

Fiona Whelan Artist CV Feb '21

Dr. Fiona Whelan is a Dublin based artist, writer and lecturer at the National College of Art and Design. Her art practice is committed to exploring and responding to systemic power relations, most specifically as they relate to class and gender inequality. Fiona has a strong commitment to long-term cross-sectoral collaborations. Since 2004 she has worked closely with Rialto Youth Project exploring lived experiences of systemic inequalities with young people and adults. This work typically manifests as visual, performative or dialogical encounters in which multiple power relations are exposed and interrogated. Since 2016 she has explored the cross disciplinary potential of this work with theatre company Brokentalkers. Her writing focuses on the complex relationality, labour and ethical challenges of this practice and includes co-writing with sociologist Kevin Ryan, in a collective writing platform 'Two Fuse'. In 2019, Fiona received her PhD at the Centre for Socially Engaged Practice-Based Research at TU Dublin. www.fionawhelan.com

Formal Education

- 2016-19 PhD at Centre for Socially Engaged Practice-Based Research, TU Dublin.
- 2007-09 MA Art in Public, Interface, University of Ulster, (Distinction)
- 2002-03 H-Dip Community Arts Education, NCAD, Dublin (1:1 Honours)
- 1999-00 Foundation Course Art Therapy, Crawford College, Cork
- 1995-99 BA Degree Fine Art Painting, NCAD, Dublin (2:1 Honours)

Collaborations

- 2004-present Long-term collaboration with Rialto Youth Project (RYP) working on a series of durational projects:
 - Policing Dialogues* (2007-11)
 - Natural History of Hope* (2012-16)
 - What Does He Need?* (2018+ with Brokentalkers)
- 2020-present *Multi-Story: Thinking and Writing the Housing Crisis* – a collaborative project with Feidlim Cannon and Housing Action Now (in response to the current Irish housing crisis)

Selected Art Works:

- 2020 *What Does He Need?* exhibition at The LAB (with RYP and Brokentalkers)
- 2020 *Stevie* poem and animation, with RYP young men's group (part of *What Does He Need?* project)
- 2016 *Natural History of Hope*, live theatre performance, Project Arts Centre (in collaboration with RYP & Brokentalkers) 12-14 May '16
- 2014/15 *Listenings* series, (performances) various locations Rialto, with RYP.
- 2010 *Policing Dialogues*, exhibition/residency at The LAB (with RYP)
- 2009 *Section 8 screens Eight Dublin Lithuanian Stories*, at NEU/NOW live festival Vilnius, European Capital of Culture (with RYP)
- 2009 *The Day in Question*, participatory reading event with police officers and young people, Irish Museum of Modern Art (with RYP)

Recent Residencies

- 2019 Irish Museum of Modern Art (invited residency)
2004-20 Artist in residence at Rialto Youth Project
2015/16 Two phase residency in Studio 468 with Brokentalkers and Rialto Youth Project.

Selected Employment

- 2013 – 2020 NCAD lecturer including: 2019-20 Lecturer/ Coordinator of Studio+ Dublin 8 Neighbourhood Residency programme for BA Fine Art; 2013-19 Joint Coordinator & Lecturer MA Socially Engaged Art + Further Education; 2011-13 Coordinator & Tutor G-Dip Community/Arts/Education.
- 20019-20 Consultant (in arts based research methods) to Focus Ireland, as part of EU research project *Regal*, which focuses on women excluded from the labour market due to care responsibilities.
- 2017-19 Panel member, Create/Arts Council, various schemes
- 2016 Advisor to IMMA for Suzanne Lacy's project 'A School for Revolutionary Girls' as part of 'A Fair Land', August '16.
- 2014 Mentor for NYCI Artist in Youth Work Residency
- 2010-12 Member of *Studio 468* selection committee and support team
- 2004-19 Visiting lecturer: CUNY MA Social Practice Queens NY; MU – Professional Masters Education & MA Community Development & Cert in Youth Arts; LCAD - MA SPACE; DIT - BA Fine Art & MA Community Family and Child & MA Criminology; UCD – MA Social Science; Dundalk IT– BA Youth and Community.

