

Socially Engaged Practice:

Building Equity in a Divided World Conference & Networking Event

Wednesday 6th November Workshops

Mapping the processual features of a collaborative arts practice: A methodology workshop (Dr Fiona Whelan)

Since 2023, in her studio in Rua Red, Dr Fiona Whelan has been developing a map of her working methodology as an artist over twenty years of collaborative and socially engaged practice. Working with artist and researcher Dr Ciaran Smyth in a process of recursive mapping and conceptual refinement, the duo explored new cartographic strategies for visualising Fiona's practice. In 2024, artist Orla Whelan joined the process, further refining the visual metaphors and exploring materials with which to render the information through a combination of visual and verbal means. For the first time, Fiona will now share an initial draft of a large scale map identifying key processual feature of her practice, opening up conversations on the complex power relations, political commitments, labour and ethics of socially engaged practice.

Vest of Tools (Sophie Mak-Schram)

A creative workshop led by art historian, producer, educator Sophie Mak-Schram. Inspired by her "Vest of Tools" - the strategies, instructions, objects and ideas gathered for community development and organising - we will imagine and create our own 'tools'. A set of ideas for bringing people together, enabling conversations and helping ensure our work is equitable and lasting.

All Conflict Is a Result of Unmet Needs (Grace Dyas)

Grace Dyas will lead this interactive workshop inspired by Marshall Rosenberg and Diane Musho Hamilton, using drama and roleplay (but no acting required!) to consider if the conflict we are facing in our work and with communities arises from unmet needs. We'll ask whether socially engaged artists can work with communities to bridge divides through creative collaboration.

Hiphop - Movement, Rhythm, and Groove: Unspoken Pathways to Unity (Tobi Balogun)

Led by multidisciplinary artist Tobi Balogun, this workshop will delve into the concept of "silent listening" and explore how collective movement can bridge divides, navigate differences, and build consensus. Using cyphers as a methodology, participants will engage in rhythmic and expressive exercises, discovering how unspoken forms of communication can foster unity within communities and aid an increasing understanding and awareness of equity. Held in the Leitrim County Council's Chamber, the workshop will provide a space to reflect on how we approach communal issues. Movements will be adapted to suit all abilities, ensuring an inclusive and accessible experience for everyone involved.