

December 2020

Meath Arts Office Newsletter



Welcome to the December edition of the Arts Office Newsletter. This edition contains information on arts awards, opportunities and events taking place over the next month.

2020 has been a difficult and challenging year for all, particularly for artists, creatives and our arts communities. We, as an Arts Service have striven to provide valuable support throughout the county during this time. Earlier this year we reached out to our creative and artistic communities and, in response, developed a series of initiatives including Ceol Comfort, Toradh online, Theatre Tuesday and an expansion of some of our Arts Grants & Bursaries Schemes. Whilst providing support to artists, we're delighted to say that this online programme has been very positively received with 61K + views on our social media sites to date.

Our online programme continues over the Christmas period with some lovely treats from Artist and Writer Noreen Walshe in 'The Christmas Parcel' and 'Hoor', a text and image compilation that combines poetry with visual art, bringing together the work of two award-winning Irish artists: poet Jim McElroy and illustrator Ann Kiernan. These will be included in the Department of Foreign Affairs initiative To Be Irish @ Christmas, further details are included below.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for their support during 2020 and, in particular, our amazing artists and creatives who have shown such resilience and have, with their wonderful talents helped everyone get through these challenging months.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to what will hopefully be a better 2021 for all.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.

Gerardette Bailey County Arts Officer

Cross Sundial by Michael Verdon



Cross Sundial by Michael Verdon

Cross Sundial by Michael Verdon is a striking yellow steel structure measuring 1.2 x .9 x .9 meters.

A Cross Sundial (or cruciform or crucifix dial) is a dial in the form of a cross with the "front" surface of the cross parallel to the equatorial plane, and the top pointing south. The cross sundial is a universal sundial and can be used anywhere in the world.

This semispherical work, originally commissioned in 1989 by Meath County Council, sat outside Trim Library for many years.

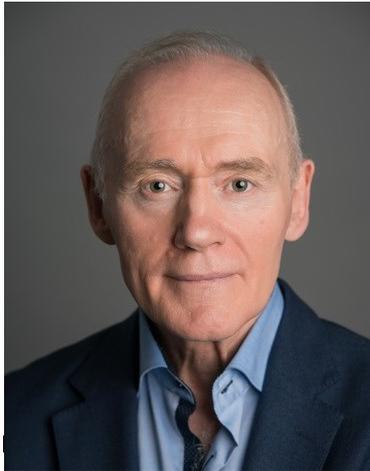
As Trim Library enters an exciting stage of redevelopment to facilitate a new library and community theatre, the *Cross Sundial sculpture* was relocated to a new home in Nobber mainstreet, where it received a warm welcome.

Born in 1951, Michael Verdon studied art at the National College of Arts and Design from 1970 to 1978, in the periods of 1973 to 1974, he also worked in the Dublin Art Foundry. He appeared in many group exhibitions and received many awards throughout his career.

Francis Ledwidge Poetry Award 2020



MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL CULTURAL SERVICES
FRANCIS LEDWIDGE AWARD



Meath County Council Cultural Services is delighted to announce Jim McElroy as the Francis Ledwidge Poetry Award winner 2020.

Based in Belfast, Jim McElroy grew up on a farm in the Mournes, County Down. Following a life in business and technology his poetry was first published in 2018.

Recurring themes in his work include the rural environment, climate, war, technological change and ageing. Jim McElroy as recipient of the Francis Ledwidge Poetry Award will be gifted a week- long residential stay at the prestigious Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co Monaghan, and a cash prize of €1,500.00.

The Tyrone Guthrie Artists' Retreat Centre nestled amongst the beautiful lakes and drumlins of County Monaghan will offer a tranquil backdrop for the development of his work. Meath County Council Cultural Services is delighted to congratulate Jim on his [award](#).

CCI X MCC Arts Office Residency Bursary



Meath County Council Arts Office, in partnership with the Centre Culturel Irlandais Paris, are pleased to announce an exciting artist's residency bursary in 2021. The bursary will enable an artist from Meath to spend a month long residency at the prestigious Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris and includes travel from Ireland, accommodation and a monthly stipend. Centre Culturel Irlandais' annual residency programme offers great opportunities for artists of all disciplines to tap into the resources of the CCI and the city of Paris, as well as being an important means of showcasing Ireland's dynamic contemporary culture on an international stage.

