

# SHAPING IRELAND

## LANDSCAPES IN IRISH ART

# Activate

# or Cultivate?

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### THURSDAY 2 MAY Borders

Symposium in collaboration  
with Paper Visual Art Journal.

#### SUNDAY 26 MAY Shaping Ireland: Past, Present and Future

Day of activities for all ages  
and abilities dedicated to the  
landscape, environment and  
the role we play.

#### THURSDAY 6 JUNE Shaping Ireland: Art in the Anthropocene

A conversation with  
Willie Doherty.

### INTRODUCTION

## THE ART OF OUR NATURE

*Shaping Ireland: Landscapes in Irish Art* is an exhibition spanning 250 years from the mid-eighteenth century to the present day. All four provinces are represented through both art and artists, and of the fifty artists included, twenty are living and working today.

Exploring the relationship between people and the natural world, the exhibition presents diverse artworks addressing common themes: mountains & wetlands, settlements & territories, fields & pastures, gardens & parks, and industry & infrastructure. Painting, works on paper, photography, film, sculpture and installation all

feature in this show. This creates a rich dialogue between artists of the past, present and future, a unique experience for visitors, and an exciting opportunity for education, learning and engagement.

This programme is designed to encourage people of all ages, from all over the country, to connect with this exhibition, these artists, and the timely topics presented: landscape, the environment and the anthropocene – the current geological age, where human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment.

We have collaborated with new and existing partners to investigate subjects such as perception and reality,

people and power, and nature and culture. Through this process, we have co-created activities such as nationwide talks and podcasts, rural community projects and urban artists' workshops.

Artists have always played a significant role in visualising aspects of human impact on the environment. This programme calls on everyone to do the same, to consider the landscape of our past, the climate of our present, and the country of our future.

Sinéad Rice  
Head of Education

"For thousands of years, Ireland's environment has been shaped by activities and processes associated with the wider conditions of human progress and the development of civilisation."

DONAL MAGUIRE  
CURATOR

▲ Image: Paul Henry, 1876-1958, *A Connemara Village, 1930-33* (Detail), © The Estate of Paul Henry / IVARO, Dublin 2019

◀ Image: Robert Hunter, 1748-80, *Portrait of Peter La Touche of Bellevue* (1733-1828), 1775 (Detail), Photo © National Gallery of Ireland



# Untouched

# or Abandoned?

▲ Image: Dorothy Cross, b.1956,  
*Glassilaun Snow Peak*, 2014, (Detail)  
Photo © National Gallery of Ireland

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Borders Symposium

Thursday 2 May

10.00 – 13.30

Tickets €15 | Students €5

*Paper Visual Art (PVA)* began in 2009 as an online journal of art criticism. Now based between Dublin and Berlin, *PVA* produces writing about art, and in 2019 celebrates 10 years of continuous high-quality publishing.

To mark this occasion and address a common timely theme, prevalent in both the *PVA10* publication and the *Shaping Ireland* exhibition, the Gallery will host *Borders*, a symposium in partnership with *PVA*. Featuring contemporary writers, artists, filmmakers and critics, including Dragana Jurisic, Colin Graham and Declan Long, the symposium will comprise short, engaging, presentations and panel discussions. Refreshments will be provided and tickets include FREE access to *Shaping Ireland*.

For the full list of speakers:  
[nationalgallery.ie](http://nationalgallery.ie)

### Contemporary Artist Panel Event

Thursday 23 May

18.30

Tickets €10

Artistic responses to the Irish landscape can take many forms. Artists Caoimhe Kilfeather, Mairead O'hEocha, Niamh O'Malley and Amelia Stein, who work using the distinctive mediums of sculpture, painting, drawing and photography, will be brought together to discuss their relationship with the Irish landscape, and how it informs their art. The panel will be chaired by Donal Maguire, exhibition curator.

### Screening of Wild Ireland: The Edge of the World

Followed by Q&A with Directors  
Cepa Giblin and John Murray

Sunday 26 May

12.30

Free

A journey along one of the most spectacular coastlines in the world featuring the wildlife and wild places that make it so special. Colin Stafford-Johnson takes viewers on an authored odyssey along Ireland's Atlantic coast – the place he calls home.

