

Art&Geography Ireland
Galway Dance Days
16-18 May, 2013





Photo credit: Gwen Mc Hale

Welcome! **Art&Geography Ireland** and **Galway Dance Days** is a collaboration between artists, practitioners and academics taking place at the annual Conference of Irish Geographers as part of 50th anniversary activities for the Department of Geography, NUI Galway. During three days of performances, workshops, film shorts, panel discussions and academic papers, artists, academics and practitioners will engage with shared concerns relating to space, place, landscapes, environments, bodies and activism. *La Veronal* reflects upon placed bodies, the choreography of national representation that allows the shapes thrown by Soviet gymnasts to suggest not only physical but also political risk. *Elena Giannotti* explores the remains of desire, the imaginative self and ambiguous boundaries. *Olwen Fouéré* reads from James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* as if the text choreographed a body, a body that must also be a river and a life. *Fitzgerald & Stapleton* provoke the settings in which they announce their flesh, *The Work The Work*, and it can't and must be funny.

Thinking through and moving with our bodies, Art&Geography Ireland participants will explore places, spaces and environments, taking the measure of landscapes from bogs to docklands, forests to streetscapes, coastlines to gardens, continents to asylums. We will (re)imagine the folds of the spatial fix as an origami of political economy. Learning from children, artists and residents, we will see how sustainable spaces of inhabitation are performed.

We will reflect upon the ways communities curate themselves and animate the places they inhabit, even as they choreograph pathways through global networks. With body and movement we will be able to draw upon new repertoires and follow the contours of evanescent traces, perhaps enabling us to create new performances of place that invite more just social, spatial and ecological futures.

Just as the body is an archive, places are embodied yet shared contexts of meaning and memory that connect us to our multiple emotional, cultural and political worlds. And yet against this, when we see the reduction of inhabited places to real estate, or the displacement of social and ecological communities into reservations, we find the denial of connectedness in favour of a myth of entitled autonomy.

Living as we do in the time of the great global warming, when the pursuit of private profit denies communal claims, and when the reckless corruption of the few meets the immiseration of the many, the connections between bodies, between bodies and places, and between bodies, landscapes, homes and communities need to be rethought and re-emphasised. **Galway Dance Days** with **Art&Geography Ireland** gives us a space to do just that.

Art&Geography Ireland: Organised by Ríonach Ní Néill, the Galway Dancer in Residence, Karen E. Till and Gerry Kearns, Space&Place, Department of Geography, National University of Ireland Maynooth.

Thursday, 16 May 2013

11.00-13.00: 1. **Art&Geography Concurrent Workshops: *Exploring Galway City*.**
Meeting point: BOI Theatre. *Pre-registration required for both workshops:* karen.till@nuim.ie.

1a. [Re]Mapping the childhood landscape of Galway City. Walking/outdoor gear recommended. This walking workshop explores children's urban geographies with reference to the sensory, imaginative, pragmatic and social nature of their experience.
Workshop leader: Jackie Bourke. Independent practitioner.

1b. *Spatial Fissures Fieldwork: Cycling the City of Galway*. Cycling gear recommended; rental bikes provided. Accepting that we are living through the fractured future, where urbanism for the first time has become the generative order of society, this Fieldwork seeks to analyse some representative contemporary spatial conditions in Galway, Ireland.
Workshop leader: Alan Mee, Architecture & Urban Design UCD.



Collette Nolan. *Cave*, Video still. 2010.

13.00: **CIG Registration.** Location: New Engineering Block, NUIG.

13.45-15.15: 2. **Paper Session. *Place-based Artistic Work: Rethinking the City*.** Location: BOI Theatre.
Chair: Gerry Kearns, NUI Maynooth Geography.

Karen E. Till, NUI Maynooth Geography. 'Learning from Artists: Remapping Bogotá through Mapa Teatro's "Cartographic Quicksand"'.
Brian Fleming, Musician and Artistic Director of Spectacle of Defiance and Hope. 'Regeneration, Renewal and Revolution: The artist as an agent for change'. Performed paper.

Joe Lee, Independent Film Artist. 'The Fate of Place'.

