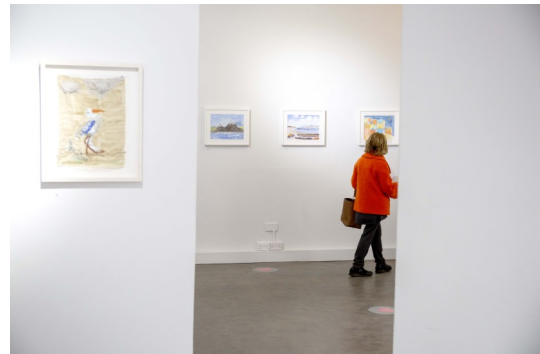




Waterford Healing Arts Trust

Annual Report 2020



WELCOME

2020 was a challenging year due to the Covid 19 pandemic and Waterford Healing Arts Trust (WHAT) continued to find ways to brighten up the lives of patients and staff of University Hospital Waterford (UHW) through arts experiences. Due to public health restrictions, WHAT worked off-site for most of the year, adapting our work and finding new ways to support patients and staff. We also continued our national work, leading the development of arts and health in Ireland and, in particular, supporting artists and arts and health practitioners as we all devised new ways to work in our changed circumstances.

ARTS PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT



Healing Sounds Outdoors at UHW

Healing Sounds on the Wards is a programme of live music engagement which aims to soften the clinical environment and reduce anxiety for patients of all ages and staff. In early 2020, due to a flu outbreak at UHW and the Covid 19 pandemic, the musicians Liam Merriman, Eoin O Meachair, Alan Browne, Liam Kavanagh and Michelle Haberlin were unable to deliver live music experiences at the bedside. Quickly adapting to the situation, the musicians created video recorded [Musical Postcards](#) for staff and patients in the oncology ward, renal dialysis unit and the elder care wards.

Healing Sounds Outdoors commenced in the summer months and involved all five *Healing Sounds* musicians, performing fortnightly sessions together in the grounds of UHW, at four locations specifically selected for their high visibility from various wards and staff stations. Locations included the Renal Dialysis Unit, the Department of Psychiatry, the Dunmore Wing and the back of the hospital. At the back of the hospital, the performances were experienced by patients and staff in the medical, surgical, orthopaedic, maternity and high dependency wards. Two mobile amplifiers and microphones were purchased to enhance the experience for the audience. Feedback for *Healing Sounds Outdoors* has been extremely positive with one staff member commenting, "I was leaving work at the end of a tough day, my head was down and from somewhere I heard the music. I looked up and there you all were and I thought 'there is hope'." WHAT received funding in 2020 from Creative Ireland under the *Creativity in Older Age* programme to support *Healing Sounds* this year.



Brenda Ronan, Nurse Manager, Renal Dialysis enjoying the music

The WHAT **Arts Programme in Renal Dialysis** aims to provide patients with the opportunity to participate in art making and to develop artistic skills, to work with a trained artist, to provide a high quality experience and to lift their spirits, support motivation and reduce anxiety during treatment. From January to March 2020, artists Boyer Phelan and Philip Cullen delivered this multi-artform participatory programme for patients in Renal Dialysis, supported by the Punctestown Kidney Research Fund (PKRF). Philip works with patients supporting them in whatever artistic endeavour they are interested in: art, writing or music. When Covid arrived, Philip adapted his approach and engaged with patients remotely for the rest of the year via email, phone and Zoom. While very different to working in person, one advantage was that Philip was able to work with more patients than when he is physically present in the unit.

Maeve Butler, WHAT Assistant Director, also worked closely with long-term dialysis patients throughout the year, identifying their needs and maintaining links, seeking new ways to support their interest in art, writing and music, and supporting artist Philip Cullen as he continued to work remotely.



Photos of a dialysis patient's work taken by him during an online session

Brenda Ronan, Clinical Nurse Manager in Renal Dialysis, was very grateful that we were able to adapt the programme: "This has been a particularly difficult time for our patients who have been cocooning with extremely limited interaction with the outside world, family and friends. Being able to continue to create their own art and to write poetry, stories and memoirs has been hugely beneficial for their wellbeing and has helped them through this very challenging time."

