

# WHAT'S Art

Waterford Healing Arts Trust  
January-March 2008

**The** Waterford Healing Arts Trust has moved! We can now be found in two porta cabins opposite our original premises, the former St. Theresa's Unit, in the grounds of Waterford Regional Hospital. The original premises are being renovated to become the first dedicated Centre for Arts and Health in Ireland.

Work continues on despite and throughout the move with new programmes coming on stream and others coming to fruition. We are looking forward to Helene Hugel's highly innovative *Bed Maker* in the Paediatrics ward in January and the launch of *Passengers*, an exhibition curated by a group of WRH staff who have been working together on this project since October 2006.



Photos by  
Claire Meaney

## On the Move!

## Participatory Music Programme

WHAT's participatory music programme continues to go from strength to strength. Since October, musicians Mary Prendergast, Liam Merriman and Una McSweeney have been engaging the clients of the Mental Health Services in Waterford in music-making sessions. In 2008, the programme will spread into more wards and units in St Otteran's Hospital, the Department of Psychiatry, WRH, and in the community. The HSE staff will play an active role in leading these sessions alongside the musicians and will have the opportunity to partake in their own music workshops. Former Musician-in-Residence Kevin O'Shanahan will continue to be involved in the programme by leading the staff workshops and mentoring the musicians.

For further information on this programme, contact Mary Grehan at 051 842664.



Left to right:  
Kevin O'Shanahan,  
Una McSweeney, Mary  
Prendergast and Liam  
Merriman.

Photo by  
Mary Grehan

## Healing Sounds Programme

The *Healing Sounds* music programme continues this year with another exciting line-up. Musicians will perform in the main foyer of WRH from 1.30pm-2.00pm and then will move to the wards and outpatient clinics throughout the hospital.

### Monday 14th January

#### **Sarah McCarthy and Leah Clarke**

Sarah McCarthy is a graduate student of Waterford Institute of Technology (W.I.T.) majoring in composition. Sarah has performed with the W.I.T. Chamber Choir at the Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford and at choral festivals in Wales. She currently works as a freelance composer and her work will be performed as part of the Waterford New Music Week Festival in 2008.

Leah Clarke is in her final year as a music student at W.I.T. majoring in Traditional Irish Music Editing. She has played with Comhaltas and with W.I.T.'s Traditional Irish Music Society. She has also recorded three albums with this group.

### Thursday 14th February

#### **Denis Comerford**

Denis Comerford is a staff member at WRH working in the Biomedical Engineering Department. He plays guitar and sings a wide range of popular and contemporary songs. He has played as part of a group for many years in the Wexford area and has taken part in several *Tops of the Town* productions.



Dylan Bible and  
Amanda Fardy

### Thursday 6th March

#### **Dylan Bible and Amanda Fardy**

Dylan Bible and Amanda Fardy both studied Jazz at Leeds College of Music from 1995 to 2000, finally settling back to their native Waterford City at the end of 2000. Since then they have been teaching music at WIT and Abbey Community College. Also, they perform around the South East in several different line-ups including: *The Moving Statues* and the 6 piece band *Bossa Rocka*. Dylan is also a member of the ever popular *Butterfly Band*.



Helene Hugel as *The Bedmaker*

Monkeyshine Theatre in partnership with  
Tallaght Community Arts Centre present

## *The Bedmaker*

Puppetry and Storytelling at the Bed Side

Devised by Helene Hugel in collaboration with  
children in hospital

Directed by Karen Pennefather

Paediatrics Ward, WRH, 16th - 18th January

From the 16th – 18th January, WHAT is delighted to host a three day Puppetry and Storytelling Residency with Puppeteer and Clown Doctor Helene Hugel in the Paediatrics ward of WRH. The residency entitled *The Bedmaker* explores the hospital bed as a storytelling landscape, where stories happen on, around and above the bed. Helene uses toys, puppets, and hospital sheets at the patient's bedside, recreating the bed space and igniting the imaginations of those involved.

These sessions include elements of clowning, puppetry and music. Throughout the sessions, the children are invited to partake in the activities and at the end are left with art materials to continue the play. The sessions will occur in the afternoons over a period of three days in the Paediatrics ward and corresponding performances will complement this in Garter Lane Arts Centre.

*Toraíocht* by Róisín Ní Chionnfhaoilaidh is part of the *Passengers* exhibition on view at WRH from 24th January – 28th February.

