

## Public Art Commissions managed by Waterford Healing Arts 1991-2022

Since the commissioning of Remco de Fouw's highly acclaimed *Quintess-ometry* in the foyer of University Hospital Waterford in 1991, the first artwork created for a healthcare space in Ireland, public art has been central to the work of Waterford Healing Arts. Other commissions include Janet Mullarney's wood-carved *Couple on a Bench* and Declan Breen's *High and Dry*, which was commissioned in celebration of the new millennium. The *Healing Garden* was made with the aim of creating a quiet retreat in the hospital grounds. Designed by Saturio Alonso and Aifric Gray, it is based on research into places of ritual, especially holy wells in the South East of Ireland.

In a move to make art more accessible to patients, back-lit artworks by Michael Durand, Aidan Dunne, Brigid Teehan and Annabel Konig can now be seen in a range of clinical spaces in the hospital.

Waterford Healing Arts also worked in partnership with the physiotherapy department and the paediatric ward on commissioning John O'Connor and Raúl Vicente respectively to produce innovative, integrated artworks for those areas.

Through the Per Cent for Art Scheme, in 2009 Michael Durand produced a series of photographs of Waterford city and county, its people and its places, for the Réalta Centre for Arts and Health. In 2012, a blown glass sculpture by the artist Róisín de Buitléar entitled *New Beginning* was commissioned for the new maternity department, a series of artworks by Debbie Chapman entitled *The Family Portrait* was commissioned for the neonatal unit and a large stained glass artwork entitled *Crann Fuinnseoig* by Peadar Lamb was commissioned for the new emergency department.

In 2019, Artists Róisín de Buitléar and Christine Mackey were commissioned to create new work for the new Dunmore Wing at UHW under the Per Cent for Art scheme. The commission called on the artists to create an artwork of the highest quality to reflect the ethos and nature of UHW and the South East Palliative Care Centre (located on the ground floor and lower ground floor of the Dunmore Wing), and contribute to a positive and comforting environment for all patients, staff and visitors.

*Rian: Imprint* by Róisín de Buitléar is a glass sculpture which focuses on evoking a peaceful, tranquil atmosphere of reflection and reminiscence, using colour and abstract forms suspended in space. Inspired by nature, translucent glass colours emitting tender hues of light suggest calm movement. Caring words, supportive moments and joyful memories recalled are suggested by accents of blended colour. Soft nurturing shapes nestling close to each other convey intimate moments of closeness: a held hand, a stroked face or a gentle squeeze of human contact. Soft indents echoed in its neighbouring form suggest the gentle imprint left by human interaction on the mind and spirit. This sculpture is located in a double height space at ground floor level in the Dunmore Wing and is visible from the lower ground floor circulation area and from outdoors via a large, double height window to the front of the building.

*Ocean Flowers* by Christine Mackey is a montage of 28 digital photographic prints which explore the Waterford coastline and beyond. Christine spent time walking between the tides,

photographing the seaweeds and other micro-organisms that live on the edge of the shores, or are found in rock pools, attached to shells, or lying across sands swept ashore by the receding sea's mighty waves. The artist used a macro lens which magnified in close detail the diversity of forms which make up the population of over 500 seaweeds on Irish shores.

In partnership with the HSE Capital Projects Team, staff and residents of St Patrick's Hospital, Waterford, Waterford Healing Arts 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.

In July 2021, Waterford Healing Arts supported the installation of artworks by artists Conall Cary and Marielle MacLeman at the new Mortuary in UHW, under the Per Cent for Art Scheme. The mortuary provides a dignified, efficient, and compassionate service that attends to the needs of relatives and the respectful care of the deceased. Conall Cary and Marielle MacLeman's proposals were selected as part of a competitive process as they reflected the mission of the mortuary to provide a supportive, comforting and peaceful environment at a difficult time. Inspired by botanical walks filled with the flora and ferns of County Waterford, Marielle created a series of collages and digitally printed murals for the intimate spaces of the Mortuary. Conall created a lightbox artwork inspired by concepts of radiance, balance, and nature to evoke feelings of calm and serenity.

The artworks in the new wing of the Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory were created by artist Conall Cary. The artworks were inspired by the work of historical naturalist photographers such as Karl Blossfeldt and Wilson Bentley, who pioneered technical methods that revealed the wonders of the microscopic natural world around us. These artworks were commissioned in 2021 by University Hospital Waterford under the Per Cent for Art Scheme and installed in late 2022. The commission was managed by Waterford Healing Arts.