15.15-15.45 **Tea.**

Photo Credit: Ray Hegarty. Brian Fleming with the Child Catcher (Raymond Keane) at the Spectacle of Defiance and Hope.



15.45-17.15: 3. **Concurrent Art&Geography Workshop and Paper Session.**

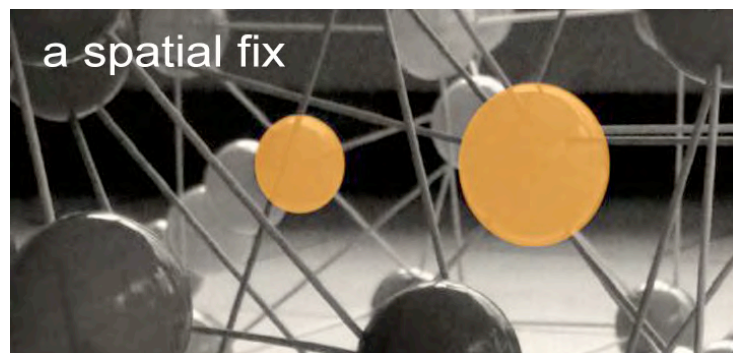


Photo credit: Bláithín Quinn

3a. Workshop: *A Spatial Fix*. Location: The Cube. No experience needed. This experimental workshop conceptually and creatively engages with the relationship between space and capitalism as explored in Harvey's essay *Globalization and the 'Spatial Fix'*. Artists, practitioners and geographers will work in teams to create an original response to the workshop theme and propose innovative solutions for vacant urban spaces.

Workshop Leader: Bláithín Quinn, Independent Artist and Architect.



Photo credit: Michelle Browne, Mapping Mothers

15.45-17.15: 3b. Paper Session. *Embodied Landscapes*. Location: BOI Theatre.

Chair: Tomás Hardiman, Arts Manager/Alexander Technique teacher.

Gwen McHale, Movement Therapist and Choreographic Artist. 'Landscape: A Dance of Deep Ecology'.

Katrinka Somdahl-Sands, Department of Geography and Environment, Rowan University NJ. 'Reclaiming the Scale of landscape? When dance dominates the scene'.

Michelle Browne, Independent Artist and Curator. 'Mapping Mothers'.

Zoë O'Reilly, NUI Maynooth Geography & independent artist. "'In between spaces'": A visual exploration of the experiences of asylum seekers in the 'direct provision' system in Ireland'.

17.15-18.40: 4. Galway Dance Days/Galway Dance Project Workshop. Location: The Cube.

Just Walking: a Butoh dance perspective on space and perception.

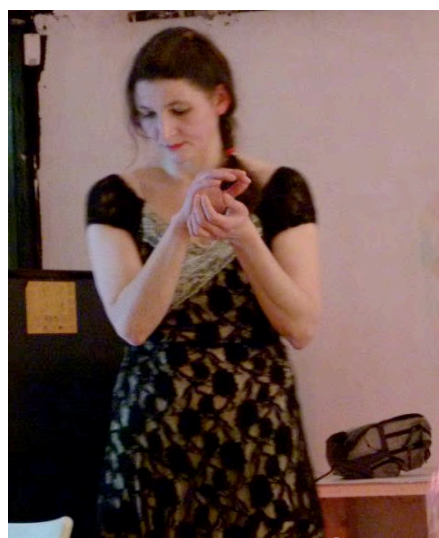


Photo credit. Ambra Bergamasco

Pre-registration required. Booking at www.tht.ie. No dance/movement experience required.

Workshop leader: Ambra Gatto Bergamasco, NUI Maynooth NIRSA & Geography; Independent Dance Artist.

Butoh dance explores the body from its internal understanding, allowing for unforeseen possibilities of expression. Participants will be introduced to Butoh dance practically, exploring slow movement, imagination, poetical evocation and body-space perception. This practical experience of what Butoh is will enable participants to consider how such practice can inform creativity and also change spatial perspectives, both internally and externally.

