
CURRENT PROJECTS

Greenhouse Culture

This is an environmentally focused and sustainable action driven website I developed during lockdown. Combining art, ecology, and philosophical thinking this online platform is designed for knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning. My hope, once things settle (Covid wise) is to further develop this project into a live laboratory and workshop space.

www.greenhouseculture.ie

@greenhouse.culture

...Pathless Land...

A collaboration between myself and 3 other artists: Eleanor Dawson (musician), Sylvia Hill (visual artist), and Justyna (musician & writer).

Initiated by the ArtNet DLR *Metamorphosis* project, 2020-2021; we started working together during the intense years of the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Click for more info](#)

Biodiversity Ambassador Programme

A collaboration between Greenhouse Culture and Green Sod Ireland Land Trust.

I developed Ireland's first [Biodiversity Ambassador Programme](#). Having launched in September 2021 we have to-date connected with 30 ambassadors, across Ireland (& the globe). In conversation with the ambassadors, together we are developing the programme, and potential actions forward...

"...I love how natural sights, sounds and smells unfold to stimulate and awaken all our senses. It is the magical, evocative, and indeed romantic view of nature that inspires me.

Like a magpie I collect all manner of natural fabrics, fibres and yarns, particularly those discarded and destined for landfill. I assemble these reclaimed materials into different narratives - with an intention to deepen my understanding of human-nature relationships..."

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ASHLEIGH DOWNEY



CURRICULUM VITAE

EMPLOYMENT

“...As well as a detailed observation of natural forms, I examine various behavioural patterns and exploratory actions through the art of ritual, repetition, or the simple act of a meambling gesture. These repetitive processes - twisting, spinning, wrapping, unraveling, unwinding, disentangling, etc - brings to focus one conscious action at a time.

Mindful meditations if you will... that concentrates the mind and creates a silent space for contemplation, reflection and hopefully a more personal and profound relationship with nature...”

2017-Current	Environmental Arts Coordinator , Green Sod Ireland Land Trust, Ireland
2018-Current	Education Panel , National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
2017-18	Advisory Panel , European Academy of Participation (EAP)
2015-17	Director , Blooming Blunting Community Initiative, Ireland
2014	Creative Consultant , Bushfire Festival, Swaziland
2012-13	Creative Director, family area , Electric Picnic Festival, Ireland
2012-13	Creative Director, family area , Body and Soul Festival, Ireland
2011	Co-Curator , Outside the Lines, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Ireland
2008-11	Visual Arts Programmer , The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children, Dublin, Ireland
2006-07	Assistant Curator : Collections , Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
2004-06	Art Officer , PACT Woodland Project, Dublin, Ireland
2004-05	Information Mediator , Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
2000-Current	Education Panel , Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane, Ireland
2000-Current	Sustainable Interior Design Tutor , Education and Training Board (ETB), Ireland
1999-Current	Education Facilitation , Ireland
Organisations include:	Education and Training Boards Ireland, Central Mental Hospital Dundrum, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Library Service, St. Nicholas Montessori College, Temple Bar Cultural Trust, Bloom Fringe Festival, Roolaboola Childrens Art Festival, BlueFire Street Festival, Pine Forest Arts Centre, Portobello School, Glenart College, Crosscare East Wicklow Youth Services, and Boston University Dublin.

EDUCATION

2020-21	University College Dublin Postgrad, Design Thinking for Sustainability
2020	National Youth Council of Ireland Games in Youth Work (engaging Young People in Climate Action and Development)
2016-18	Limerick School of Art & Design MA Social Practice & the Creative Environment (1st)
2011	ECO-UNESCO Leadership & Strategic Sustainable Development
2007-08	National Youth Arts Programme NUI Certificate in Youth Arts (1st)
1995-98	Central St. Martins London B.A. (Hons) Textile Design
1994-95	Camberwell College, London Diploma in <i>Foundation Studies</i>
1989-94	St. Columbus College, Dublin Leaving Certificate and O Levels

COLLECTIONS

The Richard F. Brush Gallery Permanent Collection, Canton, NY

Craft Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

Private Collections in Ireland, United States, UK, and South Africa.

EXHIBITIONS

2022	Metamorphosis , ArtNet DLR Walters, Dun Laoighre, Ireland
2021	SENSORIUS - where the skin meets the eye , Craft Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
2020	Water , ArtNetdlr, Online Exhibition
2019	Earth , ArtNetdlr, Online Exhibition
2019	Hinterland , ArtNetdlr, Eblana House, Dublin, Ireland
2018	In Progress , Unit 3, Dublin, Ireland
2016	Galway 2020, The PorterShed, Galway, Ireland
2016	EARTH is our Chrysalis , 126 Gallery, Galway, Ireland
2016	Impressions , Galway International Arts Festival, GMIT, Galway, Ireland
2016	An Emptying Landscape , Burren College of Art, Clare, Ireland
2015	TRASNA V , The Courthouse Gallery, Clare, Ireland
2015	Photolreland Korean Photobooks: Visual Response, Burren College, Ireland
2012	Mean Time Between Failures , Commonplace, Dublin, Ireland
2012	Elemental Birds (II) , R-Space, Lisburn, Northern Ireland
2011	Elemental Birds (I) , The Richard F. Brush Gallery, Canton, New York
2009	Earth Explorers , The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children, Dublin, Ireland

AWARDS

2020	National Youth Council of Ireland STEAM in Youth Work Residency
2016	Impressions Biennial Galway Outstanding Artist Award
2012	Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Youth Arts Incubation Award , in collaboration with artists, Edel Campbell and Joe Coveney, for a sustainable research project <i>DeepentheMystery</i> .

ETHOS

My core focus is towards building strong interconnected relationships between humans and the natural environment.

I provide a platform for environmental, social and educational exchange through a combination of art, science and action-based research. Central to this philosophy is *Experience-based Learning* and action initiatives; as I believe these offer the potential to develop commitment, deepen our connections, and establish lasting behavioural change.

As an ecological artist, educator, and socially engaged practitioner I am interested in whole system thinking and development. I believe in creating an alternative space for peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing. I strive to develop new ways to engage sustainably; beneficial to human and the biosphere as a whole.