

Kildare Art

COLLECTIVE

'CAST'

Visual Art Exhibition

1st – 29th June, 2024

List of works.

Available to purchase through the Box Office at the Riverbank Arts Centre.

No.	Artist	Title	Price €
1	Eamonn Farrell (assisted by Leon Farrell, Mohamed Bouteldja, and Leah Farrell)	<i>I am human</i>	n/a
2	Fergus Smith	<i>Casting light, casting shadows</i>	400
3	Fergus Smith	<i>Cast a Cold Eye</i>	700
4	Olga Anacka	<i>Refugees</i>	675
5	Michelle McBride	<i>Cast Aside</i>	150 (canvas)
6	Johnny Tierney	<i>Castaways in Blue</i>	n/a
7	Shane Mullins	<i>Cast a glance</i>	250
8	Niamh Hynan	<i>Wonder Groundling</i>	1500
9	Niamh Hynan	<i>No Apology</i>	1500
10	Kirsten Hodgson	<i>The Die is cast</i>	n/a
11	Claire Murphy	<i>Thought Shadows</i>	n/a
12	Caoimhe McGuckin	<i>Cast and Crew</i>	n/a
13	Gavin Casey	<i>Babushka</i>	75
14	Derek Finn	<i>The Curragh</i>	40
15	Martina McDonald	<i>Circling Home</i>	360
16	Holly Delaney	<i>Not completely alone</i>	100
17	Conor Lane	<i>Grandma's Hands</i>	n/a
18	Peter Slyman	<i>Reflection</i>	n/a

About the Exhibition.

*What information do you need to cast a shadow?
In the absence of sunlight is it time to cast a vote?
Can you create a cast using just a long piece of string?
Can you catch a fish by casting it in a starring role?*

Cast features the work of Kildare Art Collective members exploring the multiple meanings of 'cast', whether it's casting away, casting a shadow, a doubt, a line or a glance. These works encompass a variety of interpretations in form, texture and expression and every piece casts a spell.

Join us as we cast as crew on this exploration!

About the Artists

Eamonn Farrell

(assisted by Leon Farrell, Mohamed Bouteldja, and Leah Farrell)

'I Am Human'

Photographic Image behind glass on archival paper, framed

102cm x 52cm

NFS

About the artwork

By using a studio backdrop outdoors, set amid the misery of over 100 pitched refugee tents in a lane in Dublin 2, to create portraits of over 20 IPA applicants, the purpose of which was to isolate each one from the terrible surroundings in which they found themselves and present them as individual human beings with a personality, history and culture, divorced from the current miserable, squalid, setting in which they find themselves.

Artist Bio

Eamonn Farrell is a visual artist based in Kildare. His art invariably reflects environmental and societal issues facing the human race.

Fergus Smith

'Casting Light Casting Shadows'

Oil on primed canvas in homemade frame

51 x 66 cm

€400

'Cast a Cold Eye'

Oil on acrylic painted card, fitted in recycled, refurbished frame

44.5 x 49.5cm

€700

About the Artwork

Artwork 1: WB Yeats epitaph, "Cast a Cold Eye/ On Life on death, horseman pass by. This suggests an objective detached perspective on both life and death, advising readers not to be overly emotionally attached to either", (brainless.com).

Artwork 1 Casting Light, Casting Shadow was painted with John Glynn's song "I Watch the Sunrise" in mind. The first verse includes "I watch the sunrise, lighting the sky, casting it's shadows near". These words inspired this painting.

Artwork 2 titled, "Cast a Cold Eye", is an impression of heaven and hell, which I suggest is taken in the same reasoning that applies to Yeats famous epitaph.

Artist Bio

My name is Fergus Smith I completed an honours degree in fine art, painting in NCAD graduating in 2017. I use impressions of eroding landscapes and moody skies, making paintings influenced by today's crazy world. Poetry and music are part of the finished piece which imply something unusual, something elusive, but recognisable.

Olga Anacka

'Refugees'

acrylic on wooden panel

50x60cm

€675

About the Artwork

I created Refugees two years ago in response to the situation of people experiencing push backs on the Polish-Belarusian border. The migrants from Africa and Middle East have been stranded in ancient swampy Białowieża forest and guarded from both sides, so leaving the patch of wood and crossing to civilisation became impossible. These people have been tricked into terrible circumstances. In between the borders, they belong nowhere – have been cast away from society and are refused basic human rights due to the politics and power play. The exact number of lives lost in the woods is unknown.

