Create and Voluntary Arts Ireland Arts and Civil Society Symposium

Date: 20 and 21 October 2011
Venue: Christchurch, Triskel Arts Centre, Cork City

Curators
Sarah Tuck (Director, Create) and Kevin Murphy (Chief Officer, Voluntary Arts Ireland)

Communications
Katrina Goldstone (Create), Tony Carlin (Voluntary Arts Ireland) and Shirley Chance (Arts PR, New Media & Project Management)

Co-ordination
Katia Rush-Hall (Create intern)

Planning Contributors
Triskel Arts Centre, Lewis Glucksman Gallery, National Sculpture Factory, Cork Mleehumne Festival, Common Ground, NCAD, Cork Community Art Link, IMMA, Mayfield Arts, Blue Drum, Camden Palace Hotel, North SS, New Belfast Community Arts Initiative, This Is Collective, Creative Spark, Cork College of Commerce and Upstate Theatre Project.
Create the national development agency for collaborative arts in social and community contexts, and Voluntary Arts Ireland are hosting a symposium to discuss the current and future relationship of arts and civil society.

- How might we rethink the relationship of arts and civil society in a time of crisis?
- What might constitute new modes of cultural resistance?
- How is art embedded in the everyday?

The symposium is a great opportunity to participate in a discussion with a national and an international cohort of artists, arts managers, community activists and arts policy leaders.

Over the two days, speakers will address how and if art in the context of civil society fits with a market led arts/cultural tourism model - and whether it should - and how arts and culture can be repositioned at the heart of civic engagement.

Thursday October 20

9.30 – 10.15
Registration and Tea and Coffee

10.30
Welcome

11.00
Defining Participation and Practice – Policy Perspectives

Martin Creery (Art Director, Arts Council),
Peter Cooke (Director of the NI Centre for Creative Policy and Arts Management),
Marion Fitzgibbon (Head of School of Humanities, Athlone Institute of Technology),
Pauline Connolly (Conscience & Advocacy Research and Design)
Chair: Fiona Kearney (Director, Lewis Gughrab Gallery)

12.30 – 1.45
Picnic Meal

1.45
Keynote Address

Dr Anthony Downey

Anthony Downey is the Programme Director of the MA in Contemporary Art at St John’s Institute of Art, London. An editorial board member of Third Text, he has published essays, criticism and interviews in numerous international journals. His research activities and teaching focus on African and Middle Eastern artists, collaborative and participative art practices, human rights, bio-politics and migration, and the potential for an ethics of contemporary art practice.

He has recently lectured and published essays on contemporary Iranian visual culture, postcolonial theory and contemporary African artists, Jacques Rancière, Giorgio Agamben and Alain Badiou and the work of Amin, Zambre and Fernandez Marin. He is currently researching a book on the “aesthetics of the real” which examines artists who engage with issues such as community, ethnography, human rights, re-enactment, migration, and terrorism.

2.15
Lab Debates

(Three key debates on Arts and Civil Society issues. Select your attendance for one of the lab debates at registration. Debate outcomes will be shared at the end of the session)

Engaging Communities – The Permeable Institution

Chair: Declan McGonagle (Director, MACRO)

Measuring Artistic and Social Impact

Professor Michael Grealy (Dept of Education, Trinity College Dublin),
Tom Andrews (Director of the People’s Church, England),
Belinda Quinn (Director, Sadler’s Arts Centre, Newry)
Chair: Patrick Simpson (Chief Executive, Voluntary Arts)

Working in Context

Corinne Shields (New Belfast Community Arts Initiative),
Dominic Campbell (Director, St Luke’s, Glasgow),
Tom Andrews (Director of the People’s Church, England),
Belinda Quinn (Director, Sadler’s Arts Centre, Newry)
Chair: Patrick Simpson (Chief Executive, Voluntary Arts)

4.00
Afternoon Tea

4.30
Rethinking Cultural and Civic Space

Discussion on surplus property development and the appropriation of unused built space for cultural and civic use.

Michelle O’Donnell (Co-Founder of Alex Ted, Annette Moloney (Custodian),
Frank McDonald (Environment Editor, New Times),
Faisal Alabb Alfat (Artist, England)
Chair: Bernadette Quinn (Tourism Geographer, Dublin Institute of Technology)

5.45
Close

7.00
Evening Meal

The Bogota, St Peter’s Market, Commercial St Street

(Delicious menu to order, locally sourced. Includes main course option.)

Friday October 21

9.30 – 10.30
Teas and Coffee

10.30
Arts, Civil Society and ‘Crisis’: The Carnegie Challenge Debate

A range of speakers – Portugal, Ireland, Greece, Italy, England and Spain – provide a personal response to the circumstances of economic, social and political change in Europe and its impact on arts and civil society.

Chair: Daniel Jourdain (Artist)

(The debate is sponsored by the Carnegie UK Trust which supports public debate on both for profit organisations in the UK and Ireland to help communities address issues of concern to them. For more information please visit www.carnegieuk.org. Additional support from European Cultural Contact Point (IE) Ireland)

12.30
Final Thoughts

Dr Anthony Downey, Tom Crow, Jesse Jones