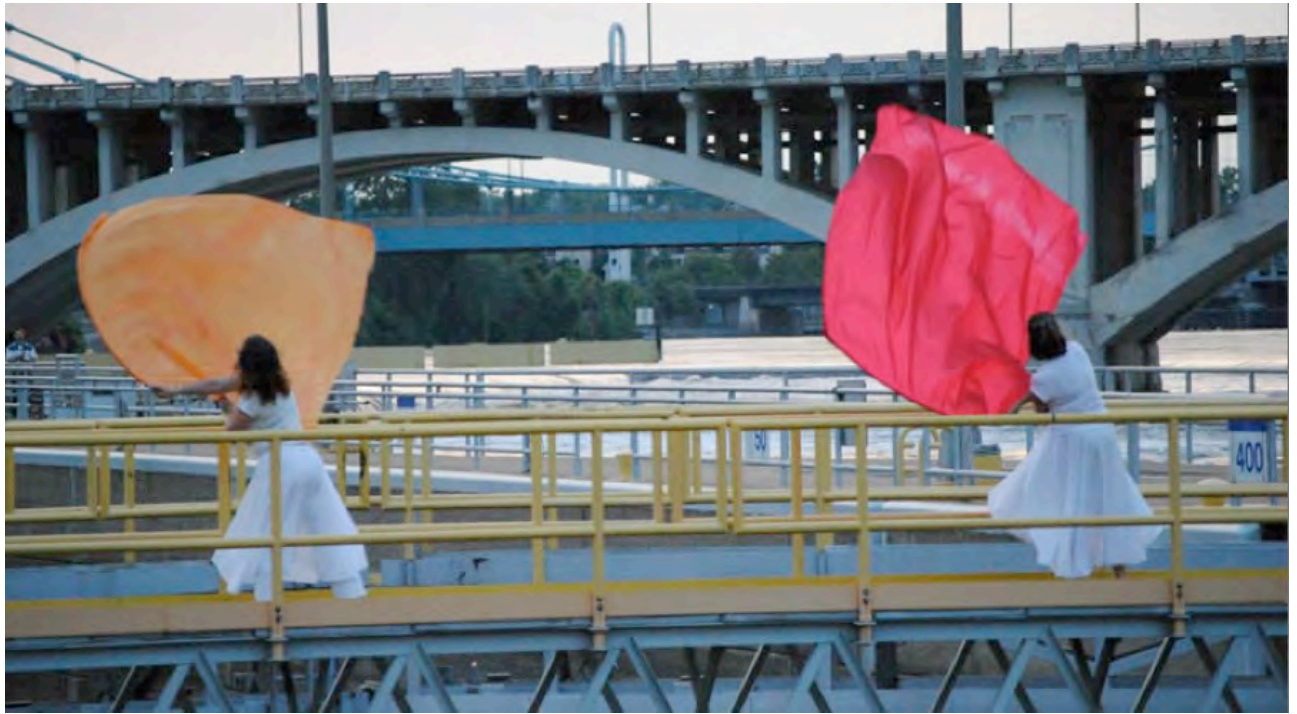


Photo credit. <http://globalsiteperformance.org>

19.00-20.00: Opening CIG and Galway Dance Days/Art&Geography Reception. Town Hall Theatre.

20.00-21.00: 5a. Galway Dance Days: Performance. Town Hall Theatre. Tickets required: www.tht.ie.
La Veronal, “Short Cuts - Moscow, Reykjavik, Siena”.

Creating an analogy between dance and geography, Barcelona’s celebrated La Veronal takes three cities as starting points for enquiries as expansive as the nature of fear and explorations into the semiotics and the history of the body in art. Their dazzling physical virtuosity makes critical reference to cinema, philosophy, photography, art and literature.



Photo Credit: La Veronal, “Short Cuts”.

5b. Post-show conversation: La Veronal Choreographer & Artistic Director, Marcus Morau, and Gerry Kearns, NUIM.

Friday, 17 May 2013

9.00-10.30: 6. **Art&Geography Concurrent Paper Sessions.**



Photo Credit: Pigeon House in Poolbeg;
Site of Commonage's 'Landing Place', 25-26 May, 2013.

6a. Curating Place. The Cube.

Chair: Bernardine Carroll, Public Art Manager,
Galway County Council.