Recent Awards

- 2020 NYCI Artist in Youth Work Residency for *What Does He Need?* (+RYP)
- 2020 Theatre artist in residence award (with Brokentalkers) in partnership with Project Arts Centre and DCC.
- 2019 Arts Council Projects award for Participation for *What Does He Need?* (with RYP and Brokentalkers)
- 2019 NYCI Artist in Youth Work Residency for *What Does He Need?* (+RYP)
- 2017 Arts Council/Create Artist in the Community Scheme (for *early work on What Does He Need?* with RYP and Brokentalkers)
- 2015 Arts Council Arts Participation Bursary for *Natural History of Hope* project (with RYP and Brokentalkers)
- 2014 Arts Council/ Create Artist in the Community Scheme for *Natural History of Hope* project (with RYP)
- 2013 DCC Arts Grant for *Natural History of Hope* project (with RYP)
- 2012 Arts Council YPCE Bursary to develop the publication *TEN*
- 2012 NYCI Artist in Youth Work Scheme, *Natural History of Hope* (+RYP)
- 2010 Arts Council Visual Arts Bursary for *Policing Dialogues*
- 2010 Arts Council/ Create Artist in the Community Scheme for *Policing Dialogues* (with RYP)

Selected Writing

- 2021 Forthcoming chapter: 'Maintaining a critical approach to collaborative art and youth work practice in neoliberal times', co-written with Jim Lawlor, in *Arts, Culture and Community Development*, Policy Press, Bristol.
- 2021 Forthcoming journal article: 'What Does He Need? – Reflections on a cross-sectorial and transdisciplinary project unfolding in public', *Art & the Public Sphere*, Intellect.
- 2019 PhD: *Reconfiguring Systemic Power Relations – A Collaborative Practice-Based Exploration of Inequality with Young People and Adults in Dublin*, with TU Dublin. See: <https://arrow.tudublin.ie/appadoc/95/>
- 2019 Chapter: 'A Dublin-Based MA in Flux', in *Uncertain Patterns. Teaching & Learning Socially Engaged Art*, by HEAD, Geneva.
- 2018 Book: *Freedom?*, part of 'Sireacht: Longings for another Ireland', co written with Kevin Ryan as Two Fuse, Cork University Press. <http://twofuse.com/>
- 2018 Journal article: 'Through the Lens of Power: An Arts-Based Exploration of Power Relations with Young People in Dublin', in *International Journal of Art and Design Education*, 37(4), Nov.
- 2018 Chapter: 'The Listening Workshop' in *Art as Social Action - An Introduction to the Principles and Practices of Teaching Social Practice Art*, by Gregory Sholette, Chloe Bass & SPQ.
- 2017 Editor: *TransActions #2 – Field and Academy: Knowledge and Counter Knowledge in Socially Engaged Art* (Edited by Fiona Whelan – NCAD, Ailbhe Murphy - Create and Helen Carey - Fire Station Artists' Studios). Published jointly by NCAD, Create and Fire Station Artists' Studios. See <http://transactionspublication.com/>
- 2017 Article: *Reflections on FSAS 2016 Summer School*, published in Fire Station Artists' Studios Publication, 2017.
- 2016 Article: 'Embracing Complexity', *Visual Artists' News Sheet*, 2016
- 2016 Journal article: *Beating the Bounds of Socially-Engaged Art? A Transdisciplinary Dialogue on a Collaborative Art Project with Youth in Dublin, Ireland*, Fiona Whelan & Kevin Ryan, Issue 4, Field Journal, Spring 2016. <http://field-journal.com>
- 2015 Editor: *TransActions #1 – Dublin/Chicago* (Edited by Fiona Whelan & Glenn Loughran, NCAD and Jim Duignan, Stockyard Institute). Published jointly by NCAD+UCD and Stockyard Institute Chicago. See transactionspublication.com
- 2015 Article: 'Insider Witness', in *The Visual Artists' News Sheet* 2015
- 2014 Book: *TEN: Territory, Encounter & Negotiation - A Critical Memoir by a Socially Engaged Artist*, self-published. Download: <https://ncad.academia.edu/fionawhelan>

Selected Conference Papers, Presentations and Talks (from the last 5 years)

- 2021 'Arts as DNA', panel member during 'A Homebaked kinda day' moderated by Jeanne van Heeswijk, online, 27 Feb '21.