Boyer Phelan retired in August 2020 after working with the organisation for almost 20 years. We are very grateful to her for her dedication to the patients in renal dialysis and paediatrics, and for sharing her skill, talent and experience with so many people over such a long period. We will miss her and we wish her every health and happiness in her retirement.

In April, we created a new art resource pack *In Your Own Time* with artist Caroline Schofield for patients in Renal Dialysis. This high quality resource pack includes art materials, images of paintings from the UHW art collection and information about each artist, along with some prompts to support patients to make their own art. 100 packs were created so that every patient in Renal Dialysis had the opportunity to create art. This initiative was made possible with the generous support of Viforpharma, who particularly wanted to support patients during the Covid period. Since October, *In Your Own Time* has also been made available to the wider hospital community.



In Your Own Time art pack

With the arrival of Covid, we adapted *Open Gallery*, our dementia-inclusive art viewing programme, to the online space and hosted sessions via video call with a local nursing home. Developed by WHAT in 2018, *Open Gallery* invites people living with dementia – primarily, but not exclusively – and their family members / carers to look at, chat about and enjoy paintings from the UHW Art Collection in a safe and welcoming space, supported by professional artists. In each session, two or three paintings from the hospital art collection are discussed by the participants. Delivered by artists Caroline Schofield and Jill Bouchier, these sessions are about the participants making observations, describing, building connections and enjoying art together. Many *Open Gallery* participants have poor eyesight, due to their age and various medical conditions. In normal times, they enjoy the excitement of seeing a real painting at close range and we also support their participation by providing full colour A4 printouts of each painting so that they can examine the work in detail independently, while also being part of the group. This also supports them to continue to enjoy the artworks after the session. With funding from Creative Ireland, we commissioned professional photographer Keith Currans to capture high quality images of 38 artworks from the art collection, to facilitate future *Open Gallery* sessions, online and in person.



From art pack for Dept of Psychiatry

The Covid-19 pandemic brought major challenges in delivering the *Iontas arts and mental health programme* in person for most of 2020. From April, the artists and healthcare partners rose to the challenge of engaging people accessing the services in new ways that were in keeping with the prevailing public health restrictions.

Iontas artists Liam Merriman, Jane O'Brien Moran, Leah Clarke, Jill Bouchier, George Higgs, Lani O'Hanlon, Liam Meaghar, Adele Stanley and Ciara Harrison delivered a varied programme embracing several artforms in different settings and formats, to people accessing the mental health services. This new approach included outdoor garden sessions, online workshops, recorded creative writing podcasts, visual art packs, instructional videos and art materials.

Iontas artistic outputs included:

- Two songs, *Beautiful Misfortune* and *Coffee is the Opium of the Patients*, created by musician George Higgs in collaboration with people attending the Dept of Psychiatry (DOP), UHW.
- Two further songs, *Good Times* and *Enjoy Yourself*, were created by participants of the Activation Therapy Unit at St Otteran's Hospital, Waterford, in collaboration with musicians Jane O'Brien Moran, Leah Clarke and Liam Merriman. Jane O'Brien Moran shared one of these songs at *Checking In*, a national online arts event presented by WHAT/artsandhealth.ie and attended by 68 people in April 2020.
- A series of **art packs** with guided art activities and art materials created by artist Jill Bouchier, delivered to the Dept of Psychiatry, UHW in December 2020.
- A new project *Ah, Go On...* where artist Adele Stanley produced a series of videos which celebrated the health benefits of having a cup of tea with friends. The videos encouraged people and demonstrated how to make a

pottery clay tea set. Sessions were facilitated by Occupational Therapists in the Brandon Unit, DOP. Between October and December 31 people engaged in this project.

- In September, we delivered a six week online and postal visual art programme for young people accessing Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Entitled ***Open your wings, you lovely things***, this programme supported the young participants to work on collaborative artworks together, developing in them a sense of connectedness, belonging and becoming part of a group. Delivered by textile artist Ciara Harrison and co-facilitated by Occupational Therapist Ailín Farrell, these sessions were attended by four young people.