# What in Review



A view through a Healing Stone

## The Healing Garden

The Healing Garden located in the grounds of WRH is a space of peace and solace to which visitors, staff and patients can retreat from the bustle of the hospital. The garden comprises five sculpted stones, limestone seats, herbs of healing and a pebbled ground. The space is enclosed by surrounding private hedging. Members of the Healing Arts Trust, hospital staff, the Technical Services team, the local community and the business sector all contributed to the creation of this peaceful space in 1995 under the direction of Aifric Gray and Saturio Alonso. In 2000, we were honoured by the official opening of the garden by President Mary McAleese. The garden was recently renovated by the WRH Technical Services team in 2006. We look forward to many more years of hospital staff, patients and visitors using the garden and this coming summer, WHAT plans to host music performances in the Healing Garden.

## Doing the Rounds

An exhibition of extracts from the Art Collection of the Waterford Healing Arts Trust

*Doing the Rounds* is an exhibition of extracts from the Art Collection of the Waterford Healing Arts Trust in Waterford Regional Hospital on tour to the Mater Hospital, Dublin, St. James's Hospital, Dublin, and University Hospital, Galway as part of the Arts programmes of these hospitals. The exhibition, which has been collaboratively curated by the Arts Co-ordinators of the four participating hospitals, features a diversity of artwork by contemporary artists. This is the first time part of the collection has toured to other hospitals.

This touring exhibition has recently visited the Mater Hospital and St. James' Hospital, Dublin. The exhibition will continue the tour this year by visiting Galway in January and returning to Waterford in March, where an outreach programme, to include guided tours, lectures and workshops, will accompany this exhibition.



Lemon & Limes  
by Robert Russell

## Upcoming tour dates:

17th January – 13th March 2008  
**UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY**

27th March – 22nd May 2008  
**WATERFORD REGIONAL HOSPITAL**

This exhibition is part of The Touring Experiment, an action research project initiated by the Arts Council.

Research partner in the  
Arts Council's  
Touring Experiment



## Passengers

**A group exhibition on the theme of journey curated by a multi disciplinary team of staff from Waterford Regional Hospital**

**24th January – 28th February 2008**

A group of staff members from WRH in partnership with WHAT came together over the past year to curate an exciting exhibition on the theme of passengers/ journey. The title of the exhibition was chosen by the staff to express the relationship of the hospital with the journey of life. This group comprises staff based throughout the hospital in administration, occupational therapy, nursing, midwifery, catering and household services, who all have a keen interest in art.

The hospital can be seen as a place in which the key milestones of life, from birth to death are encountered. The journey through the hospital mirrors the journey through life and the curatorial group has interpreted the exhibiting artworks with this aspect of the hospital context in mind.

### Guided Tours

The members of the *Passengers* curatorial group will give guided lunchtime tours of the exhibition on the following dates:

**Friday 8th February** - Ann Kelly & Grace Staunton

**Friday- 15th February** - Finbarr O'Rourke & Miriam Cass

Tours begin at 1.15pm in the Foyer. Booking is essential. Please e-mail [WHAT@hse.ie](mailto:WHAT@hse.ie) or phone 051-842664



Covered Road by Anne Maree Barry

## One Passenger's Journey

*Passengers* has been a journey in itself for me and I suspect all the others who have contributed to this exhibition. It began with an e-mail about a year ago inviting staff participation in curating an exhibition which I thought seemed like an interesting idea. A field-trip to the Irish Museum of Modern Art was my introduction to many of those involved. The theme of passengers/journey then developed from very open debate and discussion about what we wanted the exhibition to represent.

I feel a strong connection between the theme and my everyday work as an occupational therapist at WRH. My role involves listening to an individual's experience of illness/disability and to collaborate with that person on a journey to help equip them to perform their preferred roles and routines beyond the hospital environment.

The journey through the curation of this exhibition has taken various twists and turns evolving in a slightly different and a possibly more fruitful way to that originally envisaged. It has brought together an interesting mix of people contributing at different stages along the way.

I am delighted to have been a part of this curation process and hope that others will enjoy our *Passengers* exhibition.

Ann Kelly  
Occupational Therapist / Member of Passengers curatorial group

### WHAT Staff

Mary Grehan (Arts Director), Claire Meaney (Assistant Arts Director), Susan Crossan (Administrator), Sheelagh O'Connell (Admin Assistant), Larry White (Artworker - Art-collection and Exhibitions), Siobhan McLaughlin (Music facilitator), Joanne Freyne (Admin Assistant), Boyer Phelan, (Art Kart facilitator Paediatrics & Renal Dialysis) and Martin Kennedy, (Art Kart facilitator Psychiatry)

### WHAT Committee

Cllr. Tom Cunningham, Dr. Abdul Bulbulia, Mary Baxter, Anne Ellis, Mary Tritschler, Patricia Sullivan, Hazel Daniels, Mr. Gordon Watson, Dr. Peter Jordan, Sean Swift, John O'Connor, Mai Lannigan, Mary Prendergast, Dr. Jack Gallagher.

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