

NWCI TOURING EXHIBITION 2015

STILL, WE WORK

NWCI LEGACY PROJECT: REPRESENTATIONS OF WOMEN'S WORK

Sarah Browne | Miriam O'Connor | Vagabond Reviews | Anne Tallentire

CALLAN WORKHOUSE UNION, CALLAN, CO. KILKENNY

nwcilegacyproject.com

STILL, WE WORK is an exhibition featuring work by artists **Sarah Browne, Miriam O'Connor, Anne Tallentire** and **Vagabond Reviews** exploring contemporary representations of women and work. The exhibition, commissioned by the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI), is touring Ireland over this year. It is a unique opportunity to explore issues surrounding women and work today, increasingly characterized by casualization, low pay and precariousness.

Throughout the tour, five different exhibition curators are presenting the exhibition in three different contexts in Letterkenny, Kilkenny and Limerick through 2015.

In Kilkenny, the exhibition and events are curated by Hollie Kearns, Rosie Lynch and Monica Flynn. The exhibition is taking place during the Abhainn Rí Festival of Inclusion and Participation. There is also a programme of events in Callan and Kilkenny in the run up to and during the exhibition, as well as a temporary library in Callan connected to the curators' research.

The exhibition will be formally opened at Callan Workhouse Union, Callan Co. Kilkenny on Friday, 26th June, 6pm.

Hollie Kearns, Rosie Lynch and Monica Flynn, the exhibition curators said:

"We're delighted to be able to host STILL, WE WORK in two newly developed spaces at Callan Workhouse Union. It's very poignant to have an exhibition of contemporary art, which addresses the experience of women's work in Ireland, at a building designed in the early 19th century around labour as a form of both control and oppression. We hope that STILL, WE WORK will bring about a meaningful discussion around today's conditions and experience of work, engaging with our neighbours and community who come to see the exhibition, and who participate in our public programme of events."

Alice-Mary Higgins, NWCI Campaigns and Policy Officer said:

"As a unique collaboration of artists and NWCI, this exhibition recognises the paid and unpaid, seen and unseen work that women do and highlights the intrinsic links between women's work and the inequalities that women widely experience in society. The exhibition will be a platform for women and artists from a diversity of backgrounds to come together and examine these issues through different forms of art. NWCI hopes that this unique process will strengthen our cooperation with local women's groups in the region to work together on issues of shared concern. We must ensure women are central in government policies to activate women into and protect women in the workforce."

In October, the exhibition will travel to Limerick and be curated by Michele Horrigan, supported by Limerick City Gallery and Dance Limerick. The tour has been made possible through the financial support of an Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon Visual Arts Touring Award.

STILL, WE WORK – NWCI LEGACY PROJECT TOUR: REPRESENTATIONS OF WOMEN'S WORK at the Callan Workhouse Union, Callan, Co. Kilkenny. 26th June to 5th July. Open daily 12 – 5pm. Admission to the exhibition is free. Visitor information and directions on <http://abhainnrfestival.com> or email info@abhainnrfestival.com

For media information contact Silke Paasche, NWCI Head of Communications at silkep@nwci.ie or +353(0)85 858 9104. Hollie Kearns, Exhibition Curator at holliek.10@gmail.com or +353 (0)87 991 2001.

www.nwcilegacyproject.com | facebook.com/NWCILegacyProject | [twitter @StillWeWork](https://twitter.com/StillWeWork)

NWCI acknowledges the financial support of the Arts Council Visual Arts Touring Award and the support of the tour partners and supporters.

Opening Event

What: Opening of the exhibition STILL, WE WORK: Representations of Women and Work

Where: Callan Workhouse Union, Callan, Co. Kilkenny

When: Friday, 26 June, 6pm

Speakers at the launch will include:

- Mary Butler, Kilkenny Arts Officer
- Alice-Mary Higgins, National Women's Council of Ireland
- Hollie Kearns, Rosie Lynch, Monica Flynn, Exhibition Curators

A short performance by artists Sarah Browne and Jesse Jones of 'Burn in Flames: Post Patriarchal Archive in Circulation', as part of their project 'In the Shadow of the State' will be followed by a reception with elderflower cordial and shortbread by Ruth Lydon.

Exhibition Dates

26 June – 5 July 2015 at Callan Workhouse Union, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.

Open daily 12 noon to 5pm. Admission is free. Directions at <http://abhainnrfestival.com>

Additional Programme

Monday, 22 June at 7.30pm

A screening of 'Breaking Ground: The Story of the London Irish Women's Centre', directed by Michelle Deignan, at Cleere's Theatre, Parliament St, Kilkenny.

