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A Mayo County Council Public Art Programme initiative,
in collaboration with The Linenhall Arts Centre.

FIND
A MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME
INITIATIVE,
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
LINENHALL ARTS CENTRE

SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 2014

WWW.FINDARTPROJECT.COM

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INTRODUCTION:

FIND is a series of temporary artworks/ installations/events in and around the town of Castlebar, Co Mayo. The works are installed within walking distance of each other and found via the map included in this brochure or by attending the guided artist tours. The Linenhall Arts Centre will act as central headquarters/studio for participating artists and audience alike. This project is the first collaboration of the Linenhall Arts Centre and the Mayo County Council Public Art Programme, curated by Gaynor Seville. The series of temporary installations are created by Mayo based artists who applied for the commissions via an open competition process. The theme of FIND is experience of temporary work, and documentation and legacy of temporary work. Artists were encouraged to consider discreet or 'hidden' works that will be 'unravelling', or be revealed, via the event tour, and map – encouraging the audience to search out the work. The Mayo artists who were selected for the commissions are Ian Wieczorek, Amanda Rice, Chris Leach, Nuala Clarke, Alice Dixon and Joanna Hopkins.

These artists also had the opportunity to be mentored and supported by International profile artists Alice Maher and Aideen Barry during the development and realisation of their ideas. Alice had a hugely successful mid career retrospective at IMMA in 2013 and she has vast experience in working in installation, site-specific and temporal art. Aideen Barry has a multi versatile practice, which spans a range of art forms and approaches, including sculpture, performance, drawing, and animation. Aideen also acts and an advocate for visual artists based in the west of Ireland in her role as Western Representative for Visual Artists Ireland. She teaches at the Limerick School of Art and Design as a Lecturer in Sculpture and Combined Media.

An accompanying exhibition at the Linenhall, will expose the studio work and process behind the production of the artists artworks. The gallery space will in effect become a living installation of artist's studios during the month of the exhibition and audience members throughout the month will have the opportunity to observe and meet the artists working in the space.

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IAN WIECZOREK

LOCATION:

The passageway linking to the Foyer of the Linenhall Arts Centre from Linenhall Street.

FIND PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The video/audio installation *Everything That Rises Must Converge* presents what appears to be a disembodied regenerating flame, but is in fact footage of a torrent of water. The imagery transcends its physical source and becomes its opposite: water is transformed into fire by way of *trompe l'oeil* alchemy, evoking connotations of spontaneous generation, nuclear fusion, even the Biblical burning bush, and acknowledging Marco Costa's proposal that new technologies are creating conditions for a new kind of expression of the Sublime. The title *Everything That Rises Must Converge* is by way of French philosopher and Jesuit priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and his concept that everything in the universe is in a state of evolution towards a maximum level of consciousness.

As an evocation of dynamic energy, the work's location acknowledges and reinforces the status of the Linenhall Arts Centre as a focus for creative/ artistic energy and endeavour in the town. The passageway off the main thoroughfare of Linenhall Street adds a dramatic spatial element to the work both visually and aurally, and also a transformed experience of a generally perceived 'dead area' for the passer-by. The work will be experienced from the street every evening from 6pm to 11pm daily.

WWW.IANWIECZOREK.COM



AMANDA RICE

LOCATION:

Live Tug of War on the Mall on 29th of March
Archive: For the month of April at the Linenhall.

FIND PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Active from 1942- 1981 Western Hats Ltd. was a significant economic presence and major employer in Castlebar for four decades. Amanda Rice has been working closely with the former employees of Western Hats in compiling a body of research on this prominent local company. As part of FIND she focuses on a fascinating discovery of a photograph of the factory's all-ladies tug-of-war team which relates to a one-off event that took place in Castlebar in 1958. Through contemporary accounts gathered from participants and eyewitnesses, Rice will re-stage the event with the aid of the relatives from the original team on The Mall in Castlebar - the original site of the 1958 event.

By comparing varied and conflicting versions of the event, disparities and distortions associated with re-constructive memory are revealed. Thus the re-staged tug-of-war is not so much a literal re-enactment as a fictitious account that reflects the subjectivity of recollected history. It seeks to act as celebratory event chronicling a forgotten and seemingly arbitrary trace of a major contributor to Castlebar's industrial and social history.

The artist acknowledges with warmest thanks local historians Ernie and Susanna Sweeney, all of the former employees and relatives of Western Hats, St. Josephs Secondary School Transition Years and the Connaught Tug-of-War Clubs for their generous assistance in the realisation of this project.



CHRIS LEACH

LOCATION:

Various.

