



Art in Landscape

Enagement Sessions

Overview

The workshops were a consultation with two groups of local artists from County Mayo and County Offaly. The sessions explored local distinctiveness, collective memory and community creativity as drivers for the future of public art in the area.

We held a series of creative exercises to facilitate this discussion as well as a series of interviews where participants reflected on the process.

This engagement has been documented by Holm Films in a film that will be presented at the Art in the Landscape seminar in May 2022.



Participating artists

**Aoife Sheils – Rosemarie Langtry – Regina Bracken – Sheila
Hough – Esther Lambe – Mary Stevenson – Lynne Hoare –
Jock Nichol – Dympna Brendan**

**Maggs Duffy – Tom Brawn – Brian M C Hugh – Rosie Norton –
Maura Higgins – Marian Shally – Geraldine O'Riordan – Christie
Taylor – Theresa Murphy**

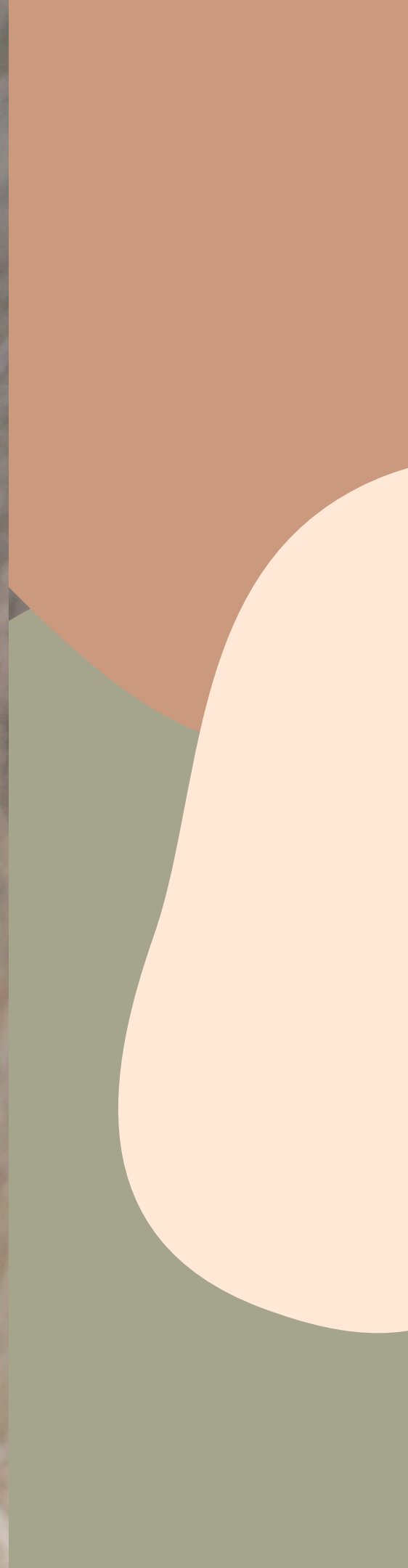
Outdoor Collecting

**"What jumps
up of me –
think what in
the landscape
draws you in –
it was quite a
meditative
process"**













Palm Exhibition

**"Stories
behind it –
sculptures that
came out of
that exhibition
were amazing"**





The leaf through grow through the even cracker concrete

The plant tried to grow through the stop - it as cut down





Well Know Walk

"it as
emotional to
me – I never
had the
opportunity to
sit and draw
that walk – it
meant a lot"









Future Public Art

Social Rather than Physical

"We want more short term events – art can be poetry or printing workshop"
County Mayo

"Not sculpture it's about bringing communities together" County Mayo

"We think public art as bit and strong but it doesn't have to be this" County Offlay

"We want a sense of discovery and adventure – surprises" County Offlay

"We have enough ornaments in landscape" County Mayo

"There is so much beauty here we don't need bronze to interrupt it – it needs to work with landscape" County Mayo

"no more sculptures from one persons point of view and gratification goes to one artist" County Mayo

Inclusive

"Collaboration is really important when comes to anything to do with public money" County Mayo

"If art is going to be more inclusive – it has to go out to the people – that means concerts and football" County Mayo

"The inclusion isn't always there – there isn't lot consultation" County Mayo

"Public art frieghtens me – someone else coming in – someone else placing something in out home – you must involve people from locality – who know the place inside out – everything comes from outside in and should always come inside out" County Offlay"

"The group getting together it's amazing what we come up with" County Offlay

Young People

"it's about the next generation for me"
County Mayo

"We want more funding for arts in schools support the young people to make are" County Offlay

"Finding those next artists are important"

Active Retirement

"There is loneliness – how can art help this" County Offlay

"We want to pass on knowledge to the next generation" County Offlay

Future Public Art

Useful Art

" Could art be the train station – we don't have any infrastructure here in the west"
County Mayo

"Transform the art that is there – the old building – you don't have to make new"
County Mayo

"combine the public art and public transport"
County Mayo

"Art needs social awareness we need to teach the kids this"
County Mayo

Heritage and Local Knowledge

" Important female figure – Grace O'Malley – we need to look into history of women"
County Mayo

"We need to make records for the next generation – have physical documentation of this beauty"
County Mayo

"I didn't know you – you didn't know the area which was good as I was bringing you with me – I felt like I had an important role to play in the workshop because I am from the area and of the area."
County Offlay

"Want a global reach of the local"
County Mayo

"important of bridal ways and canal"
County Offlay

Artist of Area

"Help with funding"
Mayo and Offlay

"There is a disparity the west of Ireland has been forgotten"
County Mayo

"I was very sceptical – I came because I was isolated – I cold feet – I was grateful for free art group"
County Offlay

" if you speak to us you can learn a lot from us"
County Offlay

"I would like them to set up database of all the artist so we can know what is going on"
County Offlay

Workshop Experiance

"We had good discussion
about what was behind out
work"

"it was very virbrant"

"this little group is the start of
something"

"really good – the collaboration
was good"

"being outside and soaking it
all in – it comes from here
(touches her heart)"

"amazing workshop – felt
very welcomed"

"I met liked minded people –
but they also had different
views to me"

Summary

County Mayo

Want to understand how art is being commissioned in the future and how they can be involved in that process

There was a strong sense of the need for community engagement and for the work to be meaningful to the people that are there. A feeling that this will attract more visitors to the area.

When asked about the future of the area there was strong concern around climate change and fear that coast line will be underwater.

There was feeling that art could help with the deprivation in area and the disparity of resources. How can art be useful to the people that live there.

County Offaly

Would like to be feedback on what happens at the conference and further understanding of how they can connect with other artists in there area. There was a sense that they didn't know the people working in their area and this was important to them.

The group set up a whats-app group of the members that attend the workshop. They have met up since. There was the excitement of the connections they had made.

They would like to see more support to set up groups and activities like this in the future