### Shaping Ireland: Art in the Anthropocene

A conversation with  
Willie Doherty

Thursday 6 June

18.30

Tickets €10

We are delighted to collaborate with Trinity College Dublin on the major international conference, *Art in the Anthropocene*, (7-9 June), through presenting a special evening event, a conversation with Willie Doherty, one of Ireland's most prominent contemporary artists.

Facilitated by exhibition curator Donal Maguire, the event will consider Doherty's practice, and explore the concepts, methods and media this internationally significant artist uses to address the landscape.

The *Art in the Anthropocene* conference is organised by TCD School for Creative Arts in collaboration with the Trinity Centre for Environmental Humanities, and the Science Gallery's exhibition *PLASTIC*.

[artintheanthropocene.com](http://artintheanthropocene.com)



# NATIONWIDE TALKS & PODCASTS

**"The shaping of Ireland by humans has been so extensive and expanded to such a degree that every part of the island has been impacted upon by culture and ordered according to human needs and desires."**

DONAL MAGUIRE  
CURATOR

## PODCASTS: The Island, A Prospect

In this series of five podcasts artists and experts with a passion for the Irish landscape will talk you through an area of the country that has special relevance to their work and life. In conversation with Mark Cantan, these places of personal significance will also be digitally mapped, allowing listeners to embark on their own adventures into the Irish landscape.

### **The North Dublin Coastline, Co. Dublin**

with Paula Meehan, poet and former Ireland Professor of Poetry (2013-16)

### **Powerscourt Estate, Co. Wicklow**

with Alex Slazenger, Head Gardener, Powerscourt Estate

### **Killykeegan Nature Reserve, Co. Fermanagh**

with Dara McNulty, blogger at [youngfermanaghnaturalist.wordpress.com](http://youngfermanaghnaturalist.wordpress.com)

### **The Burren, Co Clare**

with Dr Brendan Dunford, founder of Burrenbeo Teo

### **Zechstein Sea - from Ireland to Russia**

with Ruth Lyons, artist

Podcasts available from <https://www.nationalgallery.ie/explore-and-learn/podcasts>

For full information, including links to the digital trails and speakers' biographies, visit: [nationalgallery.ie](http://nationalgallery.ie)

## National Talks

In partnership with regional Arts Centres and County Councils, this series of free illustrated talks delivered by members of the education team will bring the themes and artistry of *Shaping Ireland* to audiences across the country.

### **Friday 17 May**

**11.00**

Oldcastle Library, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

### **Wednesday 29 May**

**19.00**

Ballina Arts Centre, Co. Mayo

### **Wednesday 26 June**

**14.30**

Limerick City Gallery of Art, Co. Limerick

**For information on further venues hosting talks, visit [nationalgallery.ie](http://nationalgallery.ie)**



▲ Image (Top): Martin Gale, b.1949, *Over and Above*, 2017 (Detail), Photo © Martin Gale

▲ Image: Willie Doherty, b.1959, *Border Road*, 1994 (Detail), © AIB Art Collection

◀ Image: Thomas Roberts, 1748-77, *The River Liffey in Lucan House Demesne*, c.1773-75, Photo © National Gallery of Ireland



## COMMUNITY

## Aosóg Community Programme: "There is no Planet B"

Strikes by school children are currently leading the protests for action against climate change across Europe. Working with Aosóg, a community-based project for children and their families in the North-West Inner City of Dublin, ecologically-focused artist Emily Robyn Archer will engage the young people in an art project focused on biodiversity and climate action.

## RADE

Using art, drama and education as therapeutic tools, RADE works to provide drug users with alternative forms of artistic expression. This project will support RADE's visual art strand and see participants work with artist Joe Caslin, to explore the personal meanings that the themes of *Shaping Ireland* hold for the group.

## EVE Castlevue HUB

EVE Castlevue HUB supports people who experience mental health difficulties to live their lives based on their own personal goals. Focusing on the artistic dynamics present in *Shaping Ireland*, and working with artist Eimear Murphy, this project will encourage participants to artistically engage with their local environment.

## Inishbofin Community Project

A collaboration between the Gallery, Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board and the Inishbofin Community Centre, this project is open to all members of the Inishbofin community. Looking in-depth at the exhibition's themes and ecological concerns, the participants will work with artists Helen Monaghan and Helen Garvey to use drawing, photography and recycled materials to create a textile interpretation of an aspect of the island's landscape.