A video still from *Ah, Go On...* instructional video



Front cover of *As They Blossomed*

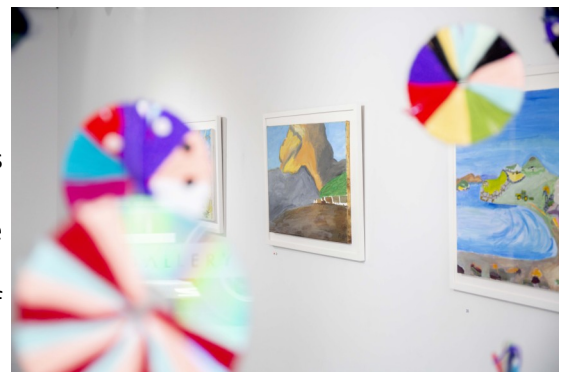
- In December, we published ***As They Blossomed***, a new poetry collection by Magic Box Writing, a group of 13 writers accessing the mental health rehabilitation and recovery services in Waterford, edited by writer and movement artist Lani O'Hanlon. Lani has been working with this group over the last six years through the *Iontas* programme. *As They Blossomed* features 37 poems reflecting each writer's observations on life.

In total 171 arts experiences were delivered across the mental health services in Waterford, alongside 40 art packs, and 26 musical postcard videos.

Feedback for this programme continues to be positive. According to one of the Occupational Therapists at the DOP, "*Ah Go On...* has been a great success. I have really enjoyed facilitating this group and taking part with the service users, it's the highlight of my week. I love how it's such a graded activity for all abilities, and how everyone's end product (tea cup, spoon, saucer) looks completely different. The glazed and fired pottery pieces all turned out so beautifully, I really feel like you can see each service users' personality come through in their work."

Iontas was supported by a steering group comprising representation from healthcare professionals, the voluntary sector, service users and WHAT. The programme is funded by Waterford Wexford Mental Health Services and the *Ah Go On* project was funded by Creative Waterford.

WHAT provides accessible art making opportunities for people who are socially isolated for reasons of ill health or disability through our ***Open Studio*** weekly visual art workshop led by artist Jill Bouchier in the WHAT Centre for Arts and Health. The long-standing group had almost completed a full term of workshops when the programme was put on hold due to Covid-19. Jill quickly adapted to working with participants by phone and post and continued to connect with people at a level that is in keeping with their individual ability and ambition. The *Open Studio* participants exhibited their work at GOMA Gallery of Modern Art in October 2020. Entitled ***Reconnections***, the exhibition was on view for one week during the Well Festival of Arts and Wellbeing before Level 3 public health restrictions were imposed. We produced a [short film](#) of the work in situ as some participants had been unable to view the exhibition.



Reconnections exhibition at GOMA Gallery of Modern Art



Tom Meskell's *Fluorescent Fish* at the back of UHW

For this year's ***Well Festival of Arts and Wellbeing*** we were required to demonstrate considerable agility in order to present an exciting programme with imaginative new elements while adhering to the evolving public health restrictions. This was our 8th festival and it took place in October, presented by WHAT and festival partners Garter Lane Arts Centre and Waterford City and County Libraries. Highlights of the WHAT festival programme included:

- ***Fluorescent Fish*** by Tom Meskell, a colourful night-time installation of fish-shaped lanterns outdoors at UHW.



WHAT Session #4 *Libra String Trio*

Dower with pianist and composer Marian Ingoldsby; pianist Killian Browne; the Libra String Trio; and our own Healing Sounds duo Liam Merriman (guitar) and Liam Kavanagh (viola). These recorded sessions had more than 12000 views. Our sincere thanks to WAMA (Waterford Academy of Music and Arts) for generously providing the venue to record these sessions.

- **We haven't had an Earthquake lately...** our ever popular evening of poetry and prose, selected and read by literature lovers, with guest MC Catherine Drea, which took place online.

- **Open Gallery**, our art viewing project for people living with dementia and their family members/carers, which was delivered online by artists Caroline Schofield and Jill Bouchier in a special Well Festival session for residents of Havenwood Nursing Home.

