

REACH '24



Arts and Sustainability Festival

18-20 April



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST



Arts and Sustainability Festival

REACH
'24

Introduction

Queen's University in collaboration with Sustainable Development Solutions Network Ireland is launching Reach '24, a new arts and sustainability festival. The festival aims to amplify climate issues and sustainability through the arts sector.

This first year of the festival will showcase a range of projects, practice-based work and community engagement projects from across Ireland. Confirmed speakers at the festival include keynote, Alison Tickell, Founder and CEO of Julie's Bicycle, and Tania Banotti, Director of Creative Ireland.

The programme also features film screenings, workshops and talks on policy, practice and community engagement in the arts and sustainability.

Thursday 18 April

Botanic Gardens Connecting with/as Nature 2pm

Workshop led by Dan Shippesides (Belfast School of Art) and Dr Amanda Slevin (Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Action, Queen's University Belfast)

No experience or imagined 'talent' are needed for this 'in the field' drawing workshop. In fact, existing 'artistry' might be a hinderance. Based on observation, spatial orientation, structural embodiment and being present, rather than picture making, Dan will tutor you to help you engage with a process of drawing that aims to create 'drawing as' rather than 'drawing of' nature - reality not representation.

Field easels, drawing boards, paper and drawing materials will be provided - all you need to do is turn up, be open and happy to let go of expectations and get your fingernails dirty! We will be walking a relatively short distance and the drawing activity will be standing (although if you're unable to do this we will endeavour to find a way to accommodate your needs - please advise via seca@qub.ac.uk). Details and registration can be found on Queen's Website.

Naughton Gallery Full of Wonder or Full of Plastic? You Decide / 5.30-8.00pm

Visit the Naughton Gallery for the launch of a new exhibition by American artist Ingrid Hess which explores the current perils of plastic waste in our oceans.

Free admission. All welcome. Refreshments provided.

Friday 19 April

The Cube, One Elmwood Welcome & Keynote Speech 8.45am - 10am

Welcome

Michael Alcorn
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Sustainability and Strategic Projects

Keynote Presentation

Alison Tickell
Mobilising the Creative Climate Movement

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SESSION 1:
Policy, Advocacy &
Sectoral Observations



Friday 19 April Cont.

SESSION 1: Policy, Advocacy & Sectoral Observations / 10am - 11am

Tania Benotti
Director, Creative Ireland

Creative Climate Action

Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-government programme that puts creativity at the centre of public policy. A key part of the programme is a €6million fund that supports artists and the wider creative sectors to provoke individual and community-led climate action.

Ali Fitzgibbon
Senior Lecturer, Creative & Cultural Industries Management

Sustainability in cultural policy on a shared island

How has the Paris Treaty changed cultural policy on the island of Ireland and what does this mean for arts and creative organisations? In this short overview of her recent work, Ali FitzGibbon will highlight how the SDGs have shaped cultural policies and what might be some of the challenges to achieving a just transition for Irish and Northern Irish arts and culture.

Dr Kathryn Nelson

Sustainability and the culture nature divide

A five-year study investigated cultural intermediaries and the dissemination of ecological knowledge through culture. The study explored the Northern

Irish visual art sector, investigating three groups, cultural intermediaries, visual artists and ecologists. The results suggest that there is limited visual art narrating the natural environment. The reason for this is multifactorial, the cultural intermediaries may be overlooking the ecological emergency, perhaps due to their limited exposure to nature. This is problematic since visual art can assist in learning. After all, given the right cultural platform, eco art may have the power to support an environmental crisis mitigation process through cultural change.

Panel Discussion

Michael Alcorn with Tania Benotti, Ali Fitzgibbon, Alison Tickell, Kathryn Nelson

Panel Discussion on Policy, Advocacy and Sectoral Observations



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SESSION 2:
People, Place, Arts &
Engagement

Friday 19 April Cont.

SESSION 2: People, Place, Arts & Engagement / 11.30am to 12.45pm

Susie Cahn & Alexander McMaster, Shifting Tides Project Team. Shifting Tides - Coastal Conversations supporting community led decisions in Carlingford Lough

A talk from Shifting Tides Project, recipients of the Shared Island Creative Climate Action fund, an initiative from the Creative Ireland Programme, supported by the ROI Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in collaboration with the Department of the Taoiseach. The fund backs projects building awareness around climate change, empowering citizens for meaningful change. Shifting Tides aims to empower coastal communities around Carlingford Lough to take an active role in decisions affecting their local marine ecosystems. Through practical marine ecology, citizen science, and collaborative arts, it supports both existing and new connections with the Lough's marine environment.

Ian Wilson, Karina Lynch Charles & Heather Bothwell, Restoring Cavan's Boglands Project Team. Restoring Cavan's Boglands

Restoring Cavan's Boglands project is a Creative Ireland project that aims to address the important issue of bog health. Historically in Ireland many bogs were drained and so lack the qualities of wet bogland which, as well as sequestering carbon, naturally attracts a great variety of flora and fauna.

