

FEBRUARY 2025 MEATH ARTS OFFICE NEWS UPDATES, AWARDS & OPPORTUNITIES



MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS GRANTS, AWARDS & BURSARIES SCHEMES 2025

****REMINDER** Closing date 1pm, Friday, 14th February**

Meath County Council Arts Office is pleased to announce the launch of the 2025 Arts Grants, Awards & Bursaries Schemes which include the Annual Arts Grant, Drama League of Ireland Bursary, Festival Grant Scheme, Professional Artist Development Fund and new in 2025, the Creative Communities Award.

The Annual Arts Grant aims to support organisations, groups or individuals in the provision of local arts activities which enhance long-term development and sustainability of the arts in County Meath. Supported by Creative Ireland, the **Creative Communities Award** is intended to support a wide range of community groups and schools in the provision of community arts projects which promote cultural engagement and enhance long-term partnerships with professional artists. **The Drama League of Ireland Bursary** is intended to fund a week-long residential stay at the Drama League of Ireland Summer School at the University of Limerick. **The Festival Grant Scheme** is intended to support arts festivals taking place in County Meath which show a commitment to quality artistic programming and the **Professional Artist Development Fund** is intended to support Meath based professional arts practitioners in any field to develop their artistic practice and make or present new work.

The individual funding strands cover a wide range of disciplines, arts practices and activities and are intended to enable individuals, groups and organisations to develop and sustain their work in the arts throughout County Meath and are part of a suite of supports provided to artists in the county. These supports have been strengthened in 2025 with additional funding from the Arts Council of Ireland and Creative Ireland.

Forms may be found and completed at <https://meathcocoarts.submit.com/>

It is recommended that interested applicants contact the arts office for advice on which funding strand best suits their funding requirements in advance of making an application at artsfunding@meathcoco.ie.

The closing date for the: The Annual Arts Grant, Creative Communities Award, Drama League of Ireland Bursary, Festival Grant Scheme and Professional Artist Development Fund, is 1pm, Friday 14th February 2025.

For further information or queries, please contact artsfunding@meathcoco.ie.

Gerardette Bailey
County Arts Officer



IRISH WRITERS CENTRE National Mentoring Programme

Applications are now open: Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme 2025

Calling all writers! Are you looking for feedback on your writing? We are delighted to be sponsoring a writer from County Meath to take part in this year's Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme.

The National Mentoring Programme is an exciting opportunity to receive sustained creative and professional mentoring from an established Irish writer of your choosing.

The opportunity is available to writers of:

- Fiction
- Creative non-fiction
- Children's / Young Adult fiction
- Poetry

Each mentorship consists of three meetings with an experienced writer over a period of approximately 6–8 months. The mentor reads up to 10,000 words / 180 lines of poetry in advance and will give creative feedback at each meeting. They may also provide professional information and advice. All mentees will avail of the relationship for free.

Application deadline: Sunday 2 March 2025 at 5pm

Full details on eligibility and how to apply can be found on the Irish Writers Centre website:

<https://irishwriterscentre.ie/national-mentoring-programme/>



Toradh Gallery 2

Kells Courthouse Tourism & Cultural Hub

'Tempest' (Fifty Nights in a Dublin Hotel)