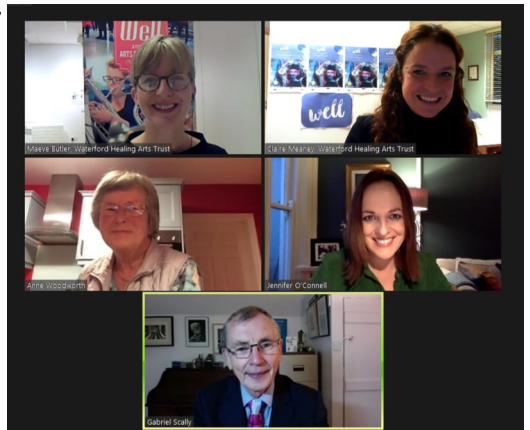
- The **WHAT Sessions**, a series of five music sessions, originally scheduled to be performed live in the UHW foyer, which were professionally filmed at short notice and broadcast online per the original performance schedule. Featured artists included guitar and fiddle duo Eileen Reid and Brendan Hickey; flautist Gerard

- We presented the annual **A Better Place** exhibition at UHW, featuring visual artist Anne McLeod. Anne also gave an online public talk attended by almost 30 people with some attendees tuning in from all over Ireland, the US and Australia.

- Visual artist John Conway delivered an online CPD workshop **Your Practice. Their Place.** for artists interested in developing their participatory arts or socially engaged practice. WHAT hosted this workshop in partnership with Garter Lane Arts Centre.

- In collaboration with our Well Festival partners, we were thrilled to present the inaugural **Well Festival Keynote: Why Arts?** and to welcome Dr Gabriel Scally to talk about the importance of the arts in these challenging times of Covid-19. Dr Scally was joined in conversation with Jennifer O'Connell of The Irish Times, and a reflection was offered by Anne Woodworth, WHAT Board member.

The Well Festival is funded by the Arts Council, the HSE, the Department of Social protection, Waterford City and County Council and Sanofi.



Well Festival Keynote: *Why Arts?* feat. Dr Gabriel Scally

Renew: Arts for Older People

Drawing on the significant talent among the WHAT panel of artists and beyond, for Well 2020, we were delighted to introduce **Renew**, a new arts programme for older people, to bring joy and creativity and to impact positively on participants' physical and mental wellbeing in this challenging year. **Renew** offered opportunities for older people to experience and participate in music, visual art, creative writing, movement and poetry in the following ways:

- **Healing Sounds on Your Doorstep:** Our team of Healing Sounds musicians brought live music sessions to people's doorsteps and gardens in Waterford City and County, and to some healthcare settings outdoors.

- **This is Me: Art at the kitchen table** - Artist Caroline Schofield visited people in their own homes, supporting them to create art on the broad theme 'This is me', beginning with a conversation and a creative invitation.

- **A Sensual Life: Creative Writing workshop** - Writer Lani O'Hanlon led a week-long workshop where participants reflected on people, place, things and the natural world, creating memoir and stories in an effortless way.

- **The Poetry Exchange: Poetry on the phone** - 5 poets, 5 days, 30 phone calls. Five Waterford based poets 'manned the exchange' for one day each and read poems and had conversations with people by pre-arranged request.



Renew: *Healing Sounds* residency at WRCC



Participant of *Renew: The Poetry Exchange*



Renew: *Healing Sounds on your Doorstep*

- **Opening Up: Movement workshop** - Dance artist Dee Grant hosted daily workshops to encourage and support gentle movement and expression through creative dance in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.

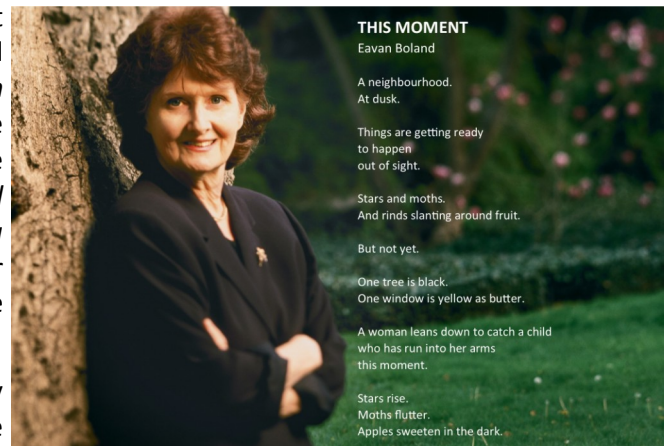
Renew took place in people's homes and in care settings in Waterford City and County, at Waterford Residential Care Centre (WRCC), at Garter Lane Arts Centre, Waterford and online. We were very grateful to WICOP (Waterford Integrated Care of the Older Person) at UHW for their support and advice developing *Renew* and preparing our artists to work with older people in their homes. Unfortunately, due to the imposition of Level 3 restrictions half-way through the week of the Well Festival, some elements of *Renew* had to be temporarily paused. *Renew* was funded by Creative Ireland under the *Creativity in Older Age* programme, which aimed to support projects by seven organisations to help counteract the impact of the pandemic on the older population in Ireland.