The bursary is open to practising professional artists of all disciplines living in county Meath. All applications must be made directly to CCI, full terms and conditions are available [here](#)

Applications to be made on-line by **Tuesday 12 January 2021, 5pm GMT**

2 Nationally Significant Cultural Reports Published

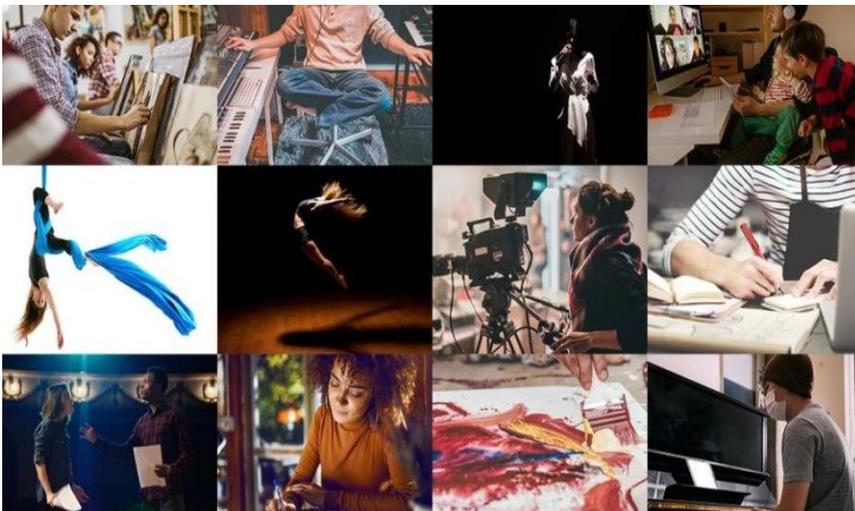


Arts and Culture Recovery Task Force Report

Catherine Martin T.D., Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht announced The Report of the Arts and Culture Recovery Task Force: A Life Worth Living, has been published.

Owing to the effects of Covid-19, nearly all Arts and Cultural industry activity has ceased and will be among the last industries to restart. The taskforce makes a number of recommendation for the industries survival and re-launch.

The Report can be read in full [here](#)



European Artists Working Conditions

The European Commission and stakeholders published a new study that sheds light on the status and working conditions of artists, cultural and creative professionals.

The study looks at characteristics of employment of artists and cultural and creative professionals in EU Member States

Full report is available to read [here](#)

Business to Arts Awards, Call for Nominations



Pictured at a COVID-19-adapted announcement of the Business to Arts Awards is Rachel Ní Bhraonáin of Fidget Feet. Photograph: Robbie Reynolds

The Business to Arts Awards recognise outstanding examples of artists, arts organisations and businesses that work together in areas such as sponsorship, commissioning, staff training and events, CSR initiatives, philanthropy and community engagement.

In the context of COVID-19 and the significant impact it is having on the arts and cultural sector, it is more important than ever to champion partnerships with businesses that continue and are evolving.

If you are involved in such a partnership, you can put forward a nomination to join the prestigious list of winners, which demonstrate the very best models developed in Ireland. Eligible nominations will have had activity related to their partnership between May 2019 – December 2020.

5pm Wed 16 Dec 2020 – Closing Date for Nominations

Further information [here](#)

Percent for Art Commission



Percent for Art Commission

Claregalway Educate Together N.S.,
Lakeview, Claregalway, Co. Galway H91 F5EH
Budget €42,000

**Stage 1 Briefing Document & Application Deadline 12 noon Friday
19th February, 2021**

Applications are requested by email to rinawhyte@yahoo.com

The Commissioning Process: The selection process will take the form of a Two Stage Open Competition. It is open to all interested professional artists at any stage of their career or experience. Selection will be based on the information supplied, establishing the competence of the artists to carry out this commission. No designs or detailed proposals are required in Stage 1.

For application form & further details contact Rina Whyte, email rinawhyte@yahoo.com or by telephone + 353 87 238 9591.

To Be Irish @ Christmas



To Be Irish @ Christmas is an initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Featuring a wide-ranging programme of events that showcase and celebrate Irish culture, craft, community initiatives and seasonal traditions. Hoping to engage and connect with our global Irish diaspora, in particular the 250,000+ who will not be able to return home due to COVID-19 this year. Meath County Council Arts Office has Commissioned 2 New Projects for this initiative



A Christmas Parcel

Meath County Council Arts Office is delighted to present 'A Christmas Parcel; the video package'.

This collection of shorts adapts the illustrated book: *A Christmas Parcel*, written by Meath artist Noreen Walshe.

Featuring memories painted in words and images, the charming series beautifully evokes a little girl's little world at Christmas time in Limerick in the 1950s. Igniting that special spark of magic reserved only for children, and only at Christmas time, *A Christmas Parcel* is a sensory assortment of recollections; wrapped with love, stamped with nostalgia and tied up with pining for Christmas past.

A Christmas Parcel includes 5 stories: Bears on the Horizon, The Tenth Carol, Christmas Star, Across the Christmas Sky and Ghosts which were first broadcast for Christmas 2008 by RTÉ Lyric FM.



HOOR

Meath County Council Arts Office presents a new project entitled 'Hoor'

A text and image compilation that combines poetry with visual art, 'Hoor' brings together the work of two award-winning Irish artists: poet Jim McElroy and illustrator Ann Kiernan.

