**Full Name:** ‘Coracle Press and Erica Van Horn: Living Locally’

**Short Name:** ‘Coracle Press’

**Lecturer Name and Email Address:** Dr Julie Bates; batesjju@tcd.ie

**ECTS Weighting:** 10

**Semester Taught:** Hilary Term

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Gain understanding of concepts from cultural geography, animal studies, and environmental humanities.
- Assess the work of Coracle Press and Erica Van Horn through private research, class discussion, and interaction with Van Horn and Simon Cutts during a workshop on Coracle materials.
- Develop a sophisticated method of close reading that is attentive to the materiality of the work under study, the networks involved in small press publishing, and the relationship between image and text.

**Learning Aims:**

- To study a selection of highly acclaimed works of recent literature and art.
- To examine the ways in which these works explore and problematise the dynamic between practice and place, and the human and nonhuman animal.
- To assess the political potential of works by Coracle Press and Erica Van Horn.

**Content:**

Erica Van Horn (born 1954) is an American artist and writer who has been living in Ireland since 1996, on what was once a small farm outside the village of Ballybeg, South Tipperary. Van Horn and the poet Simon Cutts run Coracle Press in this rural setting. Coracle is a small press that publishes their own work and that of a network of fellow artists, editors, poets and writers, with a particular focus on ephemeral works like postcards, and artists’ books (artworks using the book as medium).

Van Horn has maintained an online journal, *some words for living locally*, since 2007, to which she contributes acutely attentive observations and responses to the daily rhythms of her life in Tipperary, and which shine a light on the brimming epiphanic potential of seemingly banal encounters and daily observations. Her 2014 book *Living Locally*, reprinted in 2019, collects some of the entries in this journal. Drawing on cultural geography, animal studies, and concepts from environmental humanities, we will examine the political potential of Coracle and Van Horn’s adoption of a deliberately marginal and non-conformist position, both geographically and conceptually. The module will explore the ways in which Van Horn’s work offers a sustained examination of the relationship between creative practice and the ongoing process of habitation, of ‘living locally’, the networks of relationships between the human and nonhuman inhabitants of place, and the links between place and memory.

Trinity’s Library is in the process of acquiring the complete published works of Coracle Press, which will be made available to students. The first assignment will take the form of a response to a workshop with Coracle materials. The second assignment will be an essay.
Assessment Details:

- Type of Assessment (Continuous and/or Exam): Continuous
- Number of Components: 2
- Word Count of Component(s): Short response to workshop: 1,500 words; Essay: 3,500 words
- Percentage Value of Component(s): Short response to workshop: 35%; Essay: 65%

Preliminary Reading List if Available:

Primary works
- Erica Van Horn, Living Locally (Uniformbooks, 2014, 2019)

Coracle publications: artists’ books, cards and ephemera

ERICA VAN HORN
- I always have an audience for my work (2019)
- Descriptions of Literature by Gertrude Stein: handwritten by Erica Van Horn (2019)
- 133 Fruit Labels (2018)
- Em & Me (2018)
- Too Raucous For A Chorus (2018)
- Eye-drop Calendar (2017)
- A Misplacement of Lichen (2016)
- Above (2016)
- I always have an audience for my work (2015)
- My Ironmongery (2015)
- BUS (2014)
- TEA (2013)
- Leftovers In The Work Are The Work (2013)
- Echafaudage (2012)
- Born in Clonmel (2011)
- An Album of Interiors (2008)
- Gifts from the Government (2007)

SIMON CUTTS
- The Struggle of the Fly in Marmalade (2018)
- Skylark (2018)
- Constructed Archive 1959-2016 (2016)
- The Translated Latrine Inscriptions of The Palazzo Davanzati (2015)
- Letterpress (2013)

Secondary texts
- Derek Gladwin and Maureen O’Connor, eds. ‘Special Issue: Irish Environmental Humanities’, The Canadian Journal of Irish Studies, vol. 40, 2017
- Ross Hair, Avant-Folk: Small Press Poetry Networks from 1950 to the Present (Liverpool University Press, 2016)
- Doreen Massey, For Space (Sage, 2005)
- Edward W. Soja, Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory (Verso, 2010)
- Nigel Thrift, Non-representational theory: space, politics, affect (Routledge, 2008)
- Yi-Fu Tuan, Place, Art, and Self (University of Virginia Press, 2004)
- Colin Ward, Stamps: Designs For Anarchist Postage Stamps, illustrated by Clifford Harper (Rebel/Aldgate, 1997)
- Anticipatory History, ed. Caitlin DeSilvey, Simon Naylor and Colin Sackett (Uniformbooks, 2011)

Please note:

- Curricular information is subject to change.
- Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.