ARTS PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT: STAFF

In February, artist Philip Cullen began facilitating a six week **Drawing & Painting** art programme for UHW staff. The aim of the workshop was basic skills acquisition, relaxation and fun. A large group of staff was enjoying the evening art sessions before the programme was unfortunately postponed due to the pandemic.

Responding to the immense pressure being felt by staff at the hospital with the onset of Covid, in April, we commenced an online workshop series, **Creative Writing for Staff Health & Wellbeing** with writer Lani O'Hanlon. 18 workshops were delivered in total. Staff feedback was very positive, with one person commenting "*Tuesday evening was a sanctuary and something to look forward to, a place to let my head go on a holiday.*" One of the participants of the writing group later published some of her writing on artsandhealth.ie under the [Poetry Prescriptions](#) strand.

Also in April, we began **Fancy a Lift?**, an occasional poetry intervention to lift the spirits of staff at UHW. These uplifting and/or thoughtful poems, posted online on the UHW intranet and emailed to staff, were warmly received.



Fancy a Lift? - This Moment, by Eavan Boland

Musical Postcards for staff featured throughout 2020. Our *Healing Sounds* musicians created a series of musical postcards for different wards at times when we felt they might be in need of encouragement. This included a series of *Musical Christmas Cards* for various wards.

PRESENTING ART TO AUDIENCES: ART COLLECTION, EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME & PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

WHAT curates Ireland's largest hospital-based **art collection** comprising over 600 original artworks on public display in UHW, with works by Paul Mosse, Carmel Mooney, Robert Ballagh, Donald Teskey and Pauline Bewick, among others. A significant loan of 18 artworks from the Collection of the Arts Council has also been on public display since late 2019.

For much of 2020, the WHAT team was working offsite and the art collection continued to soften the clinical environment and invited patients and staff to engage with contemporary art in our absence. We continue to receive wonderful feedback about the collection from UHW staff. One staff member commented "*I was uplifted and heartened to have discovered some of the new works of art in the UHW Art Collection and to see, like old friends, others that I had not seen in a long time on display again. Had they not been there during the long bleak days of the pandemic, the hospital corridors would have seemed so much more empty and lonely, and I so appreciated all the difference that their colour, imagination and beauty made to me and hopefully to many others.*"



On Beara by Anne McLeod from the *A Better Place* exhibition

In 2020, WHAT curated and presented the fifth annual **A Better Place** exhibition. This series invites artists to submit works they consider will make UHW a better place for patients, staff and visitors by enhancing the hospital environment. Submissions were received from 69 artists. These were anonymised as part of the selection process and a short video was made of all the entries. Hospital staff were then invited to view the video (available via the UHW intranet and by email) and vote for their favourite submission. Wexford based artist Anne McLeod was

selected and exhibited her work in early October as part of the Well Festival of Arts & Wellbeing. The exhibition was a huge success, with almost 30 people attending an online artist talk, a number of artworks being sold, extensive coverage in local press and universally positive feedback from the viewing public.



Croagh Patrick Rainbow View by Ger Duffin

In 2020, the **Staff Art Wall**, a WHAT initiative designed to celebrate the creativity of HSE staff, featured two photography exhibitions: *Road Trip* by Healthcare Assistant Ger Duffin and *A Gentle Soul* by Caroline Lonergan Cavaretta, a clerical admissions assistant, who sadly passed away in 2019. Feedback from staff to both of these exhibitions was warm and positive.

