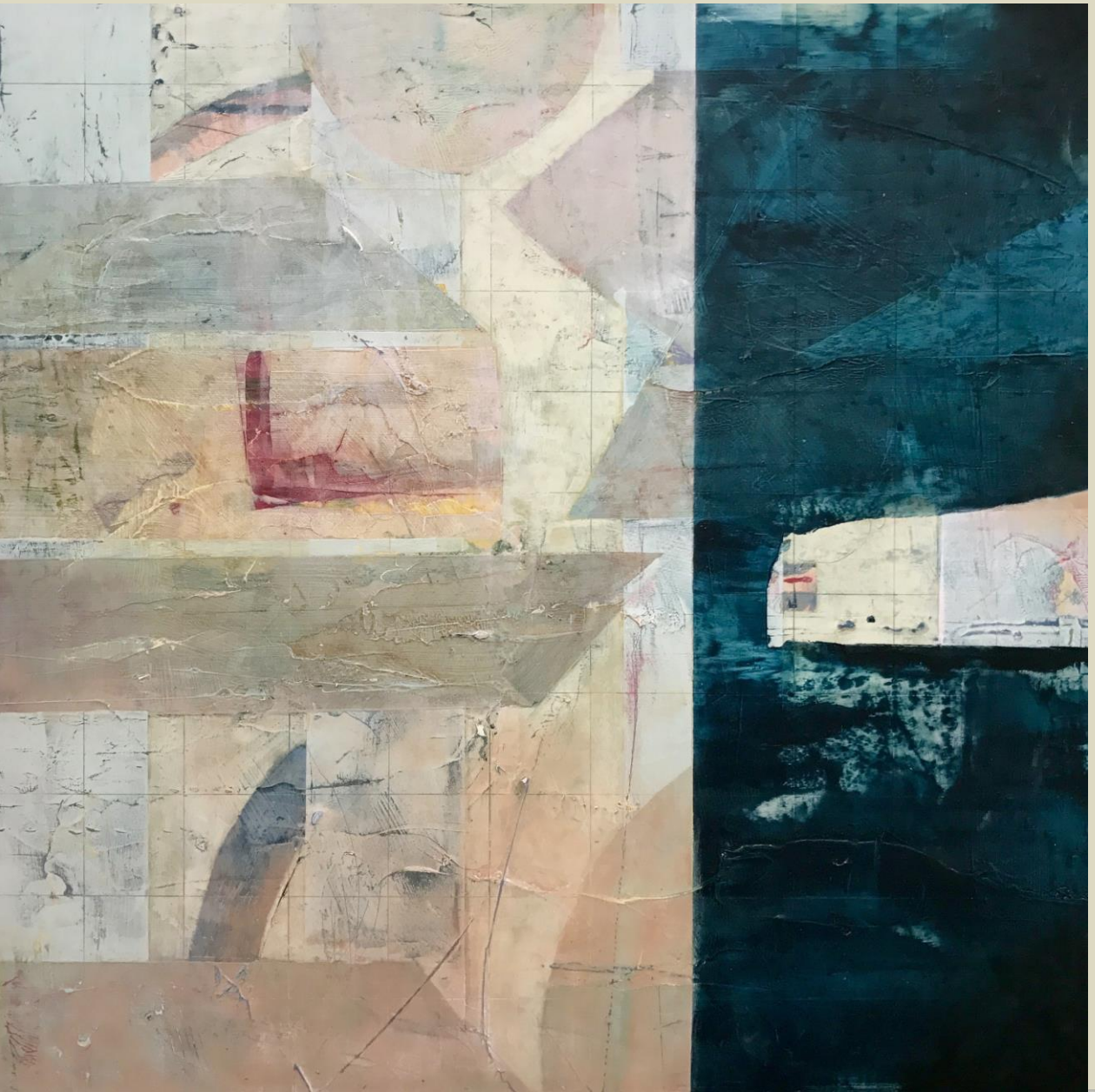


KERRY VISUAL ARTISTS' **SHOWCASE**

2018

Cover Image: *Coastal Path II,* Mixed Media on Board, 56 cm x 56 cm, 2018, Jacqueline O'Driscoll

FOREWORD

The Kerry Visual Artists' Showcase is an initiative of Kerry County Council established by the current Arts Strategy and it is proving to be an important visual arts event in the annual cultural calendar.