Verena Commings, Centre for Irish Studies, NUIG.
'Performing the Local: The construction of "West
Clare" at the Willie Clancy Summer School'.

Hollie Kearns, Commonage Curator. 'Landing Place'.

Denise Reddy, Red Stables Curator, DCC & Sean
O'Sullivan, Independent Curator. 'Art and Ecology:
Presentation on the Red Stables Summer School
2012-13'.

6b. Spatial Aesthetics: Archives, Fragments and Placemaking. Location: BOI Theatre.

Chair: Máirín Doddy, Architectural Conservation Officer, Galway County Council.

Jenny Sjöholm, Dept. of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University. 'The Modern Art Studio as
Archive: Body, Space and Memory in Artistic Practice'.

Aidan Williams, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, University of Dundee. 'Building Fragments'.

Moirá Sweeney, DIT Fiosraigh Scholar and Filmmaker. 'Dublin Docks: Visualising place & changing identities'.

Federico Ferretti, Département de Géographie et Environnement, Université de Genève. 'When Geographers
Worked with Painters: Élisée Reclus and the Social Art'.

10.30-11.00: *Coffee and Session.* 7. **Dance Work in Progress. Liadain Herriott. BOG.** Location: The Cube.

Respondant: Thomas Conway, Druid Theatre Director in Residence, NUI Galway.

A work-in-progress investigating how the internal space of the body reacts with that of the external, as the body
moves through a bog landscape.

11.00-12.30: 8. **Paper Session. Socially/Ecologically Engaged Creative Research Practices.** BOI Theatre

Chair: Karen E. Till, NUI Maynooth Geography.

Ailbhe Murphy and Ciaran Smyth, Vagabond Reviews Co-
Convenors. '*This Must be The Place*: Situated practice and
interdisciplinary arts-based research'.

Simon Read, Independent Artist and Department of Fine Art,
Middlesex University. 'The Autonomy of the Artist and the
Compromises Needed for Effective Transdisciplinary
Collaboration'.

Cathy Fitzgerald, Independent Visual Artist and Filmmaker.
'Seeing and Tending the Forest'.

Bryonie Reid, Independent Visual Artist and Scholar. 'Can
Cultural Geography Speak to Visual Art?'

12.30-13.00. *Lunch.*



Bryonie Reid: Detail from (re)writing 3 (polaroid)

13.00-13.45: 9. Galway Dance Days: Performance. Elena Giannotti, “Rider in Arena”.

Location: The Cube. Tickets required. Booking at www.tht.ie.



Photo Credit: Elena Giannotti, “Rider in Arena”.

Introduced by Ríonach Ní Néill, Galway Dancer in Residence.

Rider in Arena is a series of solo works exploring the relationship between the performer and the ethereal elements of performance. *Dead Head* is a new exploration into the remains of desires. The dancer works with flags of favourite movements, symbols and borrowed suggestions. Elena has presented already *Lo Sguardo del Cane* (2012) and in November 2013 will premiere *One of US, One of YOU* with dance artist Mikel Aristegui.

13.45-15.15: 10. Paper Session. *Creative Practice & Urban Environments*. Location: BOI Theatre.

Chair: Katrinka Somdahl-Sands, Dept. of Geography and Environment, Rowan University NJ

Aoife Desmond, Independent visual artist and filmmaker. ‘Embodied Film- and Soundscapes: Place, nature and history’.

Sharon Watson, Richard Coles, and Zoë Milliman, Birmingham Institute of Art and Design. ‘How to Make a Tree Talk: Imagining, being and talking landscapes’.

Silvia Loeffler, Independent artist; Visual Culture, DIT& NCAD. ‘Crossing the Dead Ends: Moving between desire and care’.

Beatrice Jarvis, Choreographer, visual artist and urban space researcher/creative facilitator, University of Ulster. ‘Towards a Socio- Choreographic Practice | Developing a practice of social choreography through practice of individual and collective embodiment’.



Photo credit: Silvia Loeffler



Photo credit: Beatrice Jarvis

15.15-15.45: Tea and 11. City & Space Workshop Discussion: *Spatial Fissures Fieldwork*.