Public Art: In partnership with the HSE Capital Projects Team, staff and residents of St Patrick's Hospital, Waterford, WHAT project managed the commissioning of artwork through the **Per Cent for Art Scheme** for the new **Waterford Residential Care Centre (WRCC)**, a 100 bed residential facility on the site of St Patrick's Hospital, which opened in 2020. Artists Conall Cary and Peter McMorris created a series of six etched brass artworks, including a statement *Rose Window* in the main foyer of the centre. The artworks are inspired by the local landscape and contributions from service users and staff of the centre. Artist Helen McLean also created an artwork using Italian and French opaque glass mosaic tiles, illustrating a brief maritime history of Waterford city. Set along Waterford Quay, the piece features symbols of history and nature bordering the River Suir. All artworks were installed in March 2020.



Rose Window by Conall Cary & Peter McMorris at WRCC



Architect's impression of new mortuary at UHW

Working with the HSE South East Capital Projects Team, WHAT invited applications from experienced artists for a place on the **HSE South East Acute Hospitals Public Art Panel 2020-2021** leading to art commissions in a healthcare context funded by the Per Cent for Art Scheme. 47 applications were received with 15 artists selected for this panel. Two of the artists, Marielle MacLeman and Conall Cary, were then selected to create work for the new **Mortuary** at UHW to be installed in 2021. Marielle will create a series of vinyl wall murals and small framed artworks for the viewing room and family interview rooms and Conall is developing an arched lightbox artwork for the entrance.

SUPPORTING & DEVELOPING THE ARTS AND HEALTH SECTOR

In response to the Covid 19 pandemic and to support our Arts + Health sector which had been profoundly impacted by the overnight cessation of all sessions, programmes and projects, on 23 April 2020 WHAT hosted an online showcase of new ways of working in arts and health entitled **Checking In**. The event was attended by 135 people from Ireland, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, Belgium, England and Wales. This was scheduled in lieu of *Arts + Health: Check Up Check In*, our national networking conference event, which had to be postponed and ultimately took place online in November.

Checking In:
Showcasing new methods of working in arts + health

Thursday 23 April
11am-12pm

Free online event, registration essential
See www.artsandhealth.ie

With:
Alison Baker Kerrigan, Grainne Hope, Tess Leak, Claire Maaney, Eszter Nemethi, Jane O'Brien Moran, Lani O'Hanlon, Sharon Whooley

Checking In eflrier

In June, we delivered a self-care programme for arts and health practitioners with artist Marie Brett entitled ***Sustaining the Self***. From our work linking in with artists and healthcare professionals, we realised that a programme focusing on wellbeing would be welcomed at this time. This public event took place on Zoom attended by 68 people, and was followed by an online workshop for six arts and health practitioners in Ireland. These workshops also included including follow-up tutorials. A self-reflection toolkit was also developed for the sector.

Arts + Health: Check Up Check In 2020 which had been due to take place as a one day event in Draiocht, Blanchardstown in April, took place instead as an online event over four days in November. The programme featured a keynote address by artistic director, contemporary dance choreographer and healthcare professional Dr Jenny Elliott. All presentations explored the notion of 'risk' in arts and health programmes, and the challenge of creating innovative, exciting and inspiring art within the specific context of a health setting.

Artists and healthcare professionals shared challenges they have faced in their work and looked for solutions to overcome them in a session called

Sticking Points: What to do when you get stuck, chaired by arts, health and wellbeing specialist Carolann Courtney. Speakers included Occupational Therapist Paula Lowney; composer and violinist Justin Grounds; Chief Healthcare Technology Officer and Chair of the Art in Hospital Advisory Group with Children's Health Ireland, Fran Hegarty; and musicians in healthcare Sharon Murphy and Sadhbh O'Sullivan of Embrace Music.

We heard from artist John Conway, Sheelagh Broderick, Executive Manager, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Health and Wellbeing; Ann Dunmurray, mental health nursing manager and Caroline Cowley, Public Art Co-ordinator, Fingal County Council about an innovative artist residency and research project at Usher's Island, a National Forensic Mental Health Service community centre.

Workshops entitled *What's My Practice?* were delivered by our keynote speaker Jenny Elliott, visual artist John Conway, Grainne Hallahan of Irish Aphasia Theatre and Grainne Hope, Artistic Director of Kids' Classics and Atlantic Fellow at the Global Brain Health Institute, TCD.

