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2023 Annual Education and Outreach (Ed+O) Forum

Presented by the Irish Museums Association (IMA) in partnership with NI Museums Council (NIMC)

23 June. Presidents Hall, Law Society of Ireland, Dublin

Programme

- 10:30 - 10:45 Welcome, Gina O'Kelly, Irish Museums Association (IMA).
- 10:45 - 11:10 *Working towards inclusive education in the UCD Classical Museum.*
Dr Joanna Day, Assistant Professor in Greek Archaeology & Classical Museum Curator, UCD and Dr Bridget Martin, Teaching Fellow and Director of Access Classics, University College Dublin.
- 11:10 - 11:35 *Follow Your Nose.*
Julie Forrester, Artist-Facilitator, Crawford Art Gallery.
- 11:35 - 12:00 *Exploring Dublin's history with children: Listening, responding, and co-creating.*
Dervilia Roche, Historian in Residence for Children, Dublin City Council Culture.
- 12:00 - 12:25 *Heritage 4 Health - Social prescribing post covid.*
Beth Frazer, Heritage for Health Programme Coordinator, NI Environment Link.
- 12:30 – 13:45 Lunch (included)**
- 13:45 - 14:10 *Climate Action: a collaborative climate change project and community call to action.*
Shauna Allen, PhD candidate, University College Cork.
- 14:10 - 14:35 *Unseeing Traces: Artefacts from the Kingdom of Kongo.*
Mark Maguire, Assistant Curator: Engagement and Learning, and Adam Stoneman, SPICE Project Researcher (2020 - 2023), IMMA (Irish Museum of Modern Art).
- 14:35 – 15:00 **Break (tea/coffee/refreshments)**
- 15:00 – 15:25 *All Ways Home: Space Poetry Initiative.*
Jennie Ryan, Head of Learning and Culture at MoLI and Lily Cahill, Learning Coordinator at MoLI.
- 15:25 – 15:50 *An Elephant Never Forgets.*
Hannah Gallagher, Learning Facilitator, NI War Memorial.
- 15:50 – 16:00 Closing Comments, Catherine Doran, NI Museums Council.

The IMA and NIMC gratefully acknowledge the support and funding they receive, respectively, from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, The Heritage Council, and the Department for Communities.



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Presentation abstracts and speakers

Working towards inclusive education in the UCD Classical Museum

The Classical Museum of University College Dublin is unique in Ireland as the only museum dedicated to material from the ancient Mediterranean. Historically, Classics has been viewed as an elitist subject, and in Ireland it tends now to be concentrated in fee-charging schools, which limits equitable access.

In seeking to broaden accessibility to the cultural heritage of the ancient world, in 2022 the Museum began collaborating with Access Classics, a second-level outreach programme run through UCD School of Classics. Drawing on SDG 4, concerning inclusive and equitable quality education, a new, flexible Museum-based offering was devised, combining guided visits to the collection (including artefact handling) with lecturer-led workshops on Classical topics. All schools can avail of these free workshops, and they are especially popular with Transition Year groups. This paper assesses their success in widening participation beyond the 'traditional' scope of Classics and in promoting diversity, and indeed, why this matters.

Dr Joanna Day is Curator of the UCD Classical Museum, and Assistant Professor in Greek Archaeology in the School of Classics, UCD. She recently co-curated the contemporary art exhibition 'The Museum of Ancient History' with Pádraic E. Moore. She is also an active archaeologist and has just commenced a new project working with legacy excavation material at Knossos, Crete; before this she was the co-director of the excavations at Priniatikos Pyrgos in east Crete. Her research interests include ancient ceramic technology and multisensory approaches to the past, and she has published widely on both topics.

Dr Bridget Martin is a Teaching Fellow in the UCD School of Classics, where she teaches on death and the afterlife in the ancient world, Ancient Greek language, and Classics outreach. Bridget is also the director of UCD Access Classics (www.accessclassics.ie), a second-level outreach programme that encourages the uptake of Classics at second level in Ireland, and her research centres on points of interaction between the living and the dead in the ancient Greek world.