Location: The View, Áras na Mac Léinn, NUI Galway. Informal discussion about experimental urban fieldwork; no registration required. Discussion Leader: Alan Mee, UCD Architecture and Urban Design.

15.45-17.15: 12. Concurrent Paper and Film & Discussion Sessions.

12a. *Memory Work*. Location: BOI Theatre.

Chair: Maeve Mulrennan, Visual Arts Officer, Galway Arts Centre.

Margaret Fitzgibbon, Independent Artist and Scholar. 'Archival Promises: Loss & return in an Irish family archive 1950 to mid 1960s through installation art process'.

Tracy Fahey, Limerick School of Art and Design. 'Walking and Talking: Gothic sites and stories'.

Lisa Moran, IMMA Education Director & NCAD. 'If This is a Man: The body in the work of Mirosław Balka'.

Kate McMillan, Curtin University (Perth, Australia), 'Unremembered Islands: Contemporary art and un-forgetting'.



Artwork Credit: Kate McMillan

12b. *Spatial Explorations*. Location: The View, Áras na Mac Léinn, NUIG.

Chair: Cian O' Callaghan, IRC Post Doctoral Fellow, NIRSA NUI Maynooth.

Colette Nolan, Independent Artist and Director, Cork Artists Collective and Guesthouse Workspace. 'Extimacy: Revealing the hidden embodied gestures of child's play through video art installation'.

Maria Nilsson Waller, Independent Dance Artist. '*Last Land*: The movie'.

Carolyn Collier, Crawford College of Art and Design. 'Work in Progress: Creative connections'.

Gwen MacGregor, Independent Artist and University of Toronto Geography. 'New Materialities'.



Photo Credit: Marcelo Biglia, still from *Last Land*, Maria Nilsson Waller.

Saturday, 18 May 2013

9.00-10.30: 13. **Paper Session. *Interrogating Dublin*.** Location: The Cube.



Photo Credit: Polish Seafarer by Moira Sweeny

Chair: Mark Boyle, NUIM Geography & NIRSA.

Ríonach Ní Néill, Galway Dancer in Residence. 'I forgot but my body remembered – How a building taught me to tap'.

Fiona McDonald. Visual Artist | Architect. 'On the Wall: Looking back to move forward'.

Laragh Pittman, Visual Artist. 'Travels into Several Remote Corners of Dublin'.

10.30-11.00 *Coffee* and 14. **Work In Progress. Siobhan McDonald: *Seism*.** Location: BOI Theatre.

Siobhan McDonald is an independent visual artist whose work makes the invisible visible by creating a tangible response to forces that are not immediately apparent in nature. Mapping the imperceptible movements of the Earth, *Seism* subtly manifests links to particular moments in time.

Photo credit: Siobhan McDonald, 2010, 'Dakota DC3 abandoned aircraft, Iceland'.



11.00-12.30: 15. **Paper Session: *Performance Communities*.** Location: BOI Theatre.

Chair: Ríonach Ní Néill, Galway Dancer in Residence



Photo: Deirdre Ní Chonghaile, by Anne Burke

Finola Cronin, Independent Dance Artist and UCD School of English, Drama and Film. 'Dance and the Performance of Place and History'.

Nick Bryson, Independent Dance Artist. 'A Subjective Psychogeography of Dance Communities in Ireland'. Performed paper.

Thomas Conway, Druid Theatre Director in Residence, NUI Galway. 'Dancing in the Unlikeliest of Places: Metonymy bodies forth in the University'. Performed Paper.

Deirdre Ní Chonghaile, Independent Artist and IRC Fellow, Moore Institute, NUI Galway. "'Bhíodh muid ag damhsa go maidin": Dance, Music and Community in Árann'.

12.30-12.45: *Lunch.*

12.45-13.30: 16. **Art&Geography/Galway Dance Days.**

A Work-in-Progress by Olwen Fouéré. The Cube.
Limited seating. Special thanks to the Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway and PLaCE Dundee for supporting this reading. *A full production and premiere of this new work will take place at the Galway Arts Festival 2013.*

Reading of 'riverrun', adapted and performed by Olwen Fouéré through the voice of the river in James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*.