Difficult position of migrants escaping dire conditions in their home countries is a global issue which has triggered discussions around the right provision of support across the whole of Europe, including Ireland. In the light of recent controversies around accommodating refugees and asylum seekers locally, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the problem of abandonment and exclusion. I hope my visual interpretation of a family trapped in the woods will bring one more voice to the discussion on migration and influence the imagination of the audience.

Artist Bio

Olga Anacka is a migrant artist working in mixed media from her Newbridge studio. She was born in 1977 in Poland. She graduated from University of the Arts in Poznan in 2004. A year later, she won a distinction in Olsztyn Art Biennial for the metal and clay installation, part of Sacred Landscapes series. Her Cocoons, fabric sculptures from ME<MATERNITY project, were shortlisted for Celeste Prize 2011 in Rome and 2012 in New York. Olga also received the ARTstap Open Submission Award in 2012 for the same body of work, and shortly after took a break in the art career until 2019. She partakes in Cill Rialaig project and is a member of Visual Artists Ireland as well as Kildare Art Collective. Her work has been supported by the Arts Council and Kildare County Council Arts Office.

Michelle McBride

'Cast Aside'

Gesso on canvas, reclaimed window, wood, curtains, chair

Canvas 50 x 70cm

€150 (Canvas only)

About the Artwork

Cast Aside draws from personal experience volunteering for Older Voices Kildare, growing a little older myself, and watching my loved one's age. The process of observing and documenting these experiences has led to better understanding the value of independence, care and companionship.

What it is like to be cast aside; left alone / without help / losing the ability to do all the necessary things for yourself? Does forgetting who you are make you a different person / do you care less as you get closer to the end of life / do people care less about you?

A dirty window in a cluttered room
Leaking light through old curtains
Signalling the start
Of a long day ahead
Shadows slowly moving

Sparks of morning sun
Casting a glow on dusty surfaces
Rousing a memory of a sheen
That once reflected
From neglected places

Fading away to another place
Everything plain, clean, clinical
These are different things
A different window and curtains
Doors, bed, and routine

Watching the blackbird outside this window
Performing its rain dance
Enticing breakfast to peek above ground
The sun casts its light in a different way
Yet still signals the start of another long day

Artist Bio

As a Fine Arts graduate from the National College of Art and Design, my work is driven by observation of everyday experiences. I am deeply concerned with the intersection of environmental and societal issues, seeking to unravel the complex web of humanity's destructive tendencies and their long-term consequences. Through my art, I strive to provoke reflection and spark dialogue on the pressing challenges facing our planet and communities. By shedding light on the often overlooked ramifications of human behaviour, I aim to inspire action towards a more sustainable and harmonious future.

Johnny Tierney

'Castaways in Blue'

60cms x 60 cm

NFS

About the Artwork

Castaways on blue..... well it's like this. I had the canvas completely covered in sky blue. I left it untouched for several weeks. Mesmerised by the power of the blue. Unable to proceed I enjoyed its presence and pondered leaving it finished as was. Then I received the email. With cast...as the starter for this year's event. I don't know how but immediately I began the work declaring the title as I began. The composition flowed and without delay I had the work ready for straightening and polish... Clearly the situation globally regarding our fellow human beings without a safe place to live is my prime inspiration for this piece. So castaways in blue...JT

Artist Bio

Self-taught but very serious about developing a style of my own and a substantial body of work that shows constant improvement, evident in the pieces produced. I began seriously at about 16 years of age. Last December I was 70yrs old. I believe that I am only truly beginning my journey as an artist.

Shane Mullins

'Cast A Glance'

Framed photographic print

50x70cm

€250

About the Artwork

This image was captured during the exploration of Feighcullen in Milltown, Co. Kildare. This deconsecrated Church with beautiful Gothic architecture is rumoured to have been bought by an American man in the 1990s and has remained uninhabited for many years. Often passed but always overlooked on my regular journeys, this Gothic church and graveyard lay forgotten, yet the sun still casts its light into this disused space silhouetting the world passing by outside.

Artist Bio

Shane is a Kildare based videographer and photographer. His work is inspired by an interest in heritage, landscape, rural exploration and environmental protection.