This is the fourth year of the Showcase and once again the work of the exhibiting artists clearly shows the quality of contemporary visual arts practice taking place in Kerry today.

Artists in Kerry take their inspiration from the landscape, from the people and their stories. They are an essential part of our culture and society and I am delighted that our visual artists are celebrated through the annual Kerry Visual Artists' Showcase.

Hosted by the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht in Killarney, this exhibition is an ideal opportunity for the people of Kerry to explore and appreciate the work of our best artists; to be inspired by their vision and to celebrate their talent.

Cllr. Norma Foley
Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council

Kerry County Council is proud to support the arts across all disciplines. Through the implementation of the Kerry Arts Strategy 2016 – 2021 we are working to ensure the on-going provision of support and opportunity for creative individuals and communities throughout the county.

Now in its fourth year, the Kerry Visual Artists' Showcase is an important exhibition opportunity for visual artists living and working in Kerry. The artists selected for KVAS are among the best visual arts practitioners in the county. Their inspiring work through a wide range of artistic media challenges us to explore and think.

Nine Kerry based artists have been selected for the 2018 Showcase:
Rebecca Carroll, Kathy Hurley, Marie Kelliher, Dermot McCarthy, Deirdre McKenna, Martine Moriarty, Jacqueline O'Driscoll, Tina Reed and Mieke Vanmechelen, all of whom create work that demonstrates the very best in contemporary visual arts practice.

I would like to thank Ian McDonagh, Art Officer for Cork County Council who curated this exhibition, the staff in our own Arts Office for organising this Showcase, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for presenting the exhibition in their wonderful foyer space, and the Arts Council for their continued financial support of this important initiative.

Moira Murrell
Chief Executive, Kerry County Council

The standard of visual arts practice in Kerry is extremely good. I think this is as a result of a number of things; the inspiration provided by the natural beauty of the county, the energy of the people, the international mix of creative practitioners in Kerry as well as the access to training and mentoring in visual arts offered nearby in both Cork and Limerick.

I was particularly taken with the range of media, subject matter and artistic angles conveyed through the work.

I wish all those selected every success with the Kerry Visual Artists' Showcase 2018 and look forward to viewing their work for many years to come.

Ian McDonagh
Arts Officer, Cork County Council

On the edge of the Atlantic, with dramatic mountains, hidden valleys, bog land, towns and villages all brimming with creativity Kerry is a place that enthralls residents and visitors. The dynamic flow of nationalities across this landscape is a constant source of inspiration to visual artists. Kerry County Council is aware of the value visual artists bring to their county, that their work is seen in the county and appreciated by people locally, nationally and internationally. The Arts Office, in consultation with the arts sector identified the need for a curated show of work from Kerry artists. This project is co-funded by Kerry County Council and the Arts Council, and aims to promote the variety of work and styles, all of such a high standard that exist in Kerry today. I would like to thank Ian McDonagh for his time and expertise during the short listing process for KVAS 2017 and 2018.

It is vital that people can engage with creative work practice in visual arts. Kerry County Council, supported by the Arts Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht are delighted to support this Kerry Visual Artists' Showcase in 2018. The standard of KVAS continues to demonstrate the breadth of talent based in Kerry and it is fitting that the exhibition opens on Culture Night when we celebrate the living culture and creativity of Kerry.