The driving force behind the project is composer Ian Wilson who is aiming to engage with communities, interested individuals and landowners to encourage and educate people about rewetting boglands and the positive impacts it can have.

Tom Jefferies, Professor of Future Cities. Future Island-Island: Designing Sustainable Futures Education

AHRC Green Transition Ecosystems Future Island-Island is a large multi-partner co-design project based around Rathlin Island, Northern Ireland's only inhabited island.

Designing Sustainable Futures Education, co-led by Architect Prof. Tom Jefferies (Queen's University Belfast) and Linguist Prof. Raffi Folli (Ulster University), develops sustainable futures approaches at all educational stages. Diverse, culturally responsive design approaches are central to building practices, sophisticated visual language and knowledge bases for future lifestyles. This embodies global challenges, place, creativity, art and design to generate radical, achievable proposals for shared sustainable futures.

Anna Lardi, CEO Music for Galway. "Songs of Travel: where the rubber meets the road"

When Swedish cellist Jakob Koranyi requested to be allowed to travel by land and sea to perform in the opening edition of Cellissimo (planned for 2020), we were slightly perplexed. Would it not be much easier to accept our offer of two flights? One for him and one for his cello? This was in 2018 and it was the first time that someone told us about their decision not to fly again. This is the story of one person's conviction inspiring others, and how, from this, a transnational project has grown that aims to harness the power of music to inform and change people's behaviour.

Panel Discussion on People, Place, Arts & Engagement.

12.45pm - 1.45pm LUNCH

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SESSION 3:
An Artist/Practitioner
Perspective

Friday 19 April Cont.

SESSION 3: An Artist/Practitioner Perspective / 1.45pm-3.00pm

Emma Must
Eco Poet

“The Ballad of Yellow Wednesday: a Poetry Reading”

Jools Gilson
Professor of Creative Practice, Director, UCC Creative

Tempestries: Listening in Slow Motion

Tempestries is a nuanced collaborative co-creation with Cloonshannagh Bog in Co. Roscommon focussed on the ways movement and textiles shape a sense of place within an Irish context. Its spliced science and speculative history are anchored in the story of a 7th Century bog skeleton and her textiles found on Cloonshannagh Bog in 2005. It listens deeply as a way to make playful and plural speculative dancing histories grounded in natural and archaeological science. Haunted by lively textiles which whisper to you when you breathe into them, or respond to touch with tumbles of story. Tempestries is urgent enchantment for the weary.

Ingrid Hess
Professor of Graphic Design, UMass Lowell

“Go Green! Teaching environmental sustainability to children”

The best way to ensure that humanity will win the fight against climate change is to engage our children in this important movement. Art and design are key players in helping children get involved. Most children love being creative and learn from doing hands-on projects. Art and design can inspire the next generation to help save our planet.

Eileen Hutton
Lecturer in Art & Ecology, Historical & Critical Studies, Burren College of Art

The Soil Project Residency: Mycelial Communities

In the presentation of my artistic practice I will discuss the Soil Project: Mycelial Communities, a yearlong residency and project commissioned by Butler Gallery in Kilkenny Ireland. I spent 2021 becoming-with soil and in conversation with a wider soil-centered community. I will explore the ways in which artistic and participatory research methodologies might help to support soil biodiversity. I argue that it is the combination of artistic practice, scientific research, and collective action that is necessary to address and ameliorate the ways in which human beings are actively and radically altering life on Earth.



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SESSION 4:
Enabling &
Delivering Change

Friday 19 April Cont.

SESSION 4: Enabling & Delivering Change / 3pm-4pm

Hazel Farrell

Music Programme Leader, South East Technological University

SETU Sustainability in the Arts Festival: A Creative Catalyst to Inspire Change

The Sustainability in the Arts Festival in South East Technological University originated as a multidisciplinary initiative embracing the challenge of creating a culture of sustainability in the university. This presentation delves into the journey of the festival with focus on the impact on the student learning experience and the level of growth within a short period of time.

Kevin Murphy, V'cenza Cirefice & Peter Doran Programme Team from Artitude

The Cultural Turn in Ecological Activism on the Island of Ireland: The art of living with uncomfortable questions.

The socio-ecological polycrises are - above all - provocations to revisit some of the West's most deeply

rooted assumptions and the cultural affordances of our dominant worldview. These are challenges that prompt us to revisit questions of power, enclosure, language and the attention economy.

SDSN Ireland

David Donoghue, Maria Kirrane, John Barimo, Sara Lynch

Panel Discussion on Enabling & Delivering Change



Friday 19 April Cont.

Reach '24: Rising Tide + Discussion / 6pm-9pm

Join us for a special screening of two important environmental documentaries plus a panel discussion, as part of Reach '24.