Niamh Hynan

'Wonder Grounding'

Acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100cm

€1500

'No Apology'

Acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100cm

€1500

About the Artwork

My two paintings 'No Apology' and 'Wonder Grounding' explore the inner landscape versus the outer landscape. Cast a shadow? Casting away, a doubt, a line, or a glance, light or shade to appear on a surface. 'No Apology' represents an exploration into our inner landscape. Our inner thoughts and our inner voice. This painting is a raw representation of being yourself with no apology. Words were drawn into the gestural acrylic paint. The last words I wrote were 'No Apology.' It explores the notion of taking up your space and stepping into your power.

'Wonder Grounding' is a visual representation of my physical landscape in rural Kildare. Research photographs captured my interests from my everyday life. Abstract forms with a contemporary colour palette create a sense of a modern approach to the Irish landscape.

When I paint it is instinctive. It is a response a feeling, an instinct in that moment in time. My work is heavily rooted to the land. I want to capture the essence, energy, and evocative mood within nature. My new body of work titled 'Grounding' is concerned with abstraction. Being in nature, living near nature, or even viewing nature in paintings and videos can have positive impacts on our brains, bodies, feelings, thought processes, and social interactions.

Artist Bio

Niamh Hynan is originally from Carbury, Co. Kildare. She studied Art, Design and Mixed Media in Ballyfermot Senior College, Fine Art degree in Painting in DIT and a H. Dip in Art and Design Education in NCAD. She is a member of Visual Artists Ireland (VAI), Kildare Art Collective (KAC) and the Art Teachers Association of Ireland (ATAI). She has exhibited extensively in Ireland. She is a visual art teacher with twenty years' experience. She has been awarded a number of art grants including the Arts Act Grant and the Arts in Education Residency Bursary Award 2022 from Kildare Arts Council. She is on the facilitator panel of Esker Art Centre. She has received an artist residency in Cill Rialaig in Co. Kerry.

'The Die Is Cast'

Cotton, thread.

7 x 3 dimensional squares, ranging from 15 cm squared to 4 cm squared.

NFS

About the Artwork

This work invites us to consider the uncertainty of the human condition and the fragility of life.

Referencing the timeless notion of chance versus fate. Every roll of the dice dictates the path we tread, where the line between chance and choice is blurred. 7 dice of varying scale, made from structured fabric and adorned with embroidery serve as individual components as well as part of a larger narrative. The structured fabric references the weightiness of our decisions while the embroidered areas reference the multiple outcomes possible in every roll of the dice.

Artist Bio

Kirsten graduated from NCAD with an honours degree in Applied Materials (Textile Art & Artefact).

'I have always had a love of textiles with my mother being the driving force behind this. She taught me to sew and gave me a lifelong love and respect for fabric at an impressionable age.

Primarily working with textiles, I use a sewing machine to 'draw' and often add hand embroidered embellishments.

Over the past 2 years I have been creating more three dimensional pieces that have enabled me to expand my practice into new territories and create more sculptural work.'

Claire Murphy

'Thought Shadows'

6 photographic prints

30 x 21cm each

NFS

About the Artwork

"she sees how happiness hides in the humdrum, how it abides in the everyday toing and froing"

-Paul Lynch (Prophet Song)

I have been working on a series of paintings exploring the experience of family life and motherhood. They re-evaluate the relevance of very ordinary situations, and moments of observations of my children. This series of photographs documents a process where I was teasing out the idea of what thoughts cast a shadow, using my paintings and self-portraiture as the subject. I do think a lot of us are finding it difficult to reconcile our privilege to live in a relatively safe country compared to the suffering going on in the world, and also to just be getting on with life when there is an impending climate crisis.

Artist Bio

Claire Murphy is a visual artist based in County Kildare, and a graduate of NCAD. She is mainly interested in figurative art and portraiture, which she explores through a variety of medium and styles. She has completed several community based street murals, and has initiated and run socially inclusive portrait projects. She has received funding from Kildare County Council's Arts Service and Creative Ireland for these projects, and was the recipient of an Arts Council Agility Award in 2022.

'Cast and Crew'

Books, photographic images

58 x 45cm

NFS

About the Artwork

'Cast and crew' was made in consideration of the stories that bind us and the cast of characters that populate the family tree. It invites reflection on our connection to the past and highlights the importance of storytelling. This work touches on the notion of inheritance and the shaping of identity through the familial experiences embedded in our lineage. The books are distinct but connected.. Each volume can be viewed as a vessel that references personal and collective memories.

Artist Bio

I graduated from Jewellery and metal work in NCAD.

In my work I make use of collected, inherited and found objects of everyday use that function as carriers of meaning and memory. Through the use of unexpected objects and broad research my work is developed in response to ideas, theories, memories and stories. I create work with a focus on narrative and concept.