► Image: Derek Hill, 1916-2000, *Paddy Og Ploughing*, 1960 (Detail), © The Estate of Derek Hill



► Image: Nan Goldin, b. 1953, *Irish Landscape, Letterkenny, Ireland*, 2002 (Detail), Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art. Donation by the Artist, 2017. Courtesy of the artist and Marian Goodman Gallery. © Nan Goldin



## COURSE

## Mindfulness & Making with Beth O'Halloran

6-week course

Thursdays 16 May – 20 June

13.00 – 14.00

Tickets €80

Using *Shaping Ireland* as inspiration, this course will focus on helping participants to learn how to incorporate mindfulness techniques into their busy lives. These sessions will also include practical art-making, creating work which explores human impact on the land. Each workshop will conclude with time for relaxation and reflection. Weather-permitting, practical parts of the sessions will take place outdoors.

"All too often, we think of nature as something distinct from ourselves, something to go and see, a place that's separate from the ordinary modern world in which we live and work."

ROB COWEN



◀ Image: Thomas Roberts, 1748-77, *A View of Ballyshannon, County Donegal*, c.1770, Photo © National Gallery of Ireland





► Image: Samuel Laurence Cunnane, b. 1989, *Yew Trees*, 2016 (Detail), © Samuel Laurence Cunnane & Kerlin Gallery



“Gardens and parks are designed to present illusions of dominance over nature. They have become a constant reminder of our depleted connection with the earth.”

MARY REYNOLDS

Gardener

or Guardian?

PUBLIC TALKS & TOURS

Curator's Introductory Talk with Donal Maguire

Wednesday 1 May

13.15

Free

Please note this talk will be live subtitled.

Irish Art Public Tours

Complement a visit to *Shaping Ireland* with a free public tour highlighting the Irish masterpieces on display in our permanent collection.

All tours start 15.30 at the Merrion Square Information Desk. Free, no booking required.

22 April (Earth Day Public Tour)

11 May

25 May

8 June

22 June

6 July

Pop-Up Talks

26 April, 10, 18, 24 May, 7, 21 June

13.15

Talks are free. Exhibition ticket required for the correct date.

26 April

Gerard Dillon's *Little Green Fields*  
Fala Buggy

10 May

Sean Keating's *Night Candles Are Burnt Out*  
Sarah Montague

18 May

Kathy Prendergast's *Atlas*  
Aoife-Marie Buckley

24 May

Jack B. Yeats' *Crossing the Canal Bridge*  
Dr Katy Milligan

7 June

William Orpen's *Trees at Howth*  
Frances Coghlan

21 June

Blaise Smith's *Lee Tunnel*  
Mags Harnett

Sunday Talks

12, 19, 26 May

15.00

Free, no booking required.

In this series of talks, we welcome experts to speak on the art of Ireland, the lore of the land and the impact of humans.

12 May

*Irish Art in the Anthropocene*  
Dr Yvonne Scott, Director, TRIARC, TCD

19 May

*The Lore of the Land*  
Dr Gerry Kearns, Professor of Geography, Maynooth University

26 May

*Shaping Ireland In-Conversation Event* with Duncan Stewart, Environmentalist; Ella McSweeney, Irish food and farming journalist; and Dr Brendan Dunford, Founder, Burrenbeo Teo. Chaired by *Shaping Ireland* curator Donal Maguire.

Preabchaint as Gaeilge

Bí linn le haghaidh caint i nGaeilge ag am lón, dírithe ar shaothar ón taispeántas *‘Éire á Múnlú’* agus ar shár-shaothar ónár mbáiliúchán buan. Beidh na cainteanna ar siúl os comhair na bpictiúr agus ta fáilte roimh chách!!

Dé Máirt 7 Bealtaine

Seomra 17  
*Sráideanna Bhaile Átha Cliath: Díoltóir Leabhar* le Walter Frederick Osborne  
Barry Carroll

Dé Aoine 5 Iúil

Seomraí 6-10  
*Portaigh 4* le T.P. Flanagan  
Barry Carroll

Ticéad taispeántais de dhíth don dáta seo.

Private Guided Tours

€50 (Max Group 15).

Private Guided Tours of the exhibition are available and must be booked three weeks in advance.

