

Art, Migration, and the Politics of Belonging

A PROGRAMME OF INCLUSIVE EVENTS // 14–20 SEPTEMBER



Public Symposium: Art, Migration, and the Politics of Belonging

As the flagship event of the week-long *Art, Migration, and the Politics of Belonging* programme, this public symposium convenes established and emerging artists, writers, academics, activists, journalists and cultural practitioners from Ireland and abroad to examine how art can illuminate the complex realities of migration, citizenship, identity and belonging, while opening up vital conversations around human rights, representation and social justice.

Opening keynote address will come from internationally acclaimed Irish artist Brian Maguire, whose socially engaged practice has, for more than four decades, explored themes of conflict, displacement, human dignity and justice. The programme will conclude with a keynote conversation between award-winning journalist and author Sally Hayden and renowned foreign correspondent and author Lara Marlowe, drawing on their extensive reporting on migration, conflict and international affairs. Throughout the event, Dr Ebun Joseph, academic, anti-racism educator and leading advocate for equality and inclusion, will serve as Special Rapporteur, offering critical reflections and drawing together the key ideas and conversations that emerge.

The programme also features panel discussions and interdisciplinary conversations from notable contributors both national and international, whose work explores migration, identity, citizenship, social justice and belonging from a range of artistic, academic and lived perspectives. Speakers include writer and engineer, **Suad Aldarra**, writer, activist and researcher **Evgeny Shtorn**; academics Dr Jennifer Redmond and Rita Sakr, art psychotherapist **Andrea Plunkett**; artist and community development worker **Mary Thebe**; visual artist and journalist, **Ala Buisir**; Primary School Teacher & Member/Co-Chair SDG4 Youth & Student Network hosted by UNESCO, **Peace Chukwurah**; visual artist and curator, **Ben Malcolmson**; and director and photographer, **Tolu Ogunware**. Additionally, visual artist, **Yosef Phelan**, will document the day, creating a unique record and response to the wider programme.

At a time of profound social and political change, this symposium highlights the unique capacity of art and cultural institutions to create spaces for civic dialogue, critical inquiry and meaningful exchange. By connecting artistic practice, academic research and lived experience, it invites audiences to consider how migration, citizenship, identity and belonging are shaped not only by individual experience, but also by the systems, institutions and cultural narratives that define who belongs. In doing so, the symposium affirms the power of art to foster understanding, challenge inequality, advance social justice and inspire more just, inclusive and compassionate futures.

Programme Schedule

9.15 – 10.00
SHAW ROOM

Registration, Tea & Coffee

10.00 – 12.45
LECTURE THEATRE

Morning Session:

Welcome - **Sinéad Rice**, Head of Education and Public Programming National Gallery of Ireland

Introduction from Special Rapporteur **Dr Ebum Joseph**

Opening Keynote: Artist **Brian Maguire**

Memoir Session 1: Writer **Evgeny Shtorn** in conversation with **Dr Jennifer Redmond**, Associate Professor Maynooth University

Comfort Break

Belonging Session 1 – *Community and Care*

Chair: **Brina Casey**, Education Manager Special Projects, National Gallery of Ireland.

Panel: Art Psychotherapist **Andrea Plunkett**, Community Development Professional and Advocate for Women's Empowerment & Inclusion, **Mary Thebe**, and Primary School Teacher & Member/Co-Chair SDG4 Youth & Student Network hosted by UNESCO, **Peace Chukwurah**.

12.45 – 14.30

Free Time with optional Gallery activities

SHAW ROOM

Lunch (provided)

Meeting point for Guided Thematic Tours @ 13.30 and 13.45

READING ROOMS

Library and Archival Display

EDUCATION STUDIO

Arbitrary Nations Exhibition from artist Asbestos

14.30 – 17.30
LECTURE THEATRE

Afternoon Session:

Belonging Session 2 – *Art and Ireland Today*

Chair: **Sinéad Rice**

Panel: Visual artist and journalist, **Ala Buisir**, visual artist and curator, **Ben Malcolmson**; and director and photographer, **Tolu Ogunware**

Memoir Session 2 – Writer **Suad Aldarra** in conversation with Academic **Rita Sakr**.

Closing Keynote: Author and Journalist **Sally Hayden** in conversation with foreign correspondent and author, **Lara Marlowe**

Dr Ebum Joseph Closing Comments

Participants invited to move to Shaw Room for Citadel Performance and Culture Night Programme