

Fiona Whelan - Artist CV November '22

Dr. Fiona Whelan is a Dublin based visual artist, writer and educator. Her arts practice is committed to exploring and responding to systemic power relations and inequalities through long-term cross-sectoral collaborations with diverse individuals, groups and organisations. These processes are rooted in complex relational networks and typically accumulate over time through a series of public manifestations, including text-based, visual, performative and dialogical artworks. Taking direction from the collaborative process and the lived experiences of those involved, to date these works have been gallery-based, presented in public space and staged in local, community-based sites with specific invited publics. Common to all work is an interrogation of multiple power relations that are identified through the process, such as the power relations between police and young people; the state run medical services and patients; national housing policy and those experiencing housing injustice; as well as less tangible power relations experienced as social norms related to class and gender, such as the formation of masculinity for young men and boys. In addition, Fiona is also a committed writer, her writing focusing on the complex relationality, labour and ethical challenges of her art practice. She also teaches one day a week in the School of Fine Art, NCAD.

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
2002-03	H-Dip Community Arts Education, NCAD, Dublin
1995-99	BA Degree Fine Art Painting, NCAD, Dublin

Collaborative Projects

- 2021-present Currently in the research and development phase of a long-term collaborative art project with visual artist John Conway.
- 2004-present Long-term collaboration with Rialto Youth Project (RYP) on a series of durational art projects:
- *What Does He Need?* (2018+ with Brokentaklers theatre company) – a multi-layered project exploring the formations of masculinity. See www.whatdoesheneed.com
 - *Natural History of Hope* (2012-16) – an intergenerational exploration of women's experience of inequality in Dublin, with multiple manifestations.
 - *Policing Dialogues* (2007-11) – a durational exploration of power and policing in Dublin city, with multiple manifestations.
- 2020-present *Multi-Story – Creative Engagement for Housing Change*, a collaborative project with theatre artist Feidlim Cannon and Housing Action Now, in response to the current housing crisis in Ireland.

Selected Art Works/Exhibitions

- 2022 *What Does He Need?* exhibition (with Brokentaklers), IMMA, March-May '22.
- 2022 *The Apology*, performance, (Act 1 of Multi-Story project with Feidlim Cannon & Housing Action Now), presented online (Feb '22), in Seanad Éireann (Mar '22) & at Butler Gallery (Mar '22, curated by Hollie Kearns).
- 2021+20 *What Does He Need?* public art work and audio work (with RYP and

- Brokentalkers), presented at The LAB (2020-21); on city billboards (2021) and at Pallas Periodical II (2021-22).
- 2020 *Stevie* poem & animation, with RYP young men (part of What Does He Need?) at Louth International Film Festival ('21) & Mother Tongues ('22)
- 2016 *Natural History of Hope*, live performance, Project Arts Centre (in collaboration with RYP & Brokentalkers) 12-14 May'16
- 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, IMMA (with RYP)

Recent Residencies

- 2021-22 Irish Museum of Modern Art (with Brokentalkers)
- 2019 Irish Museum of Modern Art

Recent Employment

- 2013 – now NCAD lecturer – Part time/1 day a week (Department of Sculpture and Expanded Practice, School of Fine Art). Role includes - Programme leader of Dublin 8 Neighbourhood Residency programme for BA Fine Art (2019+); Joint Coordinator & Lecturer MA Socially Engaged Art + Further Education (2013-19); Coordinator & Tutor G-Dip Community/Arts/Education (2011-13).
- 2017-present Panel member, Arts Council and Create, various funding schemes
- 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.
- 2016 Advisor to IMMA for Suzanne Lacy's project 'A School for Revolutionary Girls' as part of 'A Fair Land', August '16.

Recent Awards

- 2022 Arts Council Projects Award/Participation (with John Conway) for 2023 project.
- 2020 Create/Arts Council commission for Multi-Story project (with artist Feidlim Cannon and Housing Action Now)
- 2020 NYCI Artist in Youth Work Residency for *What Does He Need?* (+RYP)
- 2019 Arts Council Projects award for Participation for *What Does He Need?* (with RYP and Brokentalkers)

Selected Writing

- 2022 Article: 'What Does He Need? IMMA on what it means to be a man', RTÉ Culture online, 15 Apr. 2022.
- 2022 Article: 'Inside The Apology – artists tackle Ireland's housing crisis', RTÉ Culture online, 21 Feb. 2022.
- 2021 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 Article: '*What Does He Need?* – Reflections on a cross-sectorial and

- transdisciplinary project unfolding in public', *Art & the Public Sphere*, 9:1&2, Intellect.
- 2019 PhD: *Reconfiguring Systemic Power Relations – A Collaborative Practice-Based Exploration of Inequality with Young People and Adults in Dublin*, TU Dublin.
- 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.
- 2014 Book: *TEN: Territory, Encounter & Negotiation - A Critical Memoir by a Socially Engaged Artist*, self-published.

Recent Presentations

- 2022 This Must Be the Place – artist talk, RHA Gallery, Oct '22. <https://rhagallery.ie/archive-talks/>
- 2021 Presentation at 'Participation: Making Community in Contemporary Irish Arts', University of Rennes, France, 25 Nov '21.
- 2021 'Arts as DNA', panel member during 'A Homebaked kinda day' by artist Jeanne van Heeswijk, online as part of Liverpool UK event, 27 Feb '21. https://homebaked.org.uk/nowhere/media_publications/a_homebaked_kinda_day_arts_as_dna/%C2%A0
- 2020 'Care as a Radical Act' panel member, Create Networking Day, 9 Dec '20. <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 (Australia) in conversation. <https://www.create-ireland.ie/publication/the-textual-trace-writing-and-socially-engaged-practice-fiona-whelan-and-gretchen-coombs-in-conversation/>
- 2019 Visiting artist/lecturer: City University New York - MA Social Practice Queens. Invitation by Gregory Sholette.

Recent Reviews

- 2022 IMMA exhibition interview, *Arena*, RTÉ Radio 1, 12 April 2022.
- 2022 Interview about IMMA exhibition, *Artbeat*, Dublin City FM, 30 Mar. '22.
- 2022 'Hard-hitting performance imagines housing apology', RTÉ, 21 Feb. '22.
- 2022 'Art group to perform imagined apology from the Taoiseach for the Housing Crisis', *The Journal*, 21 Feb. 2022.
- 2021 'New public artworks explores what influences modern masculinity', Enda O' Dowd, *Irish Times*, 24 May 2021
- 2021 What Does He Need?, Della Kilroy, *Drive Time*, RTÉ Radio 1, 24 May '21
- 2020 Charlotte McIvor, 'What Does He Need?' in '*...the lives we live*' publication, Grangegorman Public Art, 2020.

For more information:

- Contact: fionacwhelan@gmail.com
- Websites: www.fionawhelan.com / www.whatdoesheneed.com
- References: On request