E: [tours@ngi.ie](mailto:tours@ngi.ie)  
T: +353 1 663 3510



## TEACHERS &amp; SCHOOLS

## School Tours

Tuesday – Friday

Free. Tours must be booked at least three weeks in advance. Tours available in English and Irish.

E: [tours@ngi.ie](mailto:tours@ngi.ie)  
T: + 353 1 663 3510

## Primary Schools Workshop: Seedbombs

Tuesdays and Wednesdays in May and June

10.00 – 12.00

€150 per workshop  
(Max 30 students per group)

Explore the exhibition with artist Emily Robyn Archer and discover the important role of bees and other pollinators in the Irish ecosystem. This cross-curricular workshop will take students outside into Merrion Square to creatively explore the local environment. Students will make seedbombs to take home and help spread flowers across Ireland!

Book online

## Teachers' Tour

Thursday 2 May

17.30

Free, booking required.

Join a teacher from the Gallery's Guide Panel and discuss the curricular links present within the exhibition.

Book online

## Primary Schools Resource: Art and the Environment

Explore key works of Irish landscape art from the National Collection, and how they can be used to inspire and inform creative cross-curricular environmental activities.

Available to download from [nationalgallery.ie/schools](http://nationalgallery.ie/schools)

## Teachers' CPD Course: Learning Without Walls

Thursday 16 May

13.00 – 16.30

€35 | Russborough House and Parklands, Blessington, Co. Wicklow

Join Prof. Carmel O'Sullivan, Trinity College Dublin, and Brian Poots, Director of the Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association, for a stimulating workshop exploring the theory and practice of teaching and learning creatively across the curriculum using arts-based pedagogies and nature as a stimulus to exploring our natural landscape.

To find out more and book  
E: [pauline@russborough.ie](mailto:pauline@russborough.ie)

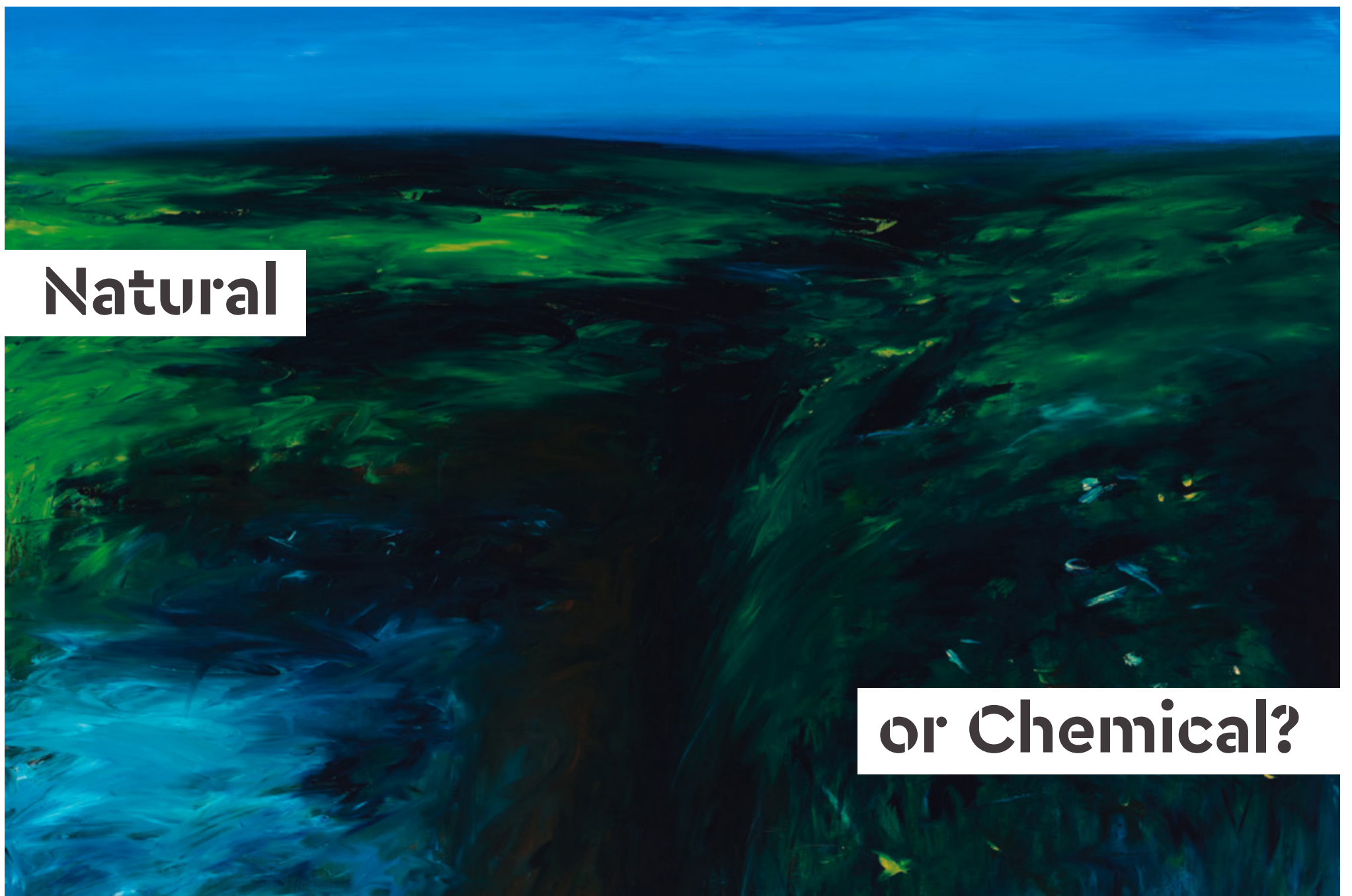
▼ Image: Seán McSweeney, 1935-2018, *Sligo Landscape*, 1986 (Detail), Collection of the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. © The Estate of Seán McSweeney / IVARO, Dublin 2019