I would like to thank the Arts Office staff for their work in bringing this to fruition, all the artists who applied for the exhibition, and a special thank you to Roisín McGuigan for compiling the catalogue. I hope this showcase will prove effective in promoting awareness of the high standard of visual art in Kerry, the variety of work and the sheer skill of artists across the county. We are proud to have so many talented artists living in Kerry and wish all concerned continued success in their careers.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Kate Kennellly
Arts Officer, Kerry County Council

ARTISTS

Rebecca Carroll
Kathy Hurley
Marie Kelleher
Martine Moriarty
Dermot McCarthy
Deirdre McKenna
Jacqueline O’Driscoll
Tina Reed
Mieke Vanmechelen

REBECCA CARROLL

Rebecca Carroll is an internationally exhibited artist who was born in Listowel, Ireland in 1964. Having completed art college, Rebecca worked as a Graphic Designer in RTE for eight years. Since she began painting professionally in 1998, Rebecca has had 17 solo exhibitions and more than 50 group exhibitions. She published her first book of painting and poetry in 2004 with poet Mary Kennelly. In 2007 she had three different bodies of work in exhibitions in Washington, California and New York. In October of the same year, Rebecca completed eleven commissioned 6ft x 3ft paintings for the University of Limerick. As a result of this significant project she was the featured artist on the Irish television programme Nationwide. In 2008 Rebecca completed a 27 painting and print instillation in the trauma ward in University Hospital Limerick. In 2014 Rebecca was selected as one of five Irish artists who were offered a one-month residency at the prestigious Abu Dhabi 'Art Hub' in United Arab Emirates. A prolific abstract painter, her works are created spontaneously from her subconscious. Rebecca is married to David Griffin and they have two children Elliott and Ellen.

The essence of my work depicts nature and spirituality. The works are created spontaneously from my subconscious, self consciousness is left aside. When I enter my studio I have no conscious thought of what is about to be created. I simply reach for colours and the paintings emerge. I work to music, as music creates a mood and stirs my soul into action.

In my process of painting I feel as though I switch off from reality, and it becomes a time of prayer for me. I enjoy mark making with pallet knives, the end of paintbrushes any found object that can move paint around a canvas. I may squeeze the paint directly from the tube, or I may pour diluted oil paint directly onto the canvas. Occasionally I may use wax, glue, pastels and coloured pigment, with layers of oil paint to create texture. I employ abstract qualities of colour, texture and lines to create the pieces. In my process of painting I use copious amounts of titanium white oil paint as this creates a three-dimensional feel to the piece. I enjoy when people touch my work when dry.

The numbers three and seven have become significant symbols for me, three symbolising the Trinity and seven the most used number in the Bible. The titles of the pieces come later. I need time to process what I have created. There is usually a story that emerges from each piece, each painting having some facet of my self. The paintings are about bringing the energy of my artist's soul into a physical environment. When a work appeals to someone, I believe it is because there is a quality in that painting which is a reflection of the viewers self. They exist in order to connect with others. Painting for me is an expression of my true self, it is a spiritual voyage towards understanding. My challenge is to create with reverence and never to neglect the gift. I feel privileged to be an artist and consider it a noble ministry.

Facet of Heaven, Mixed Media on Canvas, 24” x 24”, 2016

KATHY HURLEY

Born in England, Kathy Hurley is a Kerry based artist. She studied Fine Art and Printmaking at Hastings College of Art and Design, European Art History at the University College Cork 2010. She holds a BA Honours Crawford College of Art (CIT) 2014. Kathy has exhibited in China, Ireland and England, in solo and group shows.

Living by the sea in Sussex and rural Kerry has given me a passion for the natural world. Working with a diverse range of materials to create sculptures, textural prints and charcoal drawings, my work continually explores the natural world whilst encompassing social issues including feminism, mythology, religion, capitalism, spirituality and mortality.

Two Lovers and the Sea, Digital Photograph on Hahnemühle Paper, 29 cm x 42 cm, 2018

MARIE KELLEHER

Marie Kelleher studied Art History and Painting to degree level and graduated with a BA (Honours) in Creative Arts.
Her paintings are held in private collections in Ireland and abroad, and she sells her paintings through the shared website artclick.ie.