Adapting the poignant poem 'Hoor' by this year's Meath Cultural Services' Francis Ledwidge Poetry Award winner; Jim McElroy, the new project adaptation adds a visual dimension in the form of illustrations provided by Meath born, Berlin based Ann Kiernan; winner of the Moira Gemmill Illustrator of the Year.

Both projects and many others are available to view on the To Be Irish at Christmas [website](#)

Heritage Arts Group Christmas Exhibition



KELLS HERITAGE ART GROUP VIRTUAL ART EXHIBITION

Founded in around 1990, Kells Heritage Art Group promotes and encourages amateur visual artists living in and around the town of Kells, Co Meath.

Kells Heritage Art Group get together for an art exhibition every year. Due to extraordinary circumstances this year, the committee decided it would be a good idea to get in touch with those who usually participate in the annual exhibition to propose a virtual art exhibition to keep the interest up and to help motivate the group during this period of restrictions.

They are currently posting photos of the group's artwork on Kells Heritage Art Group Facebook and Instagram pages. Most of the works are for sale and prices and contact details are listed on the pages.

View the work online [here](#)

MAMU Needs YOU



Do you feel isolated as an artist?

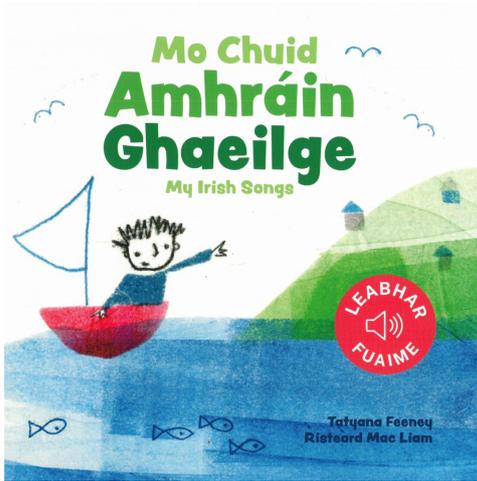
Have the effects of Covid19 made it more difficult for you to connect professionally?

Meath Arts Meet Up, MAMU, want to help with interactive ThinkTank sessions. Help us deliver the programmes you want to see!

Would you be interested in group zoom sessions? Would you like individual mentoring? What short-term online training would you like to see offered? Are there certain groups that you think are needed in your area? What isn't happening that could happen?

Send us your suggestions to artsoffice@meathcoco.ie with MAMU in the subject bar.

Congratulations to Meath Illustrator



Congratulations to Meath illustrator, **Tatyana Feeney** on having her book **Mo Chuid Amhráin Ghaeilge / My Irish Songs** included on the **Late Late Toy Show**. This beautiful book includes 6 traditional Irish songs that come to life with the push of a button.

A fabulous Christmas gift idea supporting local artists available to purchase [here](#)

Congratulations to Fiona Sherlock on the recent launch of TWELVE MOTIVES FOR MURDER



Twelve Motives For Murder, written by Bespoke Murder Mystery author **Fiona Sherlock**.

This Christmas, sit back and become a real armchair detective. A murder mystery told entirely through interviews. Private Investigator Elizabeth Chalice needs YOU to help her solve this case.

Audible: <https://www.audible.co.uk/pd/Twelve-Motives-for-Murder-Audiobook/152936003X?>

Kobo: <https://www.kobo.com/gb/en/audiobook/twelve-motives-for-murder-1>

Google Play: https://play.google.com/store/audiobooks/details/Fiona_Sherlock_Twelve_Motives_for_Murder?id=AQAAAECcqU3pwM

Keep Well



Be sure to follow Meath County Council's Keep Well Campaign this Christmas to help mind your mood, get creative, eat well, get active and stay connected.

Details of the campaign can be found [here](#)

UPCOMING ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



The deadline for the next round of the Arts Council's Bursary Awards is **Thursday, 28 January 2020** at 5.30pm

The window for making an application opens on Tuesday, 15 December 2020. Bursaries are available in the following areas:

- Architecture Bursary Award
- Arts Participation Bursary Award
- Circus Bursary Award
- Dance Bursary Award
- Film Bursary Award
- Literature Bursary Award - English Language
- Music Bursary Award
- Opera Bursary Award
- Street Arts and Spectacle Bursary Award
- Traditional Arts Bursary
- Visual Arts Bursary
- Young People Children and Education Bursary

Guidelines for the award will be published on the available funding section on the Arts Council website in early December.

Please note

Applications will only be accepted through the Arts Council's online services website. Applicants who have not previously used this system must register in advance of making an application. It is recommended that applicants allow **five working days** for registration prior to making an application.

Further information [here](#)

SUBMIT A LISTING



Are you an arts professional? Do you have an upcoming exhibition, show or event? Are you delivering online talks or workshops?

If you would like to submit a listing for inclusion in our newsletter, please send details and an image for consideration to: artsoffice@meathcoco.ie with **LISTING** in the subject bar