FIND PROJECT OVERVIEW:

My main art practice over the last few years has consistently been about dialogues of scale and perspective. One aspect of my recent work has been concerned with highly detailed miniature drawings of cityscapes around the world.

One of the main concerns in my work is how our psychological understanding of the world is formulated by not only direct experience but a sense of space and scale, our ability to navigate the world, the physical parameters of our own personal journeys.

For the FIND project I engaged with a number of businesses and organisations around the centre of Castlebar. I interviewed individuals in each location to find out about the journeys that they have undertaken around the world. I am interested in how those physical relations overlap and build connections both for the individual concerned and in their understanding of how the world is constructed and how those connections relate to the local social structure. Miniature drawings of each location have been produced. As the work is very small scale, the works are installed discreetly within a particular environment so that although not immediately apparent they require a degree of investigation to find them. For the accompanying exhibition at the Linenhall Arts Centre, I will be displaying the background and research information regarding each of the drawings. This work would seek to outline for the audience the wider conceptual basis of the work and would also include transcripts of interviews with each participant outlining the reasons for choosing their particular locations, along with images and accompanying documentation. This work would form an integral part of the 'complete' artwork, allowing me to highlight aspects and information that although perhaps inferred in the drawings would clarify and expand on the research information gathered from the project.

www.chris_leach.com



NUALA CLARKE WITH CRYSTAL GANDRUD

LOCATION:

Flag poles along Castle Street

FIND PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Woven Found, an installation of linen flags flying over Castlebar's Castle Street, celebrates the boom times of the linen industry. Unfolding local history through the interwoven play of image and word, the flags offer non-linear insight into the processes and vivid idioms of the linen world. Each flag reveals a story of the production of linen and its larger significances to the human experience. The installation explores the many ways in which a mundane industry reflects a specialness of place with a profound mystery all its own.

Limited edition booklets related to this project will be available at the Linenhall gallery.

With special thanks to Thomas Collins of Collins Estate Agents and Catherine Brennan of Castle Book Shop, Castle Street.

WWW.NUALACLARKE.COM / WWW.ACTUALLYORANGE.COM



ALICE DIXON & ANTHONY CHAMPA (EXTERUS)

LOCATION:

Ellison Street

FIND PROJECT OVERVIEW:

“between the raindrops” from Exterus is a light based installation that plays with the façade of an unoccupied building inviting the public to interact in an accessible format. As the piece is subtle and not strikingly obvious as a work of art it invokes the natural curiosity inside each person to look closer and perhaps play with the work.

Empty buildings in the cities and towns have become commonplace, these buildings are seen as dysfunctional and lost architecture and as we begin to stop noticing them they become invisible. By bringing life into these empty buildings on a temporary basis it changes the urban landscape and can have a lasting effect on the people who engage with it.

Using light was the perfect solution to reactivating empty and disused space due to its association with warmth and habitation. The act of passers-by triggering and essentially becoming part of the piece unknowingly, literally lighting up the building, adds a perfect element of surprise and is an interesting document of how many people are aware of their surroundings and the space they move through routinely. The piece will be visible in the evening from twilight.



JOANNA HOPKINS

LOCATION:

Front Window, Patrick Fahys' Giftware, Main St. Archive - Castlebar Cinema archive for the month of April at the Linenhall.

FIND PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Hopkins has carried out a thorough research project gathering information from the public, including interviews, images and newspaper articles referencing one of Castlebar's first Silent Cinemas, the Star Picture Palace. Located on Main St. from 1919 to 1923, it was situated behind what is now Patrick Fahy's Gift and Hardware Shop.

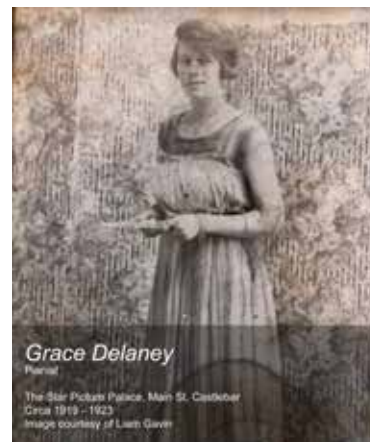
The silent cinemas in the 1920's featured local musicians who played improvised music to accompany the screenings of the films. Hopkins will utilise the still existing space to create a piece of film work that pays homage to a local Pianist, Grace Delaney, who played in the cinema. A specially commissioned piece of original music by Grace's great grand daughter will be performed, referencing the 1918 Irish film 'Knocknagow', the first film that was screened in the Star Cinema.