In all, *Check Up Check In* was attended by 86+ people. Recordings of some elements of the programme were also made available on artsandhealth.ie

Training

All WHAT artists and staff completed online HSE training in anticipation of returning to work, which included a Return to Work induction webinar, Hand Hygiene for HSE Non-Clinical Staff and Putting On and Taking Off PPE in acute Healthcare Settings. WHAT artists attended and/or presented their work at *Checking In*, *Sustaining the Self* and *Arts + Health Check Up Check In*. Lani O'Hanlon was supported to access online creative writing and movement training. Mentee *Healing Sounds* musicians continued to be mentored by Liam Merriman and Eoin O Meachair.

Visual artist John Conway delivered a CPD (Continuous Professional Development) online workshop for artists interested in exploring the challenges of merging their interests and expertise with the interests and expertise of participants in community settings. The event called ***Your Practice. Their Place.*** was delivered in partnership with Garter Lane in October as part of the Well Festival.

Maeve Butler and Claire Meaney attended the **Virtual International Conference for Arts & Health** organised by the Global Brain Health Institute and University of Florida in May; Maeve Butler attended an international Arts Symposium, with a focus on arts in palliative care settings, hosted online by St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh; WHAT made new links with the **Wales Arts & Health Wellbeing Network**.

Claire Meaney delivered online **lectures on arts and health practice** to students on the MA in Social Practice and the Creative Environment (SPACE) at Limerick School of Art and Design in November and to second year art students at the National College of Art & Design (NCAD) in December 2020.



Eflier for Arts + Health: Check Up Check In

Research

In 2020, WHAT managed a research and development project entitled **Mapping Arts and Health across the Midlands**. This significant research project was commissioned by Laois County Council Arts Office, in partnership with Offaly and Westmeath County Council Arts Offices and in association with their key partners Anam Beo, Helium Arts, Music Generation (Offaly/Westmeath) and Waterford Healing Arts Trust. The research was carried out by John O'Brien and will be complete in 2021. The research was funded under the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration Scheme 2020.

WHAT was also involved in research with members of Arts and Health Co-ordinators Ireland (AHCI). Conducted by Dr Francesca Farina, this research mapped arts and health activity across a range of healthcare contexts, from hospitals and day care centres, to community settings and health promotion. The resulting report **Mapping Arts and Health Activity in Ireland in 2019** will be made available in early 2021.

WHAT contributed to the design of the latest **TILDA (The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing)** survey, co-ordinating submissions from the AHCI (Arts and Health Co-ordinators of Ireland) to identify lived experience of arts by older Irish citizens.

Partnerships

WHAT continued to work closely with **Age & Opportunity/ Bealtaine Festival** to support the development and delivery of the Artist in Residence in a Care Setting initiative. WHAT consulted on the development of Age & Opportunity's *Arts & Creativity in Care Toolkit* and was also involved in supporting the development of an ongoing National Arts & Older People Charter that sets out key principles and core values of working with older people in Ireland.

Through Creative Ireland's *Creativity in Older Age Programme*, which provided funding in 2020 to seven organisations whose programmes support older people, WHAT developed informal partnerships with these organisations, sharing experience, knowledge and practice. These organisations are MISA (Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing) at St James' Hospital, TILDA (The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing), IMMA (Irish Museum of Modern Art), Sing Ireland, the Irish Hospice Foundation and Age and Opportunity.

artsandhealth.ie

WHAT continued to support the development of arts and health nationally via artsandhealth.ie, a comprehensive online resource which promotes best practice in the field of arts and health via current news from the sector, monthly case studies, commissioned opinion pieces and national and international resources. A cross-sectoral editorial panel comprising representation from the Arts Council, Create, AHCI, AOLAAO, artists and the HSE, guided the content and direction of the site via two editorial meetings during the year. Content reflects a regional spread and a range of art forms and healthcare contexts. Case studies in 2020 reflected national and international examples of arts and health best practice in theatre, dance, music and visual art.