Followed by a Skype Q&A between Michelle Deignan and Eilís Ní Chaithnía, Membership Development Officer, NWCI.

Audience invited to bring a small dish to share following the Q&A.

Saturday, 27 June, 11 – 1pm

A movement workshop, 'Labours of Love' led by Ita Morrissey exploring 'women's work' at Callan Workhouse Union.

Followed by potluck lunch.

Wednesday, 1 July at 1pm

A talk on 'The Kilkenny Design Workshops and their Legacy' by Ann Mulrooney at Callan Workhouse Union.

Accompanied by tea & coffee and shortbread.

Thursday, 2 July at 1pm

An 'in conversation' with Elaine Bradshaw about 'Mayor of Kilkenny, Margaret Tynan, and her legacy' at Callan Workhouse Union.

Accompanied by tea & coffee and shortbread.

Ongoing: 26 June – 5 July, 12noon – 5pm

The Workhouse Union Library will accompany the exhibition at the Callan, Workhouse Union. This temporary reference library will include books and archival material from various sources relating to the curators' research including material on female design practices and the Kilkenny Design Workshops, Margaret Tynan's Papers and more.

For full details about the events in the additional programme

www.nwcilegacyproject.com | facebook.com/NWCILegacyProject

Twitter: @stillwework | Email stillwework@gmail.com

Ends/

Media information

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Website: nwcilegacyproject.com

Facebook: facebook.com/NWCILegacyProject

Twitter: @StillWeWork

About the tour

STILL, WE WORK, curated by Hollie Kearns, Rosie Lynch and Monica Flynn, is presented during the Abhainn Rí Festival of Inclusion and Participation in Callan, Co. Kilkenny at the Callan Workhouse Union, 26th June to 5th July and is open to the public daily from noon to 5pm. Admission is free. The exhibition will travel to Limerick in October having started at the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal in May.

About the exhibition curators

Rosie Lynch & Hollie Kearns (Kilkenny) are independent curators who work collaboratively out of a shared office at Callan Workhouse, Co. Kilkenny, where they are engaged in a number of projects towards developing a semi-derelict wing of the Workhouse into a new facility with shared artistic, design, research and community facilities. Current projects include Workhouse Union (2015), an artistic programme of new artist commissions, and a public programme of activities at Callan Workhouse, Nimble Spaces (2013-2015), and a long-term process of collaboration between artists, architects and adults with an intellectual disability. An international conference 'Nimble Spaces: Ways to live together, New Cultures of Housing' to take place on May 1st 2015 at VISUAL Carlow, and they are taking part in a research residency as part of the Im/Plants programme at National Sculpture Factory Cork. Recent projects include The Pattern Exchange (2015), a guest curated exhibition at Temple Bar Gallery and Studios, and Forecast (2014), a project looking anew at five rural towns in Co. Kilkenny. They were co-founders of Commonage (2010-2014) with Tara Kennedy and Jo Anne Butler. Rosie Lynch has a BA in Fine Art from NCAD and completed an MA in Visual Arts Practice from IADT in 2011. Hollie Kearns has a BA in the History of Art and English from University College Cork (2007) and an MA in the History of Art from University of Leeds (2009). nimblespaces.org

Monica Flynn (Kilkenny) holds a B.Design (Fashion) from Limerick School of Art and Design (1992) and spent a number of years, in Kilkenny, as a self-employed designer-maker. Relinquishing the role of one-woman knitting machine she decided to retrain in Arts & Cultural Management, UCD (1999). Since then she's had lots of fun working to support community arts, disability arts and theatre education initiatives. Monica has coordinated arts training for childcare workers; helped stage disability cabaret events; gotten a grounding in arts education and taught Fashion & Textile Design in further education. Monica has been a practicing visual artist since 2003 and following her MA in Visual Arts Practices from Dun Laoghaire, IADT (2008) she took on the role of Professional Development Officer at VAI. She was a co-founder member and director of The Market Studios, Dublin (2007 - 2014) and has an ongoing interest in artist-led initiatives. In her visual practice Monica is concerned with mysticism; chance operations; economics; food and performative events that involve the audience in the artwork. Recent projects include: Café Society Leitrim (2014) a series of discursive public events in Café Lounge, Carrick-on-Shannon, as part of the SPARK Creative Residency, supported by Leitrim County Council and Leitrim LEO and Hospitality (2014) a collaborative project examining cross cultural expressions of hospitality with Open Circle Arts, a women's community arts collective in Kilkenny, funded through CREATE Artists in the Community Scheme. www.monicaflynn.com and facebook.com/cafesocietyleitrim