This revised and playful merging of silent films and music intends to pay tribute to the local musicians who played here and to uncover the hidden cinematic history of this building. The film work will be revealed through a specially adapted 'invisible' screen, which the audience must seek out in order to view the work.

Hopkins will use the Gallery Space at the Linenhall for the month of April as an open studio to further research the history of cinemas and film in Castlebar, and invites the public to contribute with stories, images and articles.

With warmest thanks to Mary Fahy and family, and Dee Gavin and family for their generous time and contribution to this project.

WWW.JOANNAHOPKINS.COM



THE OVERLOOKED.

“HOW SHALL YOU KNOW”? CONSULT YOUR EYE!

Emily Dickinson

Castlebar is a well established town with a long recorded history. But some of that history has fallen out of memory. Time has the unusual ability to erode certainty. Things that were definite, that were permanent; stone structures, heaving behemoths of industry, spaces of social exchange, artistic production and dissemination can be dissolved and erased as if they never existed. For memory is a moveable feast. But for an artist, memory is always a rich and fertile ground, an ever-changing multi layered landscape. Our hidden, our ignored, our overlooked once reimagined can uncover gems of knowledge and emotional archeology. In the Looking we have the Finding. All the artists participating in this project have undertaken a journey of excavation, jumped into the cracks of time and come out with a memory-map of unusual complexity. Some of them re-enact or re-stage memory. Some re-awaken space memory. Some play with word memory, some bathe us in colour memory or stir up sound memory. Not only have the artefacts of past peoples, past communities, past rituals, past industries been exposed to our contemporary lens but so too have the banal and the redundant been reborn and re-imagined. By their sensitive investigations and their research but most of all by their each adding their own individual visions, the artists of FIND have really reawakened the memory of a town and illuminated the shadows of its history. Their forays into the hidden and the overlooked have born much fruit, not just for these venturers but indeed for the people and community of Castlebar, for truth and beauty, past and present certainties, are waiting to be questioned and uncovered. All you have to do is Find them.

Alice Maher / Aideen Barry

WWW.ALICEMAHER.COM

WWW.AIDEENBARRY.COM

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IAN WIECZOREK

Ian Wieczorek's practice is based primarily in painting, more recently also video and installation. Since 2003 he has exhibited widely in group/selected shows in Ireland (including RHA Annual Exhibition, CCA:RDS Collective Contemporary Art; COE/Claremorris Open Exhibition, and IONTAS), and internationally in N. Ireland, Germany, France, Portugal and China. Recent solo exhibitions include Market Place Arts Centre, Armagh, N. Ireland (2012); University of Leeds School of Design, UK (2012); Custom House Studios and Gallery, Westport, Co. Mayo (2013); and The Courthouse Gallery, Ennistymon, Co. Clare (2013). Sepulchre, a large-scale sculpture/intervention based in a derelict cottage was commissioned as part of the Greenway Artists Initiative Sculpture Project, Co. Mayo in 2012.

AMANDA RICE

Amanda Rice is a visual artist living and working between Mayo and Cork. Rice works in lens based media, light and video to create installations which explore the remains of failed utopian systems.

She has exhibited nationally and internationally, selected exhibitions include 2013; A Spectacular Form of Amnesia, (Solo), the Customs House Gallery and Studios, Ireland, NLA IV, Irish Museum of Contemporary Art (IMOCA) 2012; Watching the River Flow, Curated by Sean Walsh, Centro de Artes, Portugal, Cutting a Door curated by Robert O Connor, Eastlink Gallery, Shanghai, 2011; CUBEOpen 2011 (work shortlisted for annual residency at CUBELab2012) at the CUBEGallery, Manchester.

In 2013 she was awarded a Scholarship through the Province of Styria (Austria) and an Arts Council of Ireland Travel and Training award for the production of 'A Spectacular Form of Amnesia' and was exchange artist to AIR Krems, Austria (through the Customs House Gallery and Studios). Other awards include Arts Council of Ireland Travel and Training and Cork City Council Twinning Award for the BIAP Platform China Residency in 2011.

Rice was a member and contributor to visual arts collective Cork Contemporary Projects (2009-2010). Her work can be found in the collections of Cork City Council (2012) and CIT (2008) and a variety of private collections.

CHRIS LEACH

Born in 1970. Chris Leach lives and works in County Mayo. He has shown work with Oonagh Young Gallery and with the Claremorris Gallery. He has also shown with the Smart Clothes Gallery in New York. He had a solo exhibition at Ballina Arts Centre in 2012 and has exhibited in group shows at EV&a Exhibition in Limerick, Tulca exhibition in Galway and at the Claremorris Open exhibition.