As sea levels continue to rise, low lying communities world-wide are potentially at serious risk. This event pairs films that explore the impact of rising tides on vulnerable communities, an island in the Thames Estuary and the highest areas of Miami. Exploring ideas of environmental gentrification and the impact of climate change on marginalised communities, these films will spark conversations and pose challenges for everyone to explore how we can ensure that the impact of climate change is reduced and where it occurs it doesn't impact those with the least, the most.

You can access tickets via the Queen's Film Theatre Website. Individuals who register for the Reach'24 events on Friday 19th April are entitled to the 'Reach 24' ticket type with a discount applied. Please present your Reach'24 booking confirmation at box office.

Panel Discussion with Joan Parsons, Nuala Flood and Geraint Ellis

Saturday 20 April

The Naughton Gallery **Art in the A.M. tour / 10am**

Join artist Ingrid Hess for an Art in the A.M. tour of her new exhibition at the Naughton Gallery. Learn more about the artist's exploration of plastic waste in our oceans as Hess guides us through her striking new installation.

Admission is free, with refreshments provided on arrival. Please register your attendance by emailing "art@qub.ac.uk".

Canada Room & Council Chamber **Connecting with/as Nature / 11.30am**

Exhibition and Panel Discussion led by Dan Shipsides, Amanda Slevin and Ruth Hunter

Join us for our exhibition where we will be showcasing drawings produced by participants in our 'Connecting with /as Nature' drawing workshops. Hear from experts on connective activities and the importance of engaging with (and as) nature for public and planetary health and wellbeing. Our speakers Dr Amanda Slevin, Dan Shipsides and Prof. Ruth Hunter will address: the climate and socio-ecological crises, alienation from nature and the planetary emergency, health inequalities, the role of urban green and blue spaces for public health, and connecting with /as nature through art practices.

Sonic Lab, Sonic Arts Research Centre **Multichannel Sound Installation work: wondrous world within/without: interspecies gossip (2024) / 1pm**

Karen Power

Sonic Lab, Sonic Arts Research Centre **Closing Showcase Event / 2pm**

Andrew Lewis - Two Lakes

Lake Nezahualcōyotl is a reservoir in Chiapas created as part of a hydroelectric power scheme. The dam was completed in 1966, and the area around the original lake flooded. Just a year earlier a similar flooding drowned the village of Capel Celyn in Wales, controversially displacing its Welsh-speaking residents. At both lakes, droughts cause the periodic re-emergence of the drowned buildings, with increasing regularity: a 16th century church at Lake Nezahualcōyotl and the ruins of the Welsh village of Capel Celyn. In Wales, these appearances re-awaken painful memories of past injustices, but they are also a very present reminder of the crisis of climate change, in Mexico, Wales and across the globe.

Annie Mahtani - Breathe

Breathe is part of a series of works composed using recordings made at the Birmingham Institute of Forest Research. The experiment addresses the key

Saturday 20 April

challenge of the impact of climate and environmental damage on woodlands through the simulation of the atmosphere we're predicted to have in 2050. Breathe explores the man-made and industrial elements of the forest: pipes wind their way around the experiment transporting CO2 and generators are housed across the facility to power the experiment. The soundscape is the antithesis of a typical forest. In contrast, the piece also uses recordings of the internal activity of trees, from sap moving through the tree to the habitats that they provide for insects and wildlife. The piece comments on feelings of eco-anxiety and eco-guilt that many people have found themselves carrying as the climate emergency escalates.

David Herlihy, Adam Cooney, Laura Neville, Mindy Naudziunas, Janine Kelly

Promises of Tomorrow - A Musical Tribute to the Sustainable Development Goals

A musical tribute to the Sustainable Development Goals focusing on nature and climate change. Live performance of approx. 10mins consisting of guitar, keys, tin whistle and electronic elements. Performance will be accompanied by visual art, projections and voiceovers that display and express the overall theme of the composition, which is inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals. Established in 2015 by members of the United Nations, these goals aim to eradicate poverty, find sustainable development solutions, and safeguard the entire global population's human rights by 2030. The underlying factor affecting the success of these aims being climate change.

Lara Weaver - Dune's Song

Dune's Song will allow attendees to hear a sound often heard in deserts, but which is sadly being lost due to climate change.

Jools Gilson & Benjamin Burns - Tempestries: Listening in Slow Motion

Tempestries is a nuanced collaborative co-creation with Cloonshannagh Bog in Co. Roscommon focussed on the ways movement and textiles shape a sense of place within an Irish context. Its spliced science and speculative history are anchored in the story of a 7th Century bog skeleton and her textiles found on Cloonshannagh Bog in 2005. It listens deeply as a way to make playful and plural speculative dancing histories grounded in natural and archaeological science. Haunted by lively textiles which whisper to you when you breathe into them, or respond to touch with tumbles of story. Tempestries is urgent enchantment for the weary.





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Belfast
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Bryson
Recycling



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