About the Artworks and Artists

Sarah Browne's *Peripherals* features reflections of the economy and language of women's work in a short video with a scripted voice over and professional hand model. We see her handle small sculptures made of aluminium, silicone, glass, and scented soap: recognisably things women handle in the course of a day's work. The artist's pages in the exhibition publication draw on further ideas about the embodiment of certain kinds of work by women, elaborating on the meaning of peripherals, explaining that the words 'typewriter' and 'computer' were first used to describe the people, typically women, not the machines performing the functions.

Sarah Browne is an artist based in Ireland. Her research-driven practice investigates the labour and materiality of how we communicate and create meaning through exchange and transaction. Collaboration is fundamental to how the work is developed, whether with practitioners from other disciplines (anthropology, dance, amateur radio) or certain individuals whose experience become key to the narrative of a given project. These include the overlooked and the deceased (artists Charlotte Posenenske and Cynthia Moran; architect Eileen Gray) as well as the living, in an attempt to forge an unexpected series of correspondences. Recent solo exhibitions include *Hand to Mouth*, CCA Derry~Londonderry and Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, and *The Invisible Limb*, basis, Frankfurt (all 2014). In 2009 she co-represented Ireland at the 53rd Venice Biennale with Gareth Kennedy and their collaborative practice, Kennedy Browne. She is currently working with Jesse Jones on a major collaborative commission for Create, Ireland and Artangel, UK, investigating the role of the female body in the construction of the Nation State. Other forthcoming projects include a residency at the Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt and a commission for *Manual Labours*, London, exploring the condition of the complaining body in contemporary working environments. www.sarahbrowne.info

Miriam O'Connor's *The Legacy Project* comprises a unique exhibition print and a photobook that includes images of workspaces used by NWCI and member groups, including some that struggle for media visibility and operate in a very transient way, meeting in improvised settings. The artist also looked at photographs kept by the NWCI – some taken for PR purposes and others taken more informally by members at events and gatherings. Multiple copies of the photobook are presented as part of the exhibition and these travel with it from destination to destination and other sets of readers.

Miriam O'Connor lives and works in Cork. In her practice she draws inspiration from the language, sights and sounds of the everyday, and is concerned with the subtleties of looking and seeing, the relationship between camera and viewer, and the special ambiguity of still images. Her work has been featured in a wide range of photography publications and she has exhibited in solo and group shows in Ireland and internationally. She was nominated for the 2013 Leopold Godowsky, Jr. Photography Awards and her first photo book *Attention Seekers* was published by PogoBooks, Berlin and Galleri Image, Denmark in 2012. *Attention Seekers* was subsequently featured in *Camera Austria 122*, exhibited in *New Irish Works*, PhotoIreland 2013, at 'Photo Collect', Copenhagen, 2014, and selected for *Greetings from Ireland*, 2014. She received the Alliance Française Photography Award 2012, for her project *The Misbehaving Camera*, including a residency at the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris. This series of photographs was also exhibited at the 2013 Pingyao International Photography Festival, China, featured in 'About Photography' at Kaunas Photo in Lithuania, and as part of 'Project 30: Emerging Views of Ireland', curated by Tansy Cowley and Trish Lambe at the Gallery of Photography, Dublin. Miriam has had solo shows at Galleri Image, Denmark, the Third Space Gallery, Belfast, and in 'THERE THERE', Cork, curated by Stag and Deer. In conjunction with Galleri Image, Denmark, Miriam has recently produced new work for *FRESH EYES* - International artists rethink Aarhus, which will be exhibited during Aarhus Capital of Culture, 2017. Miriam studied photography at the Dublin Institute of Technology and completed her Master of Arts Degree at the Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Dun Laoghaire. In addition to her art practice, she teaches various courses on practical and creative approaches to photography. Her work is held in public and private collections in Denmark, the U.K. and Ireland. www.miriamconnor.com

Anne Tallentire's *From, in and with* consists of a 24 etched wood panels & 24 c-type photographs in a self-contained box. These correspond with 24 specially commissioned '100 word' texts in the exhibition publication by women working in architecture: Alice Casey, Culturstruction (Jo Anne Butler and Tara Kennedy), Gráinne Hassett, Ruth Morrow, Jane Rendell and Ellen Rowley, who were asked to write short descriptive texts based on photographs (that we never see) of buildings found along a city centre route in Dublin, from Parnell Square East (previously the NWCI office) and Bishop Street (now the location of the National Archives of Ireland), previously the location of the W&R Jacob's biscuit factory, a 1913 Dublin Lockout site particularly associated with women's protest.

