambert was born in County Wexford, where she now lives and works. Holding a Degree in Fine Art from LIT, and an MA in Visual Arts Practices from DLIADT, Aileen works across a variety of media including video, photography, performance and sound work, and her practice includes participatory and public art projects.

Aileen's video and performance work has been presented in exhibitions and events nationally and internationally including the National Review of Live Art, Glasgow, Scotland; Festival Miden, Greece; Infr'Action International Performance Art Festival, France; Darklight Film Festival, Dublin; Anti Festival of Contemporary Art, Finland; EV+A, Limerick; Tulca, Galway; Out of Site, Dublin; and SWGC Art Gallery, Newfoundland.

Solo exhibitions include *Come and Gone*, Wexford Arts Centre, Wexford; *Tide*, Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh; *Within and Without*, Triskel Arts Centre, Cork. Per Cent for Art Commissions include *Placenames*, Fingal, Dublin; and *En Route* and *The Soft Edge*, Wexford, 2007-09. Aileen was commissioned, with support from the Arts Council, to produce new performance work for the School of Divinities in Yale University, Connecticut, USA, and has received numerous grants and bursaries from Culture Ireland, Wexford County Council and the Arts Council.

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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.