In 2020, artsandhealth.ie had the following response to Covid 19:

- A new **resource page** for arts and health practitioners was updated on a regular basis: <http://www.artsandhealth.ie/2020/03/26/covid-19-resources-for-the-arts-and-health-sector/>
- **Design changes** were made to the website homepage to reflect the Covid-19 pandemic, support HSE messaging and express our solidarity with healthcare workers.
- We commissioned artists, healthcare practitioners and other stakeholders to write about their experiences in a series called **Covid Chronicles**. To date, chronicles have been published by theatre maker [Eszter Nemethi](#), visual artist [Aideen Barry](#) and an essay by Kevin O'Shanahan, Nurse Specialist in Mental Health and the Arts with Cork Mental Health Services.
- We hosted **online get-togethers** for some of our artist colleagues working in healthcare in April. This artist exchange was an opportunity to share experiences and challenges, and identify supports.
- The 2020 Documentation Bursary was re-imagined as many planned projects in healthcare could not be completed due to Covid-19. This provided us with an opportunity to support arts and health practitioners in new ways, resulting in three new **Reflection Bursaries** being awarded to three artists in early July.
- **Poetry Prescriptions**, a new poetry series, was developed, involving an invited contributor presenting a poem which resonates at this time and describing what the poem means to them.
- A **Moments of Beauty** campaign was developed at the beginning of the lockdown, featuring archival website

content (case studies, perspectives) and inspired responses to this time from artists across the world. These featured on artsandhealth.ie social media platforms.

- **Art Responds:** This regularly updated page showcases how arts and health practitioners in Ireland have been developing new ways of connecting with health service users, healthcare staff and members of the public who may be particularly vulnerable to isolation and loneliness at this time.

- We began working with **publicart.ie** to develop a shared campaign highlighting the value of the Per Cent for Art scheme in healthcare settings and the opportunity it presents to both the art and health sectors.

- We began working with the Arts Council to highlight the substantial loan of artwork from the **Arts Council Art Collection to Healthcare settings in Ireland**. The collection comprises over 1,100 works by Irish artists, which it loans to public spaces including galleries, libraries, schools and hospitals. For more than 30 years there has been a strong history of works from the Collection being on public display in healthcare settings across Ireland. At present there are over 170 works in healthcare locations in Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Limerick, Louth and Waterford.

Viewing Statistics: Viewership on artsandhealth.ie continues to grow as evidenced by a 5.3% increase in engagement with the website in 2020 compared to 2019. In 2020, there have been 43,653 site visits compared to 41,436 visits in 2019. From March - June 2020, new users increased by 13% compared to March - June 2019, reflecting interest in new initiatives which were introduced to support the arts and health sector during the Covid-19 pandemic.

WHAT PEOPLE

WHAT Board

Mary Baxter (President), Catherine Drea (Chairperson from 21/09/20), Aidan Barrett (Treasurer), Dr. Carmel Ann Daly, Claire Tully, Joan Dalton, Tom Cunningham, Mark Breen, Shirley O'Shea, Mary Dorgan, Suzanne Parker (Appointed 29/07/20), Anne Woodworth (Resigned as Chairperson 29/07/20), Brenda Ronan (Resigned 29/07/20), Mr. Gordon Watson (Resigned 29/07/20)

Staff

Claire Meaney (Director), Maeve Butler (Asst. Director), Susan Crossan (Administrator), Stefanie Fleischer (Asst. Arts Administrator), Anne O'Hanlon Bermosa (Asst. Arts Administrator), Amy Power (Asst. Curator until August 2020), Keith Irish (Art Installer until February 2020), Ray Lawless (Art Installer from March 2020) and Eileen Reid (Music Co-ordinator).

Editorial Panel of artsandhealth.ie

Claire Meaney (WHAT Director), Emma Eager (artsandhealth.ie Project Manager), Ailbhe Murphy (Create), Ann O'Connor (Arts Council), JP Swaine (HSE), Mark Breen (WHAT Board Rep), Alison Baker Kerrigan (AHCI Rep), Caroline Schofield (Artist Rep), Marielle MacLeman (Artist Rep), Gerardette Bailey (Arts Officer Meath County Council).

Artists

Boyer Phelan, Philip Cullen, Mary Prendergast, Jane O'Brien Moran, Leah Clarke, Liam Merriman, Jill Bouchier, Lani O'Hanlon, Eoin O Meachair, Liam Kavanagh, Michelle Haberlin, George Higgs, Caroline Schofield, Ciara Harrison, Liam Meaghar, Alan Browne, Adele Stanley.

Contact

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