- 2020 'Care as a Radical Act' panel member at Create Networking Day, online, 9 Dec '20. Watch at: <https://www.create-ireland.ie/publication/care-as-a-radical-act-networking-day-2020-subtitled/>
- 2020 'The Textual Trace – Writing and Socially Engaged Practice', Fiona Whelan and Gretchen Coombs in conversation hosted by Create. Watch at: <https://www.create-ireland.ie/publication/the-textual-trace-writing-and-socially-engaged-practice-fiona-whelan-and-gretchen-coombs-in-conversation/>
- 2020 "'Rip the Script": Performing/Witnessing *Natural History of Hope*' (with Kevin Ryan as Two Fuse) at *The Sexual Politics of Freedom*, The Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law – NUIG, 17 Sep. '20
- 2019 'Reconfiguring Systemic Power Relations Through Collective Acts Of Voice And Listening', paper at *5th International Irish Narrative Inquiry Conference*, Trinity College, 3 May 2019.
- 2018 'Practice and Pedagogy – The Question of Artists' Formation' panel member at Collaborative Arts Partnership Programme: *Practice and Power* event, The LAB, Dublin 22 June.
- 2018 'Can Young People Influence the Future of Garda Training?', presentation at Irish Council of Civil Liberties' event *Rights-Based Policing*, Dublin. Transcript at: <https://www.iccl.ie/justice/can-young-influence-policing/>
- 2018 'Power and (im)possibility? Socially-engaged art and Cynic practice' (Fiona Whelan & Kevin Ryan under collective title 'Two Fuse'), presentation at CAPPE, University of Brighton, 29 May.
- 2017 'Through the lens of power – an arts based exploration of power relations with young people in Dublin', conference paper at iJADE international conference, NCAD, 17 Nov '17.
- 2017 'Power and Freedom in the Enterprise Society: "catch up, keep up, get ahead..."' (Fiona Whelan & Kevin Ryan NUIG as 'Two Fuse') presentation at *The Power of Narrative – RC 36 Interim Conference*, University of Pavia, Italy, May 30-31 2017
- 2017 'Policing Dialogues' keynote address at *New Foundations in Youth Justice* event, DIT Grangegorman, 29th June '17
- 2016 'Power Three Ways: A Place-Based Methodology' conference paper at *Mapping Spectral Traces VIII: The Place of the Wound*, Dept of Geography, Maynooth University, 19 October
- 2016 'A Fair Land Discussion: Social Change through Creative Practice', presentation, Irish Museum of Modern Art, 20 August.
- 2016 'A Durational, Practice-Based Model of Identifying Learning', presentation at *Creative Research Practices and Alternative Sites of Learning*, UCD College of Social Science, 3 May
- 2015 'Policing Dialogues; a creative exploration of neighbourhood relations of power', paper at *The Geographical Turn* conference hosted by NUIM Geography Dept.
- 2015 'Renegotiating Power Relationships – Who Speaks and Who Listens?' presentation Signal Summer University, hosted by CIFAS, Brussels

Selected Reviews/Features:

- 2020 Charlotte McIvor, 'What Does He Need?' in '*...the lives we live*', Grangegorman Public Art
- 2019 Simon Barker, *The European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology* (book review of *Freedom?*), Vol 6 (4), Nov 19
- 2018 Declan McGonagle, *Community Development Journal*, (book review of *Freedom?*), 2018, Oxford University Press
- 2018 Fiona Woods, 'A Radical Performance of World-Making' (book review of *Freedom?*), *Journal of Political Power*, 11(3), 438-441.
- 2018 Kevin Gildea, 'Freedom? By Two Fuse Review: A Handbook Towards Change' (book review) *Irish Times*, 9 June 2018.
- 2017 Gerry Kearns, '*Enduring Place*', *Klaxon 6 – For an Inclusive City*, published by CIFAS, Brussels, 2017 (feature on my practice).
- 2017 Sharon Todd, (2017) 'Culturally Reimagining Education: Publicity, Aesthetics and Socially Engaged Art Practice', in *Educational Philosophy and Theory* (features an extensive review of *The Day in Question* live event)
- 2016 Sarah Keating, 'When Feminism Met Real Working-Class Lives in Rialto' (performance review of *Natural History of Hope*), *Irish Times*, 28 June 2016.
- 2016 RTE Arena, radio interview about *Natural History of Hope*, 11 May 16
- 2016 'Negotiating the Territory of Socially Engaged Art' (book review of *TEN*) by Megs Morley, *Journal of Political Power*, 9:1, 147-152
- 2015 'TEN: Territory, Encounter & Negotiation', (book review) by Sofia N. Gonzalez-Ayala, *Irish Journal of Anthropology* Vol. 18(1)
- 2012 'Project work in conflict situations in socially deprived areas', *Schattenblick*, (Berlin based magazine), Feb 2012
- 2010 Tonight with Vincent Browne, (feature on *Policing Dialogues* exhibition/residency) TV3, 28 Sep 2010
- 2010 'Young people's tales of Garda harassment in new exhibition', Juno McEnroe, *Irish Examiner*, 16 Sep 2010 (about '*Policing Dialogues*)

Selected informal education

- 2020 Jeanne Van Heeswijk masterclass *Artists and the City*, Create/Fire Station Artists' Studios, Feb 20
- 2019 *Arte Util* workshop with Tania Bruguera, Create, Crawford Cork
- 2016 *Performative Curating*, Fire Station Summer School 2016, hosted by Florian Malzacher and Joanna Warsza
- 2015 *Strategies of Non Participation*, workshop by Karen Mirza and Brad Butler run by Fire Station
- 2012 *Ethnography in Visual Arts* with FOMACS, run by Fire Station Artists' Studios

References on request