**"Today, the landscape is greener than it has ever been. Much of the country is an expanse of bright fields of monoculture rye grass which is grazed by millions of cows. There is nothing natural about this vivid shade of green; in fact, it emerged from a landscape that has been intensively shaped by the human hand."**

ELLA MCSWEENEY

Natural

or Chemical?







FAMILIES

Sunday  
Family Drop-in  
Workshops

All Ages  
28 April, 26 May, 7 July  
11.30 – 13.30

Free, no booking required.

What does Ireland mean to you? How have people changed how this country looks? What will it look like in the future?

These issues will be explored creatively at three special Sunday Family Drop-in workshops with artists Ashleigh Downey, Eimear Murphy, and Libby Simington. Families with children of all ages welcome. All materials provided.

**Sunday 28 April**  
*Yarnscaping*  
with Ashleigh Downey

**Sunday 26 May**  
*Seedbomb*  
with Eimear Murphy

**Sunday 7 July**  
*My Ireland*  
with Libby Simington



YOUNG PEOPLE

Gamechangers:  
People Shaping  
Ireland

Saturday 4 May  
14.00 – 16.00  
Age 16-25  
Tickets €5 (Booking required)

Are you a gamechanger? Can you make positive change to the landscape, climate and environment in Ireland? Join us for a discussion with inspiring climate change speakers, Vicky Brown, CEO of Cool Planet Experience, and Eimear Manning, marine biologist working for ECO UNESCO alongside passionate young people from the Gaisce (President's Award) programme for this motivating event, focusing on the future and the power you have to shape Ireland.

Come and talk about how you can and are making change by engaging in self-development, creativity and volunteering. This session will also offer guidance on accessing further opportunities and will open up what it means to have a career and a life that positively impacts your country.

“Indeed, the idea of culture being something apart from nature is a fallacy and non-human nature in all its variegated forms is not a passive recipient of human endeavour.”