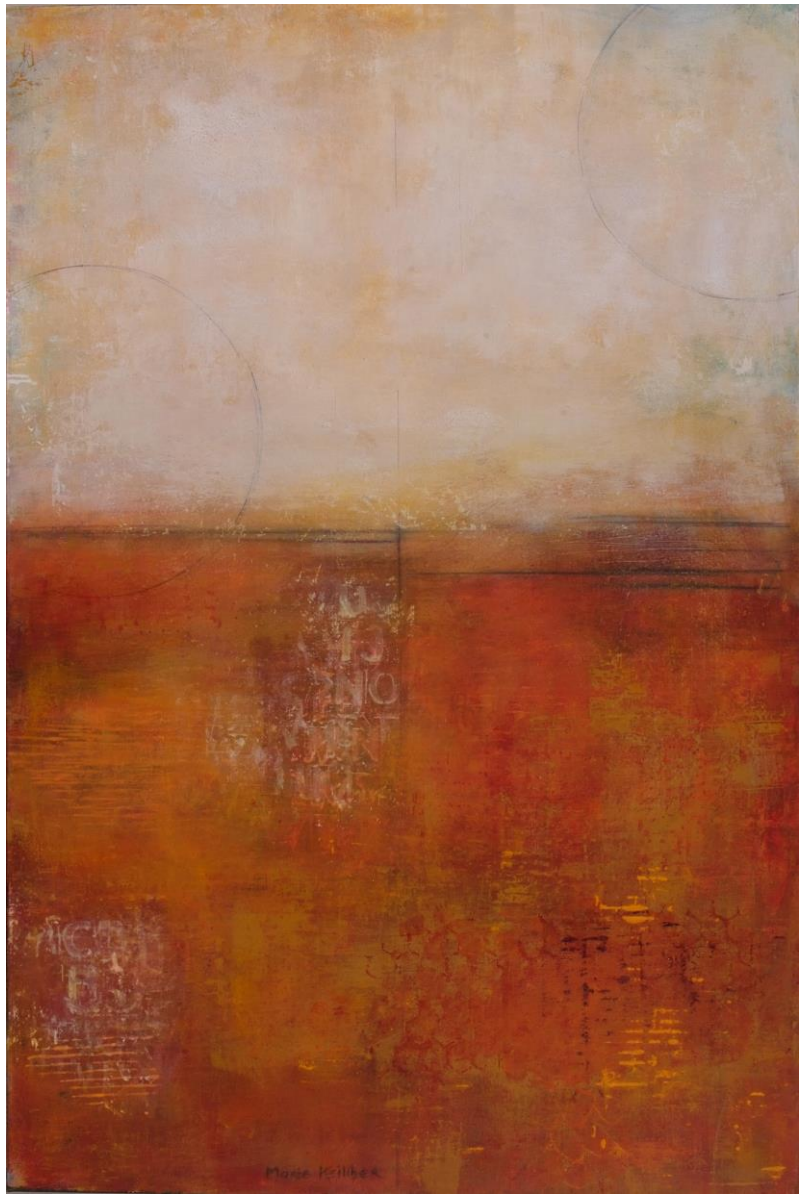
She has exhibited at the Bankside Gallery, London; Killarney Library; Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Killarney; Frank Lewis Gallery, Killarney; Tralee Library; Siamsa Tire, Tralee; Killarney Rotary Evening of Wine & Art; Samhlaíocht Gallery, Tralee.

My approach to painting is abstract but rooted in nature – forests, sea and lakes, especially natural vegetation as opposed to the cultivated variety, and places off the beaten path. The sea, which was part of my childhood environment, plays a large part in my paintings and expresses itself through colour, texture and movement.

All my paintings are the end of a process and are multi-layered, adding or removing parts of each layer to convey my ideas. I mainly paint with large brushes, palette knife and sponges. Sometimes I use leaves, twigs and mosses which I collect while exploring the landscape. Colour, movement and composition are of paramount importance to me and I like to capture the essence of a place in a non-representational way.

I have worked extensively with watercolour and oil as well as screen printing, but acrylic and mixed media (gels, inks, oil pastels to name a few) suit my painting style as they allow the necessary changes which sometimes have to be made for my multi–layered process.