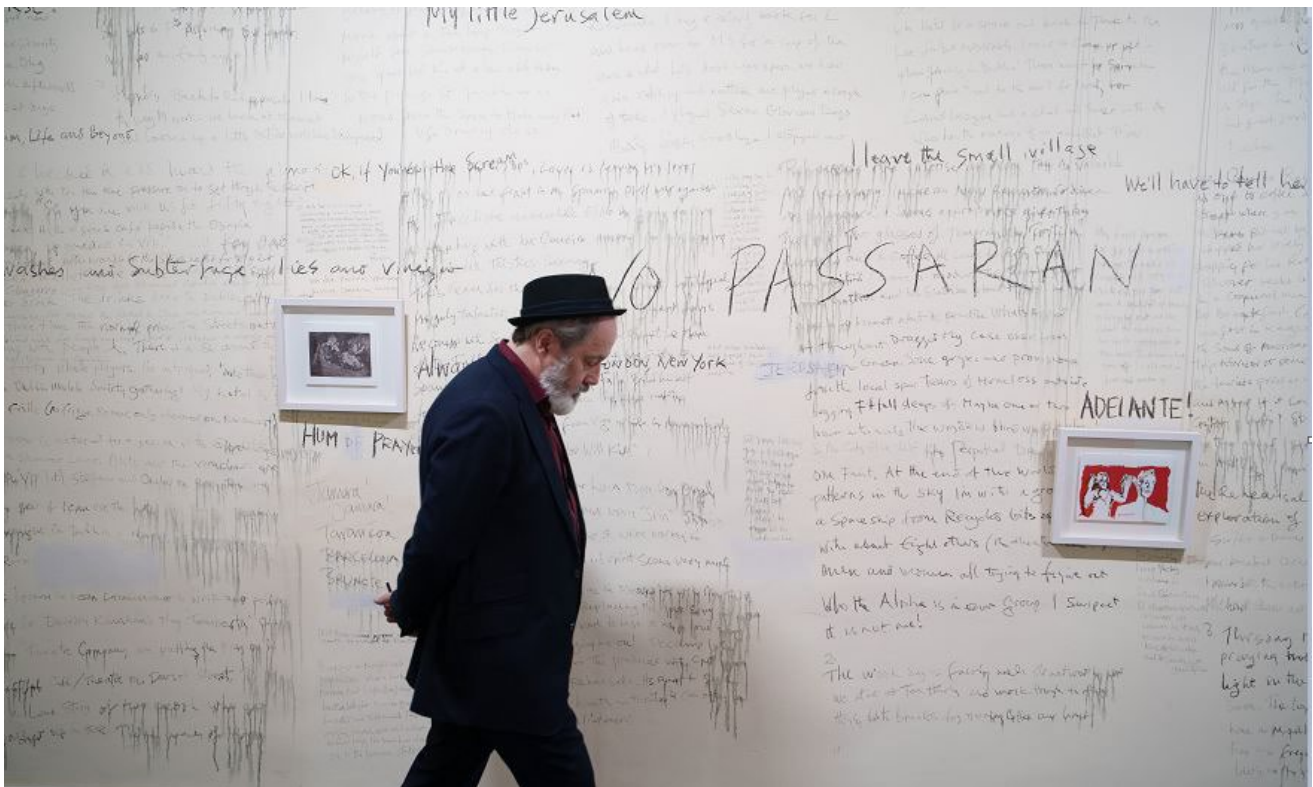
an exhibition of work by Steve Wickham

Due to popular demand, exhibition dates extended until: 28th February 2025

****Selected as Irish Times top pick in The Ticket Magazine****

The accomplished violinist Steve Wickham has performed around the world and recorded on over 100 albums with various artists including The Waterboys, U2, Bob Dylan, REM, Sinead O' Connor and many more. Although fundamentally a musician, Wickham's practice is eclectic and includes disciplines of music, film, animation, painting, drawing and printmaking. Like the different voices in a choir, he feels the need for these broad range of disciplines to articulate ideas.

Tempest (Fifty Nights in a Dublin Hotel) is a solo exhibition of Steve Wickham's paintings. Describing them as 'small landscapes of the heart', and featuring excerpts from his Dublin diary written on the walls of the Toradh Gallery, the exhibition was inspired by Wickham's extended stay in Dublin during rehearsals for and performances in Deirdre Kinahan's play *Tempesta*, a return to the city where he was born after 30 years of living in the west of Ireland.



Don't miss out on a last chance to view this exhibition!

Toradh Gallery 2

Kells Courthouse Tourism & Cultural Hub,
Headfort Road,
Kells,
Co. Meath.

Opening Hours:

Mon- Fri: 9:00am – 5:00pm (closed for lunch 1:30-2:00pm)
Saturday: 9:00am – 4:00pm (closed for lunch 1:30-2:00pm)

Toradh Gallery Ashbourne



Ashbourne Library & Cultural Centre

'Hoor' An exhibition of poetry & illustration by

Jim McElroy & Ann Kiernan

until February 28th 2025

HOOR



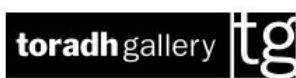
An exhibition
of poetry
& illustration
by Jim McElroy
& Ann Kiernan

4th Nov 2024 – 28th Feb 2025

Image by Ann Kiernan 'The Day I left for the City'

“..When I left for the city, autumn’s thresher was gulping wheat sheafs. I watched him grimace as he kneed obese seed bags up to the trailer; through the belt slew, thrum, he yelled *mind yourself* - to watch out for all *them cute hours*...”

An excerpt from 'Hoor' by Jim McElroy



Ashbourne Library & Cultural Centre,
Killegland Street, Ashbourne,
Co. Meath.



Juxtaposing vibrant illustrations with powerful writing, this exhibition features the combined work of Belfast poet **Jim McElroy**, and Kells born, Berlin based illustrator **Ann Kiernan**. The 8 mixed-media works, which were commissioned by Meath Arts Office, compliment McElroy’s earthy text with defined strokes and vivid angles.

Ann Kiernan has received multiple awards for her editorial illustrations. In 2022 along with the RTE Investigates team she won the Social Justice Award for her work on Domestic Abuse: A Year in Crisis. Her clients include The Washington Post; Politico Europe & Trinity College. Multi-award winning poet **Jim McElroy** grew up in Co. Down. Winner of the MCC Cultural Services Francis Ledwidge Poetry Award 2020 his poem '**Hoor**' became the lead poem in his chapbook '*We Are The Weather*', which won the International Book and Pamphlet Award 2021 with Poetry Business.