Gavin Casey

'Babushka'

Painted wooden Babushka

€75

About the Artwork

We are all cast upon conception. Developed and grown within the sanctity of our mother. We share the same womb with our siblings.

Artist Bio

Gavin Casey is a multidisciplinary artist living in Co. Kildare. He has a formal education in Advertising and Design followed by a BA Fine Art (Painting/Graphics). He has over two decades of experience working creatively in the post-production industry, compositing for film, broadcast and TV commercials. In 2021, Gavin returned to painting and received the Emerging Artist Solo Exhibition Bursary Award from Kildare County Council Arts Service and Riverbank Arts Centre in 2022. Gavin is a member of Visual Artist Ireland and Kildare Art Collective. His work is founded on the relationship between our two "higher senses", seeing and hearing. Sound and colour and its representation in art. The painter offers a silent art represented in static form impinging on our visual senses while the musician produces an audible art that extends over time. Gavin's interest in this area began in 2001 while studying Fine Art at Dublin Institute of Technology. Completing a dissertation "A Critical Analysis of Synthesis and Experimental Notation". Here, Gavin colour mapped his interpretation of the sounds of an African percussion instrument called the 'Djembe'. These initial investigations paved the way for his artistic practice today, He endeavours to capture a suspended moment in time and bring a snapshot of musical energy to canvas. His work is abstract, emotive and created through a uniquely intuitive process.

Derek



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

Finn

Kildare Art
COLLECTIVE



'The Curragh'

Cyanotype print on acrylic paper

23x28cm

€40

About the Artwork

Using my surroundings from living in the Curragh I've come across such beautiful nature. Using landscapes I've chosen this one from the military grave yard by using cyanotype print. The process is using acetate paper and placing cyanotype coated paper and letting the sun cast its light on it. Leaving a delicate copy of the image.

Artist Bio

Derek Finn is a fine art painter. Having studied in NCAD Dublin, now living in the Curragh in Kildare finds constant inspiration his surroundings

Martina McDonald

'Circling Home'

Mixed Media Collage (Screen Print, Etching, Acrylic Paint & Pastels).

31 x 28cm

€360

About the Artwork

'Circling Home' explores how our identities are shaped by personal and shared experiences. We are influenced or 'cast' by our past and present days, and by the connections we make. This artwork offers an expressive yet reflective space for viewers, where shapes and colours intersect, support, and enhance each other.

Artist Bio

Martina is a visual artist based in Clane, Co. Kildare. Having graduated from NCAD Fine Art Sculpture in 2009, Martina has been in the creative realm for over 15 years. Martina creates tactile, mixed media contemporary works, which draw the viewer in with colour, layering and a sense of playfulness. Working primarily in the mediums of print and painting, Martina fuses these elements to create artwork that is both accessible and engaging. For more info visit martinamcdonald.com

Holly Delaney

'Not Completely Alone'

Acrylic on wood.

20cm x 15cm

€100

About the Artwork

This painting was inspired by a photo that Holly took of her daughter, Gwen, looking into a fire out in their garden. It's relevance to the exhibition 'Cast' is inspired by the light that is cast by the fire onto Gwen.

Artist Bio

Holly Delaney lives and works in Maynooth Co Kildare. She originally trained in Fine Art Sculpture. She now works organising creative workshops for community members in the Celbridge/Maynooth area. Her work is influenced by the Natural World and it's patterns.

Conor Lane



'Grandmas Hands'

Plaster of paris and gold paint

16 x 16cm

NFS

About the Artwork

Honouring the Family Matriarch

Artist Bio

International artist Conor Lane is a graduate (B.A. fine art hons) in Sculpture from GMIT. He is a professional sculptor with international sales in his unique style of bog oak sculptures and crafts, including occult products

Having studied sculpture for four years in G.M.I.T he also works in conceptual mediums like sound, video, instillation, performance, and assemblage. His work is about socio-political awareness and perceived difference. He is grounded in nature as are his sculptures

Peter Slyman

'Reflection'

Stainless steel

9 x 9 inches

NFS

About the Artwork

What came to mind for me around the theme 'Cast' was the phrase 'casting light on a situation'. My idea was to create a metal cubist sculpture with a polished finish that Casts broken light in several directions.

Artist Bio

Peter is a sculptor who graduated from NCAD in 2018, he works with a wide range of materials & loves nothing more than making his ideas into physical works of art.