ANNA DAVIES

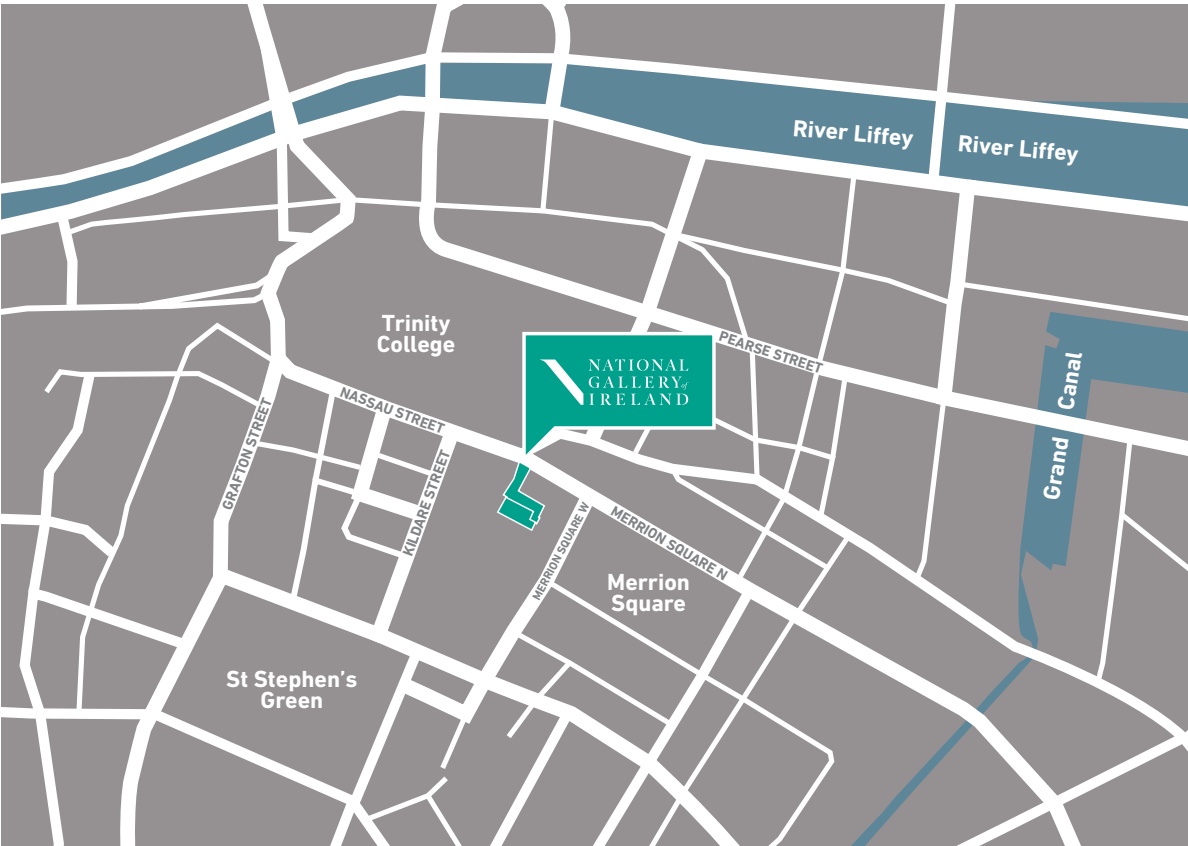
▲ Image: William Evans of Eton, 1798-1877, Killary, near the Mouth of the Bundoracha River, County Galway, 1838, Photo © National Gallery of Ireland