Exploring Dublin's history with children: Listening, responding, and co-creating

Dublin City Council Culture Company runs cultural initiatives and buildings across the city with, and for, the people of Dublin. It puts people at the centre of everything, by listening, responding and collaborating throughout projects. This presentation will focus on the Culture Company's work with children and history, through the work of the Historian-in-Residence for Children and the schools programme at 14 Henrietta Street social history museum, both of which incorporate the principles of cultural democracy and cross-sectoral engagement.

The role of Historian-in-Residence for Children is the first of its kind in Dublin, and aims to encourage the children of Dublin city to create lifelong connections to history. This residency is made in partnership with the Culture Company and Dublin City Libraries. It involves working with children aged 9 to 12 across the city

through history workshops and projects. The themes and activities are drawn from an ongoing process of listening to children and gathering feedback. Similarly, the schools programme at 14 Henrietta Street has been co-created through a process of collaborating with students and teachers. This has included both the development of the school tours in the building, and the creation of teacher resources.

Dervilia Roche is Dublin's Historian in Residence for Children. The role is based in Richmond Barracks, Inchicore, and is part of the Dublin City Council Culture Company Creative Residencies programme in partnership with Dublin City Libraries.

Dervilia works with 9 to 12 year olds, to bring the past to life by exploring new ways to engage and connect. Dervilia has previously worked at Dublin Castle, the National Museum of Ireland, and the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre, in various visitor engagement roles, including tour guiding and developing education programmes.

She has also worked on the creation of classroom history resources, and for heritage services in the UK. She has published research on how children engage with heritage sites. She has a BA in History of Art and Architecture and Music from Trinity College Dublin, and an MSc in Tourism Management from Dublin Institute of Technology.

Follow Your Nose

Follow Your Nose is a collaborative art programme led by Julie Forrester, Cork Migrant Centre and Crawford Art Gallery that meets children who are living in Direct Provision, some of whom have been given leave to stay in Ireland.

Connecting online through zoom and in-person gallery visits, art-making has incorporated slime recipes, anime, cute food kawaii-donuts, Black Panther-inspired jewellery, hair styles, Saint Patrick. The programme aims to meet the children where they are at. To do this, Julie comes to each session with a suggested technique/theme, adapting to follow the children's lead and interests, rather than a prescriptive approach.

Since 2021, Follow your Nose has co-created animations, drawing guides, and a video diary which will be screened at Cork Migrant Centre's Anti-Racism and Integration Forum, Cork City Hall, in May 2023, and is currently working towards a project for exhibition in Crawford Art Gallery In September, which can be described as part portal, part sculpture; a real-life zoom screen which will invite interaction.

In this presentation, Julie will outline her experience of maintaining creative connection with children living in direct provision. Our efforts towards greater inclusion, co-creation, and the intimacy, strangeness and challenge of working through flat screens and phones.

Julie Forrester is an Artist-Facilitator with Crawford Art Gallery and is currently delivering *Follow your Nose* in partnership with Cork Migrant Centre, a project with families in direct Provision. Her visual art is characterised by a curiosity about narrative forms, arising from connections with place, memory and shared experience. She holds a BA in Fine Art, Masters Degree in art Process and a HAUMEA Certificate in Essential Eco Literacy.

Julie has a long career as artist in community and education contexts and is Associate Artist with The Design and Crafts Council of Ireland; Cork County Council; Creative Ireland's TAP and BLAST programmes and with Kids' Own Publishing Partnership. Her participatory projects have received awards from The Arts Council of Ireland and Local Authority Arts Offices.

In 2022 she was artist in residence with Cork Midsummer Festival's Creative Enquiry working with Traveller groups with young Traveller children and their families, exploring the relationship between cultural identity and cultural engagement. Forrester is currently leading a multidisciplinary site specific project, Gleann na Phúca, in the Glen River Park, which is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland and Cork City Council.

Heritage 4 Health - Social prescribing post covid.

Heritage for Health is a social prescribing programme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and delivered in partnership with Northern Ireland Environment Link and Healthy Living Centre Alliance. Social prescribing is designed to provide participants with an alternative or complimentary prescription for a range of diagnosed medical conditions such as mental health, long covid, pain, anxiety and depression.

The aim of this programme is to work closely across sectors with health care professionals and facilitators to encourage engagement for the improvement of health and wellbeing through environmental heritage and associated activities. Social prescribing has the potential to lessen the burden on the National Health Service and health workers while making cost savings.