Anne Tallentire is originally from Co. Armagh and has lived and worked in London since 1984. Her practice involves dismantling and re-assembling materials and systems in order to investigate conditions relating to place and daily life, primarily in relation to specific cultural, social, and architectural contexts. A major retrospective of her work, *This And Other Things 1999 – 2010*, was held at The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin in 2010 and in 1999 she was the sole representative for Ireland at the Venice Biennale with *Instances*. Other significant solo shows are *Drift*, a 22 part video work at Hollybush Gardens in London, (2012) and at *Void*, Derry (2005), *Telling it* and other works, *Picture This*, Bristol (2011) Pursuit of Happiness Douglas Hyde Gallery's 'Gallery 3' programme in Dublin (2007), *Arena Industriale*, Storie Urbane, Palazzo Pratonieri, Reggio Emilia, Italy (2006) and *Dispersal*, Orchard Gallery in Derry, with John Seth as work seth/tallentire (2001). Recent group exhibitions, projects and screenings include *Winter Garden*, Flat Time House London, (2015), *Keywords: Art, Culture and Society in 1980s Britain*, Tate Liverpool, *At-your-service*, Technicki Muzej,

Zagreb, Croatia (2014), Vexed Endings, Green and Red, Dublin, (2012), Le Monde Physique, La Galerie, Contemporary Art Centre, Noisy-Le-Sec, Paris (2011) and I'm Spartacus, Gracelands, Leitrim, (2010). She has also shown at Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Galerie im Taxipalais, Innsbruck, Austria, Bloomberg Space, London and (with John Seth) South London Gallery, PS1, New York, ENSBA, Paris and Fri-art, Switzerland and Project, Dublin. Anne is Professor Emerita, Fine Art, Central Saint Martins University of the Arts, London and is an editor with Copy Press. Since the early 90s she has worked collaboratively as work-seth/tallentire on a number of projects and is with Graham Ellard the co-founder, of Double Agents, an artists' research group based at CSM. www.annetallentire.info

Vagabond Reviews' (In)Visible Labour Factorium draws on 'Visibility Clinics' held with NWCI members and non-members to accumulate facts of working life that tend otherwise to be invisible to the usual methods of collecting 'reliable', legible, and measurable evidence. So far, Vagabond Reviews – who are Ailbhe Murphy and Ciaran Smyth – have worked with groups in Donegal, Dublin, Limerick and Galway and collected texts with photographs, which will be exhibited.

Vagabond Reviews was co-founded by Ailbhe Murphy and Ciaran Smyth as an interdisciplinary platform combining socially engaged art and research practice. As artists and researchers we are interested in engaging broader publics in alternative forms of cultural participation and knowledge production. Projects include Scientia Civitatis: Missing Titles (2015) an installation presenting an interdisciplinary reading of the city, as part of the Phoenix Rising, Art and the Civic Imagination exhibition at the Hugh Lane Gallery curated by Logan Sisley. The Arcade Project is an ongoing arts-based inquiry with the Rialto Youth Project exploring organisational values and pedagogical principles in arts-based youth work. The Sliabh Bán Art House (2011-2012) was a participatory public art project commissioned by Galway City Council's Arts Office, which explored concepts of home, displacement and embodied local identities in a new and culturally diverse Galway neighbourhood. The Cultural Archaeology (2009 – 2010) took the form of an arts-based research initiative in collaboration with the community development project Fatima Groups United, Rialto. Upcoming projects include Temporary Institute for the Study of Contemporary Systemic Violence at Workhouse Union in Callan Co. Kilkenny curated by Hollie Kearns and Rosie Lynch and a research residency at the Hyde Park Art Centre in Chicago. Ailbhe Murphy is also Director of Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts in Ireland. www.vagabondreviews.org



NATIONAL WOMENS COUNCIL OF IRELAND LEGACY PROJECT
The National Women's Council of Ireland is the representative organisation for women and women's groups in Ireland. Our mission is to achieve women's equality and empower women to work together to remove inequalities.