Rustic Beauty, Mixed Media on Canvas, 90 cm x 60 cm , 2018



MARTINE MORIARTY

Martine Moriarty has a BA in Fine Art Honours from Bristol Art College. Her gallery is located in Gortadubha, Ballyferriter. www.itmustbedingle.com

Martine's paintings are in business and private collections throughout the world. She has a great following as a painter of landscape, animals and local events and is an illustrator of children's books. She also makes leaded glass and paints murals.

I live, work and run my gallery in the beautiful town land of Gortadubha, Ballyferriter, situated on the Slea Head Drive, west of Dingle town. I am surrounded by inspiration, sometimes too much. The landscape, local events, animals and flora feature greatly in my work. I have an affinity with nature and animals and I hope that the essence of my subjects' characters are captured for the viewer in my paintings. I paint with oils on canvas and use a blending technique to achieve a gentle and softening effect to my subjects. The use of color is of great importance to me and the Dingle Peninsula is my source of inspiration... whether it be Dingle town itself with its many colourful shops and houses or the Slea head Drive with its stone walls, surrounding fields with cattle and sheep grazing. Each day brings new inspiration from everyday happenings and situations.

My gallery is situated next to my house and studio. I can be commissioned to paint animal portraits. And have been asked to paint from a loved family pet to top Irish stallion horses. In my gallery I also show my painted glass and lead glass work. This can also be viewed along with my murals and interior design work in many businesses throughout Kerry.

I hope that my love for our beautiful land shines through in my paintings.

Dingle Hare, Oil on Canvas, 32" x 60", 2017

DERMOT MCCARTHY

Dermot McCarthy was born in Killarney in 1948 and lived in Killorglin until he was twelve. He went to work at Liebherr's factory at sixteen where he stayed for seventeen years. Initially, he painted landscapes until he developed a much more individual style, merging into surrealism which became permanent in his work. He works from his gallery in Barry's Lane, High Street, Killarney.

Essentially I work without preconceived ideas, like a blind person with the white walking stick I enter the landscape of the subconscious step by step. Like a jigsaw puzzle piece by piece piecing it all together. Titles integrate with themes. Some say art is a God given gift. I don't disagree, let's wait and see.

Acrobat's Hat Strewn With Straw For A Softer Landing On The Moon, Watercolour, 29 cm x 40 cm, 2010

THE VOYAGE
Dearbhail Mc Carthy
2010

DEIRDRE MCKENNA

From Dingle, McKenna graduated from the Crawford College of Art. She has been awarded many bursaries, residencies, scholarships and commissions over the years. Her invitation to collaborate on a project for Impact 10 – Encuentro: International Multidisciplinary Printmaking Conference 2018 in Santander, Spain has established her as a noteworthy international contemporary printmaker.

Is ón nDaingean í McKenna. Cáilíoch í ó Choláiste Ealaíne Crawford i gCorcaigh. Taispeánach a saothar go forleathan ó shin agus tá mórán sparánachtaí, scoláireachtaí agus coimisiúin bronnta uirthi. Tá aitheantas suntasach á bhaint amach aici taréis bheith roghnaithe i gcóir tógra Impact 10 Encuentro: International Multidisciplinary Printmaking Conference, Santander sa Spáinn.

Excerpt from the English translation of An Béal Bocht, -The Poor Mouth by Myles na gCopaleen (Flann O'Brien)
"However, concerning the house where I was born, there was a fine view from it. It had two windows with a door between them. Looking out from the right-hand window, there below was the bare hungry countryside of the Rosses and Gweedore; Bloody Foreland yonder and Tory Island far away out, swimming like a great ship where the sky dips into the sea. Looking our of the door, you could see the West of County Galway with a good portion of the rocks of Conemara, Aranmore in the ocean out from you with the small bright houses of Kilronan, clear and visible, if your eyesight good and the Summer had come. From the window on the left you could see the Great Blasket, bare and forbidding as a horrible other-worldly eel, lying languidly on the wave-tops; over yonder was Dingle with its houses close together."