This presentation will explain further the value of social prescribing and the opportunities for the museum and heritage sector to create health improvements and longer term engagement.

Beth Frazer is Heritage for Health Programme Coordinator with NI Environment Link. She has over 15 years experience working in museums and heritage including education, community engagement and events. Working across departments in her career, Beth is award winning in her delivery including the MARSH Award for Excellence in Museum Education and as the coordinator of the first, and award winning, Playful Museums Festival across Northern Ireland. As well as the IMA education and outreach forum, Beth has presented at Engage in Arts Summer school, National Trust staff network, Museums Next Growing Audience Summit, Museum Next Games and Play Summit, and published in the IMA Journal.

Beth was selected and took part in the British Museum Exchange programme, Space Invaders Reverse Mentoring programme and Thrive Audience Development programme. Beth now works in social prescribing in Heritage for Health and Creative Outreach. When she has time, she enjoys working at Carrickfergus Museum and Hillsborough Castle and Gardens as well as freelance work.

Climate Action: a collaborative climate change project and community call to action.

Climate Action was a combination exhibition and community engagement programme addressing the urgency of the climate crisis. It was a collaborative project between this UCC researcher and the Barrington Museum Complex in Nova Scotia, Canada. The exhibition presented both global and local impacts of climate change with particular focus on rising sea levels, shoreline loss, and extreme weather events. The exhibition also incorporated participatory exhibition elements focusing on ways we can all take action to combat the worst effects of climate change.

Complementary to the exhibition, a community day of action was coordinated by working with a grassroots community group Scotian Shores to organize a beach clean-up. Community partners were also engaged in the development of an Art Activism gallery featuring climate change protest posters that utilized the beach garbage we collected. This project offers insight into community collaboration, museums responding to the climate crisis, museums engaging in and inspiring social activism, and small-scale sustainable exhibition design.

Shauna Allen is a PhD candidate at University College Cork in Museum Studies. An established museum educator, Shauna is experienced in developing and presenting engaging and inclusive learning programmes. She's an active member of the Irish Museum Association and former IMA membership Development Officer.

Her PhD research, *Curating Change: a trans-Atlantic study of activism in museums*, reflects both her belief in the global nature of museums and the potential for museums to contribute to a more sustainable and socially just world. While Shauna currently resides in Ireland, she is from Canada and has worked at museums in the western Canadian province of Alberta and Atlantic maritime province of Nova Scotia. In Ireland, she has done special projects work with Nano Nagle Place, the Glucksman Gallery, and the Valentia Island Heritage Centre.

Unseeing Traces: Artefacts from the Kingdom of Kongo

Unseeing Traces: Artefacts from the Kingdom of Kongo was an exhibition at IMMA (15 April-11 June 2023). Curated from the private collection of hundreds of objects belonging to Nasser Aidara, the exhibition featured masks, oracles, instruments, furniture, and figurines. *Unseeing Traces* grew from IMMA's contribution to SPICE, an EU-funded research project (May 2020-April 2023). SPICE developed methods of Citizen Curation to support minoritised or under-served communities sharing their perspectives through selecting and interpreting works of art.

In November 2021, Adam Stoneman, SPICE researcher, saw a display of Aidara's Congolese artefacts at the Teacher's Club, Dublin. Aidara is a former refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and now works for New Communities Partnership. After his father passed away in 2021, Aidara inherited this collection of artefacts from across the DRC and central Africa.

Co-curators Stoneman and Mark Maguire will discuss the education programme built around this exhibition and explore how the artefacts in *Unseeing Traces* share a relational quality with other artworks at IMMA. Some artefacts rely on activation or supplementary information to uncover their cultural significance. Their meanings emerge from everyday rituals or special ceremonies, carrying a trace of past performances which can be re-activated through public engagement.

Mark Maguire is the Assistant Curator: Schools & Family Programmes with the Education and Learning Department at IMMA (Irish Museum of Modern Art). He coordinates programmes, workshops, events, and publications for families, school students, and teachers and has been a researcher on two EC-funded projects: DECIPHER (FP7 2011-13) and SPICE (H2020 2020-23).

