

ARRAY STUDIOS

Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

The objects of the association are to promote arts practice and arts production in the area of benefit without distinction of age, sex, race, political, religious, or other opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, and inhabitants in a common effort to advance public education by the encouragement of the Arts for the benefit of the community and to assist emerging artists to set themselves up in business by the provision of studio space.

Public benefit

The direct benefits which flow from the Array Studios purposes to its beneficiaries are:

- 1 Continuation of support for local artists at an early stage of their career through studios provisions, exhibitions opportunities, public events and PR coverage through Array's social media.
- 2 Opportunities to develop experimental works of art in a creative and friendly environment and engage with other peers and artists.
- 3 Opportunities to engage with a wider audience during exhibitions and events, both in the studios space and offsite.
- 4 Offering free workshops and free events open to the public, in a safe and inclusive environment.

The direct benefits are capable of being demonstrated, proven or evidenced via:

- 1 Surveys and feedback undertaken with Array members
- 2 Feedback by the general public (during exhibitions or events)
- 3 Increased social media presence and audience interest in the studio activities

There are no harms that may arise from the purpose.

ARRAY STUDIOS

Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Achievements

Studio Provision:

Array Studios main priority in 2023/24 was to continue to provide affordable and professional facilities to produce new, challenging, and innovative work by emerging individual artists and serve as a peer support network and platform for members through collaboration with the overall arts community.

Array studios continued promoting and improving the production of art by:

- Providing excellent working conditions for artists that is a site for production of work and networking.
- Creating opportunities for artists to develop and share their professional practice with surrounding cultural community.
- The commitment to equipping members with the skills, creative, technical, and business acumen to function successfully as artists locally and internationally.
- Developing programming activities (including artist talks, crits, symposia) online and in person, which enable Array to collaborate and work with both local and international institutions.

Other activities related with studio provision:

- The rent and maintenance of the existing 48 King Street premises with all core amenities.
- Day to day administration and funder liaison carried out by Zoe Morgan.
- The Array website was hosted and maintained by Laura O'Connor. The site was updated by members and was developed in accordance with members needs throughout the year, e.g. allowing video, Instagram, and Twitter content to be added. Member Clodagh Lavelle curates the PR.
- Amplify our work as individual artists and as a collective in Belfast and beyond.
- Array Studios has supported 8 studio members during financial year 2023/2024: Stephen Millar Emma Campbell, Alessia Cargnelli, Clodagh Lavelle, Laura O'Connor and Thomas Wells. Grace McMurray and Jane Butler are associate members.
- The variety and quality of work produced by studio members reflects the great diversity of art available in Belfast and Northern Ireland. In 2021, despite covid-19 restriction, Array developed the largest-scale project to date by the collective: a new body of work for the site-specific installation in the Herbert Coventry as part of the nomination for the world-renowned, Turner Prize 2021.

ARRAY STUDIOS

Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Programming : past projects and other activities

Array

Array Collective are a group of individual artists rooted in Belfast, who join together to create collaborative actions in response to the socio-political issues affecting Northern Ireland. Array's studios and project space in the city centre acts as a base for the collective, however the participating artists are not limited to studio holders. Array Collective members are: Thomas Wells, Alessia Cargnelli, Emma Campbell, Clodagh Lavelle, Laura O'Connor and Stephen Millar (all Array Studio members) as well as Sinéad Bhreathnach-Cashell, Jane Butler (Flax), Gracie McMurray (QSS), Mitch Conlon (PS2) and Sighle Bhreathnach-Cashell.

Array Collective past & current projects:

The Druithaib's Ball, installation at The Ulster Museum January 2023 - August 2023.

On the 25th of Feb 23, The Druithaib's Ball was showcased in an eight-months long solo exhibition in the Ulster Museum, who acquired the work in early 2022. This ran in conjunction with a major group exhibition in the Herbert Gallery in Coventry, Divided Selves, curated by Hammad Nasar MBE.

Divided Selves, Group Show, curated by Hammad Nasar, Herbert Gallery, Coventry, UK, Feb -Sept 23.

Interventions - Self-Determination: A Global Perspective Exhibition - IMMA, Dublin - Jan 24 - Apr 24

IMMA commissioned new works by Array Collective, Jasmina Cibic, Declan Clarke, Minna Henriksson and ?z Öztat; alongside co-commissions by Banu Çenneto?lu, and Larissa Sansour and Søren Lind. The commissions bring together international artists to critically reflect on the outcomes of the self-determination movements, shedding light on the successes, failures, and unanticipated consequences. The culmination of a three-year research project, this exhibition focuses on the new nation-states that emerged in the wake of the First World War, exploring the role of art and artists in relation to the expression of national identities, nation-building, and statecraft.

An Dún - Self-Determination: A Global Perspective Exhibition - IMMA, Dublin - Feb 24 - Sept 24

An Dún - a new multi-narrative environment by Array Collective. Across immersive spaces a complicated and messy understanding of statehood and citizenship is unearthed. Ideological, topographical and political plans are fashioned and accumulated inside a site of destruction and construction.