Introduced by Gerry Kearns, NUI Maynooth Geography.



Photo Credit: turas_journey, video work. Andrew Duggan, 2010, with Cindy Cummings and Rebeca Walter.

13.45-15.15: 17. **Galway Dance Days/Galway Dance Project: Workshop.** Location: The Cube.



VSE: A vision for space exploration.

Workshop Leader: Elena Giannotti, Independent dance artist.

This is a practical small but intense workshop.

We will work around the notions of space and place, through exploration of movement and guided visualizations. The focus is on imagination, the imaginative self and ambiguous boundaries

My way of conducting will draw from experiential anatomy to ideokinesis, to guided daydreaming, to eastern visualization techniques.

Pre-registration required. Booking at www.tht.ie. No dance/movement experience required

Photo credit. Elena Giannotti, Performance still, image from NASA on Wikipedia Commons, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:001221_Cassini_Jupiter_Europa_Callisto.jpg

15.15-15.45 *Tea*

15.45-16.15: 18. **Final Panel. Dance Days, Art and Geography.** Location: The Cube.

Aoife McGrath, Queens University Belfast. 'Discomforting/Disarming Touch in Fitzgerald & Stapleton: dance, affect and vulnerability'. Followed by closing discussion with: Aoife McGrath and Art&Geography Ireland organisers: Ríonach Ní Néill, Karen E. Till and Gerry Kearns.

20.00 – 23.00: **Galway Dance Days**

Doublebill. Fitzgerald & Stapleton THE WORK THE WORK / The Bahh Band closing concert. Druid Lane Theatre. Tickets at www.tht.ie.

Introduced by Aoife McGrath, Queens University Belfast

Visceral, provocative and funny, **Fitzgerald & Stapleton** have an international reputation for their bold, but intimate explorations of identity. For them, life is both absurd and alluring, a grotesque practical joke constantly pulling away chairs from under dignity and reason.

The Bahh Band makes original music that defies any one genre, inspired by Indian classical, Irish, blues, funk and post-rock. Come dance the night away with one of Galway's most unique acts!



Photo Credit: John Graham. Fitzgerald & Stapleton, "The Work The Work".



Photo credit: Joe Lee, 2000, 'Out of Place' in Man in Hallway.



Photo credit: Liadain Herriott,
The White Wall

The Galway Dancer in Residence 'Galway Dance Days' public programme is supported by the Arts Council, Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Town Hall Theatre, the Centre for Irish Studies NUI Galway, Galway Dance Project, Ealaín na Gaeltachta & National University of Ireland Galway.

The Art&Geography Ireland organisers wish to thank the generous support from: the Conference of Irish Geographers, NUI Galway Geography, NUI Maynooth Geography, Ómós Áite and the NUI Galway Centre for Irish Studies, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design University of Dundee, and Mapping Spectral Traces. A special thank you to Dr. Frances Fahy, CIG organiser, for her generous support of our participating artists and practitioners. Thank you to our performers, workshop leaders and other artists and practitioners for their time, insights and enthusiasm.

Galway Dance Days Performance and Workshop Venues (Reduced rate tickets for Art&Geography and CIG participants available at www.tht.ie and CIG registration desk)

Town Hall Theatre, Galway City
The Cube, NUI Galway campus
Druid Lane Theatre, Galway City
Galway City (walking and cycling workshops)

Art&Geography/Galway Dance Days Paper, Film and Workshop Session Venues

The Cube, Áras na Mac Léinn, NUI Galway campus
Bank of Ireland (BOI) Theatre, NUI Galway campus
Áras na Mac Léinn, NUI Galway campus
(adjacent venues, less than one minute walk)

CIG Sessions, Plenaries and Installations

New Engineering Block, NUI Galway campus
(a 10-15 minute walk from The Cube/BOI Theatre)

Front Cover Artwork Credit: La Veronal, 'Short Cuts'

Back Cover Artwork: Aoife Desmond, 2008, Iceland, still from: Making Journeys Without Maps; Mikel Rouse, Olwen Fouéré's riverrun