****Also selected as Irish Times top pick in The Ticket Magazine****

Toradh Gallery

Ashbourne Library and Cultural Centre,
Killegland St,
Ashbourne,
Co. Meath

Opening Hours:

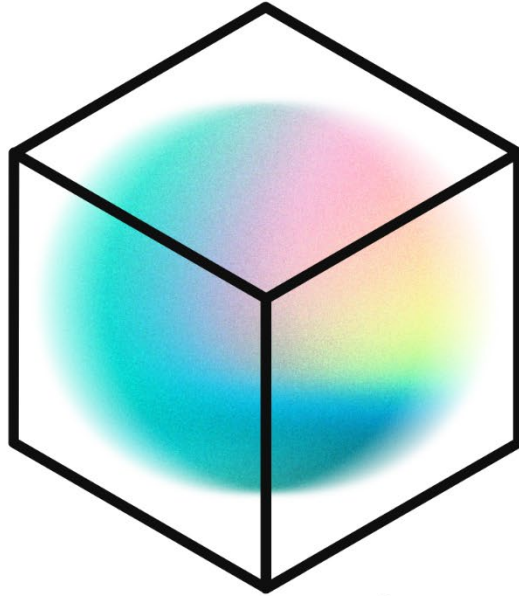
Mon: 2pm – 5pm
Tues and Thurs: 10am – 8:30pm
Wed, Fri, Sat: 10am – 5pm
Sun: Closed

OPEN CALL

Exhibition and Event

Proposals for

Súil



Find out more at clarearts.ie

Deadline

28 FEB



About Súil

Súil is the first municipal gallery in County Clare and is the result of years of consultation, design and development. Súil offers a purpose built, professionally curated and managed space in the heart of Clare. The new gallery will provide the people of Clare, surrounding counties and tourists, with access to professional, contemporary art exhibitions and events.

Exhibitions

Súil seeks exhibition proposals from professional artists, either independent or as a group, to be realised from spring/summer of 2025. Exhibitions are expected to range from 4-8 weeks. Applicants will receive a stipend proportional to the size/scope of the exhibition.

Events

Súil seeks event/workshop/performance proposals from professional artists, either independent or as a group, to be realised throughout 2025. Applicants will receive a stipend proportional to the size/scope of event.

Find out more at Clarearts.ie

West Wicklow Festival and CMC Ireland 2025 Emerging Composer Composition Competition: Solo Soprano Saxophone



Closing date for entries: 24 March 2025

[Find out more and apply.](#)

West Cork Chamber Music Festival invite composers under 35 to submit new works for the 2025 Young Composers Competition



Closing date for entries: 12 March 2025

For more information and to apply visit **[West Cork Chamber Music Festival.](#)**



Youth Orchestra Collaboration Grant

In 2025, The Irish Association of Youth Orchestras (IAYO) is once again running their Youth Orchestra Collaboration Grant scheme to stimulate collaboration among youth orchestras in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. (International collaborators can take part too).

Applications are now open for 2025. Closing date for applications is **Friday, 28 February 2025**.

This scheme is in response to members asking for more regional festivals and collective performance opportunities beyond the annual IAYO Festival at the National Concert Hall. In 2025, this scheme once again replaces the Youth Orchestra Ovation Awards.

There will be an online information session on **Tuesday, 14 January 2025** from **10.00am** to **11.30am** via Zoom.

Please register [here](#).

IAYO Festival of Youth Orchestras

2026 Festival Applications.

IAYO is delighted to announce that applications are now open for the 30th Festival of Youth Orchestras in 2026. The 2026 Festival will take place on **Saturday, 7 February 2026** in the National Concert Hall, Dublin.

Closing date for applications is **Friday, 11 April 2025**.

Further details available at <https://www.iayo.ie/activities/iayo-festival-of-youth-orchestras/>



Do you know a child aged 6-16 with a lifelong physical health condition who'd love to connect with others and get creative?

Helium Arts offer [Distance Creates](#) – a series of free online art workshops for children and young people with lifelong physical health conditions like diabetes, epilepsy, spina bifida, heart conditions, juvenile arthritis, rare conditions, and more.

Through art, these children can **build confidence, connect with others, and have fun!** Helium online workshops are designed and led by talented professional artists. When you sign up, you'll receive a **free custom art pack delivered to your door** just in time for the workshop. The sessions include a **mix of fun online and offline activities**, and you can **join in from anywhere!**

Here's what one parent had to say:

“Being connected to other kids with various conditions is great for her. In normal life, she's the only kid she knows who even has to take daily medication of any kind.”

Helium Arts Distance Creates Spring workshops are **now open for registration!**

[Sign up today!](#)

Workshop details below:

Ages 13-16

- [Distance Creates Online Saturday Youth Meet Ups](#): 26 April, 24 May with more Saturdays to be announced throughout the year

Ages 8-12

- [Distance Creates Online Spring Saturdays](#): 8 March - 12 April (6-week online & offline workshops from home with a bespoke art pack delivered to your door)

Ages 6-8

- [Distance Creates Online Spring Saturdays](#): 8 March - 12 April (6-week online & offline workshops from home with a bespoke art pack delivered to your door)