Resting outside of time, we hear echoes of our past, present and future in ever-changing failed experiments of hope. The 'good room' deep within a cave, stages rituals of citizenship. Behind the scenes, plans are cooked up and mistakes are made, amidst the labour of daily life.

As An Dún shifts and repositions, occupying unsteady space between reality and fiction, care and compromise endeavour to make a shared existence liveable.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Personal development

Array artists continued to participate in individual residencies and exhibitions attracting global audiences and building upon Array Studios reputation. Selected individual activities includes:

Emma Campbell:

Exhibitions:

March 24 An Dún, Array Collective "Self Determination" IMMA

Winter 23/Winter 24 The Slapper: Regalia - Array Collective, Sculpture in: "Self Determination" IMMA

Summer 23 Array Collective, Shortlisted for Ireland at Venice Biennale.

Aug 23 Performance of "Up the Ass", A Tribute, Night Draws Near by Array Collective, Ulster Museum

May 23 Camp FR - Myths awakened; performance and collaborative exploration of the self.

Recently published Articles/Chapters:

Bloomer, F., Roberts, D., & Campbell, E. (2024). Competing framings of abortion in the Northern Ireland Assembly and Westminster, Irish Political Studies, 1-24.

Campbell, E (2024) All we want is, free, safe, legal, local abortion access for everyone who needs it

Campbell, E., & Roberts, D. (2024). "Activism is not a one-lane highway", Irish Political Studies, 1-22.

Hagen, J. J., Campbell, E., & Roberts, D. (2024). Transformative reproductive futures in Northern Ireland. Journal of Lesbian Studies, 1-19.

Murray, C., Campbell, E., Burns, D., Roth, R., Newbury-Birch, D., & Bloomer, F. (2024)

Women's experiences of needing abortion care whilst incarcerated. Culture, Health & Sexuality, 1-19.

Workshops:

Feb 23 - Feb 24 - RUA Red Gallery Tallaght, workshops with migrants

Feb - May 23 - Artichoke Under 25s workshops, billboards and collage, with schools & The MAC Belfast

May 23 - CAMP France - facilitation residency in Pyrenees with performance based methods for artists

Feb 24 - Abortion and Reproductive Justice Conference, Reproductive Citizenship Zine and Collage workshop, Maripol University, Bangkok

Mar 24 - Imagine Festival Belfast - Abortion Utopia Collage Workshop

Professional Affiliations

British Art Network 2021 - present, Northern Irish Art Network 2021 - present , VAI 2021- present

Leadership / Board Roles

Alliance for Choice / Abortion Support Network / Equality Coalition / Outburst Queer Arts Festival / Raise Your Voice / Reclaim the Agenda / Women's Policy Group

Sighle Bhreathnach-Cashell:

She is a visual artist based in Belfast. She creates site specific environments to be inhabited by an audience. She is a founding member of Household Belfast and previous board member and chair of Platform Arts. She was recently made a member of the Belfast Print Workshop. She is the organiser of LENA, workshops and artist residencies in a cottage in County Down.

Ongoing solo project: Scripted Cities, site specific film installation, various locations in Belfast. Ulster Cycles, on going series of aquatint copper plate prints.

Recent projects: Form Follows Function, UPHOLD group show at La Roche House August 2024, The Occasional Man, a site specific immersive installation made in collaboration with Richard Martin (Glasgow), as part of the Belfast Film Festival, Havelock House, November 2020; Cove Park Residency, Scotland, November 2019; Hospitalfields Interdisciplinary Residency 2019.

Alessia Cargnelli:

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Workshops:

Array Collective, Workshop for the International Delegations, British Council, Ulster Museum, Apr 23
Array Collective and Gudskul, Workshop on Collective-led practices, NCAD, Dublin, Apr 23
Archiving Plurality: A Collaborative Process. Alternative methodologies for collaborative-led and participatory-led artistic research informed by EDI, as part of EDI Platform Meeting "taking space - making space", ELIA Arts Schools and Vilnius Art Academy, Nida, Lithuania, Apr 24

Guest speaker:

CDB Racial Equality Workshop, all-Ireland Athena Swan Practitioners Network, Galway, Mar 24
FUTURE ACADEMIES: ARRAY COLLECTIVE, RHA, Dublin, Mar 24
Ireland, Feminism, Art - Gathering, org by IMMA Feminist Art Making Histories' (IRC/AHRC), Feb 24
Paper Presentation, Radical archiving as a feminist-led methodology in the web-platform 'collective herstories', as part of the panel 'Radical Archiving for radical art histories: Against a Positivists Rhetoric of Discovery' chaired by Professor Hilary Robinson, 112th CAA Conference, Chicago, Feb 24
Array Collective and Gudskul, In Conversation, Ulster University, Belfast, Apr 23

Co-author of chapter:

Púcaí, Partition and Placards: socially engaged art and political entropy in Northern Ireland, Array Collective [Campbell, O'Connor, Cargnelli], in Bell, Des (ed.), Beyond NI100, Cork University Press 2024

Invited NIVAL researcher for Angelica Networking Series at Paragon Studios, Belfast, Dec 23

Co-programmer of academic course:

Creative Futures Academy + IMMA Intensive: Fugitivity, Feminism & the Archive, NCAD & IMMA, Oct 23

Guest lecturer:

Artistic Research Methodologies in Academic Research, Students/BA Sculpture, NCAD, Dublin, Apr 23

Co-organiser of public programme:

Array Collective in collaboration with Gudskul, in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of the Friday Agreement International Delegation, in partnership with British Council, Ulster University & NCAD, Apr 23

Clodagh Lavelle:

- The Melt Gala, Ulster Museum & The Empire Music Hall, Belfast, Mar 23
- Rua Red Gallery Collaboration, workshops with Ukrainian communities, Mar - Sept 23
- HereNI Workshop and Tour, Ulster Museum, June 23
- NCAD/Creative Futures/University of Ulster Delegation, Belfast and Dublin, Apr 23
- Knee High at The Night Draws Near, Ulster Museum, Aug 24
- Camp France Residency, French Pyrenees, Aug 24
- Each Little Scar, Live performance, Filet Space, London, Oct 24
- Self Determination - A Global Perspective, IMMA, Dublin, Sept 24
- Holy Show - Group Exhibition, Museum of Literature Ireland, Dublin, Nov 24
- Rua Red Residency, Dublin, preparing for 2025 exhibition, 2024

Thomas Wells:

- An Evening Botanist and Many Scented Wreaths - Self Determination: A Global Perspective, IMMA Dublin (IE)
- Neverlandz - live performance at OUTBURST Queer Arts Festival 2023 (NI)
- Buffet - live performance at Belfast International Festival of Performance Art 2023 (NI)

ARRAY STUDIOS

Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

- The Black Pig's Dyke - live performance at Cavan Arts Festival, Co. Cavan (IE) - Thomas Wells and Laura O'Connor, exhibition and performances of new commissions by five artists on the theme of The Black Pig's Dyke, an earth work situated across the province of Ulster.

Independent curatorial practice

- Gintliocht - (August 2023) Ulster Folk Museum, Cultra (NI)

An exhibition of new commissions by Northern Irish artists on the theme of Heritage Skills and Craft. Located across multiple historic homes and buildings in this unique National Museums NI site.

- SAM'S EDEN - (July 2023 - September 2023) CCA Derry-Londonderry, Derry (NI)

A group exhibition of selected work by Yarli Allison, Suds McKenna and Michaela Razafima Nash. Supported by Jerwood Arts and Arts Council Northern Ireland

Awards

2022-2023 Jerwood Arts Curatorial Accelerator fellow

Residencies

2024 Tyrone Guthrie, AIR

2023-2024 Irish Museum of Modern Art

Professional Experience

2023 Bbeyond member

2022 (ongoing) Belfast International Festival of Performance Art committee member

Teaching positions

2023 - 2024 - Guest tutor SUNY Purchase, USA - Arts and Humanities undergraduate.

2022/2023 - Guest tutor ARTEZ Masters in ArtistEducator, University of the Arts, The Netherlands

Laura O'Connor

Dr Laura O'Connor is a university lecturer and visual artist. In June 2023 Laura was part of the Digital Arts Studio panel discussion. Immersive Experiences at Belfast Exposed, and an In conversation at Ulster Museum with acclaimed Irish artist Alice Maher. In April 2024 Laura had her porcelain piece 'Cultural Methods' selected for the 194th Royal Hibernian Academy exhibition. Laura has also been selected for a two-person show at Galway Arts Centre for the Galway Arts Festival in 2025.

Laura is a lecturer in Foundation Art and Design Studies at Ulster University and co-director of WANDA:Feminism and Moving Image.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

Array Studios' reserves policy is to maintain sufficient level of reserves to enable operating activities to be maintained, taking account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time.

Amounts are set aside to meet financial risks associated with potential contingencies and uncertainties relating to the charity's operating activities.

These include:

- the provision for an orderly winding-down of operations in the event of a significant adverse event that is outside the control of the organisation.
- the funding of unforeseen major projects that have not been provided for in the normal financial planning process.
- and the setting aside of an appropriate sum for ensuring the continuation of Array's activities.

Funds in deficit

As March 31st 2024 the association had no funds materially in deficit.

ARRAY STUDIOS

Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Array Studios is an Association. The Charity is governed under a constitution and is managed by the trustees of the organisation. The office bearer roles are elected on an annual basis.

Appointment of Trustees

The Trustees were appointed on 21st January 2022 in accordance with Array Studios constitution.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

NI103675

Principal address

48 King Street
Belfast
BT1 6AD

Trustees

Sighle Bhreathnach-Cashell (Chairperson)
Emma Campbell
Alessia Cargnelli (resigned 1/4/2023)
Laura O'Connor (Treasurer)
Thomas Wells
Grace McMurray
Jane Butler
Clodagh Lavelle (Secretary)

Independent Examiner

Seamus McLernon
M.B.McGrady & Co
Chartered Accountants
Suite 2B
Cadogan House
322 Lisburn Road
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT9 6GH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 18 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Sighle Bhreathnach-Cashell - Trustee