NUALA CLARKE WITH CRYSTAL GANDRUD

Nuala Clarke and Crystal Gandrud have been in collaboration since 2010. Their merged practices of visual and textual art unfold on a continuum, as part of an interconnected series evolving over time. Both performed "Fair Shouldered One" (a book which is not a book) at the &Now Literary Festival in Paris, 2012 and installed "Between Spaces", a Yeats inspired dreamscape at the Hamilton Gallery, Sligo, 2013.

Clarke has been represented by Boltax Gallery in New York since 2005. Recent shows include, (2012) Amid a Space Between: Irish Artists in America at the SFMoMa Artists Gallery, San Francisco; (2013) To Tremble into Stillness, at Hamilton Gallery, Sligo; RHA invited artist, A drawing for Everything, Ballinglen Arts Foundation, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo. Crystal Gandrud is currently creating a digital publishing structure entitled "Dream of the Drawing for Everything" in partnership with The Design Office, Providence, RI. Recent publications include "Yeastian: Numberless Dreamers", The Encyclopedia Project, 2014, "Here", Lost Magazine, and "Idiom: Woodbird Flies Early", The Encyclopedia Project. She is working on a memoir, "Astonishment: A Litany of the Uncanny", for Shambhala Publications. She writes in New York City and Normandy, France.

ALICE DIXON & ANTHONY CHAMPA (EXTERUS)

Exterus is a collaboration between the visual artists Alice Dixon (ROI) and Anthony Champa (US). We create pieces in response to the belief that what is often seen as the initial dynamism of public artworks often quickly becomes lost or these pieces fade into the surrounding scenery solely through their existence as static objects. We have seen that after a period of time one becomes acclimated to almost anything new no matter how large, gestural, or site specific, therefore all of our projects are created to act in response to or interaction with the public changing over time or existing solely as temporary interventions.

JOANNA HOPKINS

Joanna Hopkins works predominantly in video, photography and installation, with a focus on interactive works. She has exhibited widely across Ireland and Northern Ireland, and was the first recipient of the recent Visual Artists Ireland and Digital Art Studios Belfast Residency Award. She was a recipient of the 2013 Mayo Arts Office Tyrone Guthrie Bursary. Recent solo exhibitions include 'Polarise' at Catalyst Arts Belfast, June 2013. Recent group exhibitions include 'Illusion' at Science Gallery Trinity College Dublin, 2013 and the CATA Project at Eva International 2012. Upcoming exhibitions for 2014 include The Science Centre San Diego and Discovery Place in North Carolina, USA.

EVENT DAY: SAT 29TH MARCH 2014

2.00pm Welcome – project managers – Gaynor Seville and Marie Farrell.

2.15pm Talk by Aideen Barry , FIND mentor, followed by walk to:

3.00pm The Mall, Tug of War performance. Amanda Rice artwork.

This will be followed by a guided tour with the artists of some of the artworks, or audience can feel free to go and search out the works individually.

5pm Meet back at The Linenhall where refreshments/buffet will be provided.

Reading from Crystal Gandrud.

This will be followed by the launch of the artist's exhibition in the gallery where all artists are available to talk informally about their work.

The event will finish with viewing of evening/light based artworks.

SCHEDULE THROUGHOUT APRIL:

Exhibition from 29th march until Saturday 26th April

At least one artist will be working in the gallery studio every day.

2pm **Wednesday 2nd April**
Talks from the FIND artists, and mentor Alice Maher.

12.30pm **Saturday 12th April**
Mayo Artists Network – presentation from Joanna Hopkins and Gaynor Seville re pop up exhibitions and utilising disused spaces - LUNCH PROVIDED.

Followed by tour of artworks, leaving Linenhall at 2pm.

ALL WELCOME. THIS IS A FREE EVENT.

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MAP:

LOCATION OF PROJECTS AROUND CASTLEBAR TOWN,
PLEASE EXPLORE TO FIND.

CHRIS LEACH - MINIATURE DRAWINGS SITES AROUND CASTLEBAR

- 1 WELCOME INN
- 2 BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, CIVIL REGISTRATION OFFICE
- 3 MAYO CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED
- 4 BABYCARE
- 5 THE OLIVE TREE
- 6 FIELD & STREAM
- 7 HELENA CHOCOLATES
- 8 ICLINIC
- 9 MONGEY OPTICIANS
- 10 THE COURTHOUSE



DETAILS:

For more details see the project website:
www.findartproject.com

CONTACTS:

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Marie Farrell at The Linenhall
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