◀ Image: Dorothy Cross, b.1956, Foxglove, 2018, © Dorothy Cross & Kerlin Gallery

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>MONDAY 22 APRIL</b> 15.30 Earth Day Public Tour	<b>FRIDAY 10 MAY</b> 13.15 Pop-Up Talk Sean Keating's <i>Night Candles Are Burnt Out</i> Sarah Montague	<b>THURSDAY 23 MAY</b> 13.00 Mindfulness & Making Course with Beth O'Halloran €80	<b>THURSDAY 30 MAY</b> 13.00 Mindfulness & Making Course with Beth O'Halloran €80	<b>FRIDAY 21 JUNE</b> 13.15 Pop-Up Talk Blaise Smith's <i>Lee Tunnel</i> Mags Harnett
<b>FRIDAY 26 APRIL</b> 13.15 Pop-Up Talk Gerard Dillon's <i>Little Green Fields</i> Fala Buggy	<b>SATURDAY 11 MAY</b> 15.30 Irish Art Public Tour	<b>THURSDAY 6 JUNE</b> 13.00 Mindfulness & Making Course with Beth O'Halloran €80	<b>SATURDAY 22 JUNE</b> 15.30 Irish Art Public Tour	
<b>SUNDAY 28 APRIL</b> 11.30 – 13.30 Drop-in Family Workshop <i>Yarnscaping</i> with Ashleigh Downey	<b>SUNDAY 12 MAY</b> 15.00 Talk <i>Irish Art in the Anthropocene</i> Dr Yvonne Scott, Director, TRIARC, TCD	<b>FRIDAY 24 MAY</b> 13.15 Pop-Up Talk Jack B. Yeats' <i>Crossing the Canal Bridge</i> Dr Katy Milligan	<b>FRIDAY 5 JULY</b> 13.15 Preabchaint as Gaeilge <i>Portaigh 4 le T.P. Flanagan</i> Barry Carroll	
<b>WEDNESDAY 1 MAY</b> 13.15 Introductory Curator's Talk <i>Shaping Ireland</i> with Donal Maguire. With live subtitling.	<b>THURSDAY 16 MAY</b> 13.00 Mindfulness & Making Course with Beth O'Halloran €80	<b>SATURDAY 25 MAY</b> 15.30 Irish Art Public Tour	<b>SATURDAY 6 JULY</b> 15.30 Irish Art Public Tour	
<b>THURSDAY 2 MAY</b> 10.00 – 13.30 Borders Symposium €15 (Students €5)	<b>SUNDAY 19 MAY</b> 15.00 Talk <i>The Lore of the Land</i> Dr Gerry Kearns, Professor of Geography, Maynooth University	<b>SUNDAY 26 MAY</b> 11.30 – 13.30 Drop-in Family Workshop <i>Seedbomb</i> with Eimear Murphy	<b>SUNDAY 7 JULY</b> 11.30 – 13.30 Drop-in Family Workshop <i>My Ireland</i> with Libby Simington	
<b>TUESDAY 7 MAY</b> 13.15 Preabchaint as Gaeilge <i>Sráideanna Bhaile Átha Cliath: Díoltóir Leabhar</i> le Walter Frederick Osborne Barry Carroll		<b>FRIDAY 7 JUNE</b> 13.15 Pop-Up Talk William Orpen's <i>Trees at Howth</i> Frances Coghlan		
<b>SATURDAY 4 MAY</b> 14.00 – 16.00 Event for Young People, 16-25 <i>Gamechangers: People Shaping Ireland</i> €5	<b>SATURDAY 18 MAY</b> 10.00 – 17.00 National Drawing Day	<b>SATURDAY 8 JUNE</b> 15.30 Irish Art Public Tour		
	<b>13.15 Pop-Up Talk</b> Kathy Prendergast's <i>Atlas</i> Aoife-Marie Buckley	<b>THURSDAY 13 JUNE</b> 13.00 Mindfulness & Making Course with Beth O'Halloran €80		
		<b>THURSDAY 20 JUNE</b> 13.00 Mindfulness & Making Course with Beth O'Halloran €80		
		<b>12.30 Art Documentary Screening</b> <i>Wild Ireland</i> followed by Q&A with Directors Cepa Giblin and John Murray		
		<b>15.00 Shaping Ireland</b> In-Conversation Event with Duncan Stewart, Environmentalist; Ella McSweeney, Irish food and farming journalist; and Dr Brendan Dunford, Founder, Burrenbeo Teo		

BOOKING, CONTACTS & INFORMATION



Events Booking:

W: <a href="http://nationalgallery.ie">nationalgallery.ie</a>
T: +353 1 663 3518

or pop into the Gallery  
Exhibition Desk

A discount of 20% for Friends applies to all ticketed events aside from private guided tours. OAP/Student discounts also available on selected events.

Friends:

**Friends Go Free to all Exhibitions**  
To find out more about becoming a Friend of the Gallery visit:

W: <a href="http://nationalgallery.ie/en/supportus/friends">nationalgallery.ie/en/supportus/friends</a>
T: +353 1 661 9877

E: [friends@ngi.ie](mailto:friends@ngi.ie)

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E: <a href="mailto:education@ngi.ie">education@ngi.ie</a>
T: +353 1 663 3582

W: [nationalgallery.ie/education](http://nationalgallery.ie/education)

**Education team:**  
Sinéad Rice  
*Head of Education*  
Joanne Drum  
*Adults, Families & Administration*  
Brina Casey  
*Community & Access*  
Catherine O'Donnell  
*Teachers, Schools & Youth*  
Caomhán Mac Con Iomaire  
*Facilitation & Access*  
Kate Drinane  
*Tours Administrator*  
Jennie Taylor  
*Education Administrator*  
Aoife Marie Buckley  
*Education Graduate Intern*  
Jessica Supple  
*Apollo Fellow: Programming for Young People, 16-25*