Adam Stoneman was SPICE Project Researcher at IMMA (Irish Museum of Modern Art) from 2020 - 2023. He works with communities and organisations in developing forms of Citizen Curation and facilitates workshops. His writing on culture and technology has appeared in 'Jacobin', 'Open Democracy' and 'Culture Matters'. He leads the Museum-Technology Working Group initiated in 2021.

All Ways Home: Space Poetry Initiative

'All Ways Home' is a cross-organizational and intergenerational project fostering creative and educational equality and empowerment through the promotion of digital literacy, cross-disciplinary teamwork and social inclusion. Led by the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) in partnership with JCSP Libraries, University College Dublin Writing Community (UCD) and the [EIRSAT-1](#) Team, 'All Ways Home' celebrates the creation of a collaborative poem etched into EIRSAT-1, Ireland's first satellite, to be launched in 2023.

In 2021, MoLI and the above-mentioned partners conducted 5 online creative writing workshops under Associate Professor Paul Perry of UCD and poets Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi and Jessica Traynor. Exploring topics such as personal and universal experience, homelessness, the ongoing refugee crisis and environmental sustainability, the 12 students carried out writing exercises on the theme of 'HOME' with the ultimate goal of creating a final, collaborative poem which was engraved into EIRSAT-1. Framed by what was the darkest period Ireland faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, the project was a bastion of hope to all involved as the participating students worked to shape Ireland's artistic, technological and deeply human legacy.

In Summer 2022, the project entered its second phase of development which focused on public engagement through recordings of the collaborative poem read by the student poets using MoLI's in-house recording studio and free online archive and alongside an accompanying animated film.

Jennie Ryan is Head of Learning and Culture at MoLI. As part of the senior management team that opened MoLI to the public in September 2019, she is interested in developing and delivering a programme of compelling experiences with staff and the public, both online and onsite, that explore the boundaries of youth and community work, formal and informal learning, and the arts and literature. A youth and

community arts worker at heart, Jennie's interested in cultural democracy - cultivating multidisciplinary projects that connect creative and cultural industries with wider communities and the arts - and is particularly drawn to start up projects; from setting up Roundabout Youth Theatre in collaboration with Axis Ballymun and BRYP, as a Youth Arts Practitioner with Sphere 17 in Darndale, to working as a Script and Story Editor with JAM Media/Nick Jr on pre-school animation Becca's Bunch.

Lily Cahill is Learning Manager at MoLI and a visual artist, writer, editor and facilitator. She is the winner of the Visual Artists Ireland/Dublin City Council Art Writing Award 2019. She has written or performed her work for the Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts, The Lab Gallery, Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre, Visual Artists' News Sheet, CIRCA, Art and Research Collaboration (ARC) at Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Paper Visual Art, the School of Visual Culture at NCAD and Foaming at the Mouth. Lily has facilitated writing and creative projects with Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, The RHA, The LAB Gallery, Dublin and has been a co-editor of Critical Bastards Magazine, funded by the Arts Council of Ireland, since 2014.

An Elephant Never Forgets.

An Elephant Never Forgets was a series of free creative workshops telling the story of Sheila the elephant who lived at Belfast Zoo during the Second World War. It was part of The Wild Escape, a nationwide celebration of UK nature, inspired by wildlife found in museums and galleries.

Participating schools visited the Northern Ireland War Memorial to learn about life during the Second World War and Sheila's experience of the air raids, and how she was kept safe by her zookeeper. Belfast Zoo then visited each school to explain how elephants are cared for today, giving the children the chance to see and hold some small animals from the Zoo. Finally, each class took part in a creative workshop with artist Dawn Crothers to create fantastic artworks inspired by Sheila's story.

The artworks created by the pupils were digitally displayed in the museum. The exhibition of the artworks was launched on Earth Day, 22nd of April, and the launch was attended by Sheila Hughes, who gave her name to the elephant in 1937, and Michelle Kelly, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast.

The project was created and delivered by the Northern Ireland War Memorial, with funding from the Wild Escape and support from the Northern Ireland Museums Council.

Hannah Gallagher is the Learning Facilitator with NI War Memorial Museum. Prior to this, she has worked with Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive, Linen Hall Library, the Education Authority (Northern Ireland), and The National Museum of the Royal Navy. She completed her MA in Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies at Ulster University in 2019.

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