Sliocht ón leabhar An Béal Bocht le Myles na gCopaleen

> *"Ach dála an tí inar rugadh mé I dtús mo shaol, bhí radharc álainn uaidh. Dhá fhuinneoig bheaga a bhí sa tigh, an doras eatarthu. Ag féachaint duit amach fuinneogna láimhe deise, b'iúd thíos uait dúiche mhaolocrach na Rosann agus Gaoth Dobhair, Cnoc Fola thall agus Oileán Thóraigh amuigh ag smámh mar long mhór I bhfad I gcéin go taibhseach sa bhall a thig an spéir le farraige. Ag féachaint amach an doras duit, chífá iarthar Chontae na Gaillimhe, slios maith de carraigeacha Chonamara, agus amuihg uait san fharraige Árainn Mhór, tithe beaga geala Chill Rónán soiléir sofheicthe dá mbeadh radharc go géar agat agus lá samhraidh ann. Ón fhuinneoig chlí chífeá an Blaoscaod Mór go lom doicheallach mar a bheadh eascú uafásach neamh-shaolta ann, ina luí go tláith ar bharr na dtonn. An Daingean abhus, na tithe ann cruinnithe go dlúth le chéile."*

An Tig s'Againne I, Prionta digiteach (digital print), 35cm x 33cm, 2018

JACQUELINE O'DRISCOLL

Jacqueline O'Driscoll is a graduate of NCAD. She is represented by the Lavit Gallery in Cork and has exhibited widely in Ireland and abroad.

Recent exhibitions include Island-Oilean, Sarah Walker Gallery, Co Cork. Celebrating being Irish, CASe, The Absence of Realism, Lavit Gallery, Cork Contemporary Irish Art, Wren Gallery, Oxford. She has received bursaries from Kerry and Cork County Councils and residencies in Cill Rialaig Artists Retreat and Cape Clear Island.

Her work is held in the collections of the Office of Public Works, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, National Westminster bank. She is currently a member of Backwater Artists Studios, Cork. She is a member of Visual Artists Ireland, NIVAL, and an associate member of Cork Printmakers.

In my work the iconography of landscape provides the starting point for my investigations in paint and mixed media.

I observe and abstract the patterns and shapes of the land and the marks of human history to make visual 'maps' of these concrete, but also intuitive and imaginary, landscapes.

The elemental nature of the observed landscape, with its layers of history and memory, is reflected in my process, which often involves sanding and scoring to reveal previous stages of the painting.

Coastal Path I, Mixed Media on Board, 56 cm x 56 cm, 2018

TINA REED

Tina was born in London in 1966 and studied Textile Design at Leeds University. She completed a large mural in Killarney town centre for the Tidy Towns this year, and exhibits three times a year at the Royal Dublin Society. She also runs regular night classes.

I use an 'impasto' technique in my paintings, where oil paint is layered and textured to build up a tactile three-dimensional surface, working in an Impressionist style. I use the palette knife to create spontaneous effects bringing movement and life to my work. Strong colours and contrast generate energy and vigour that is a common theme in all my paintings from landscapes to florals, equestrian and sporting paintings.

Deenagh Lodge in Spring, Killarney National Park, Oil on Board, 40 cm x 40 cm, 2017

Tina Reed '17

MIEKE VANMECHELEN

Mieke Vanmechelen (b. 1974) is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, BA. and Crawford College of Art & Design, MA. She is Kerry Filmmaker in Residence 2017/18 and has most recently shown work at the Leyden Gallery, London at Solas Nua, Dupont Underground, Washington D.C. (2018) the Kerry Film Festival and Dingle International Film Festival (2017).

The intention of the works is to examine the weight of responsibility carried through the generations, most specifically from father to son. Shepherding is one of the oldest occupations, dating back some 5000 years and the special relationship between man and animal has tribal, spiritual as well as deep religious overtones. These images also evoke a pastoral world of rural innocence as the shepherd often represents the goodness of a life close to nature, poignant at these times of global uncertainty.

Self (Making), HD film, looped with sound, 2017

Thanks to

Exhibition Curator Ian McDonagh
Department of Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht

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Kerry County Council and the Arts Council

An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht