

Press Release - 23rd February 2012

Culture Ireland, in partnership with the Arts Council, is pleased to announce the appointment of the team who will represent Ireland at the Architecture Biennale in Venice.

Ireland at Venice is an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council. The Commissioner, Elizabeth Francis and Curator, John Mc Laughlin were selected through open competitive processes and have chosen to deliver a presentation on the dynamic Irish practice, Heneghan Peng Architects.

Heneghan Peng Architects are currently working across four continents on a wide range of competition-winning projects. Several of these are in sensitive and symbolic sites that include three UNESCO World Heritage sites.

John McLaughlin curator said *"Heneghan Peng exemplify the globally networked ways of making architecture that are now possible, and as an emerging international practice they demonstrate the direction in which Irish architecture can evolve in the future"*

Both Elizabeth Francis, who is currently based in Bologna and John McLaughlin have considerable international experience and have had direct involvement in delivery of cultural projects both at home and abroad. Through this presentation in Venice they aim to highlight the global reach of Irish architects and the world-class work they have produced.

Eugene Downes, CEO of Culture Ireland said *"The Venice Architecture Biennale is the greatest world showcase for presentation of architectural talent and through the presentation of Heneghan Peng we will be afforded the opportunity to promote the high quality, dynamism and strong reputation of Irish architects around the world."*

Orlaith McBride, Director of the Arts Council, said *"The Arts Council is once again proud to support Ireland's representation at the Venice Architecture Biennale. The work of Heneghan Peng demonstrates how Irish architecture is currently at the forefront of international practice. Ireland's representation at Venice this year provides our country with another opportunity to showcase the breadth and richness of the arts in Ireland to international audiences."*

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Notes for Editor:

Past Irish Participation International Exhibition of Architecture Venice

2010 12th International Architecture Exhibition *Exhibit:* of de Blacam and Meagher. *Commissioner:* Irish Architecture Foundation (Nathalie Weadick) *Curator:* Tom dePaor, Peter Maybury, Alice Casey and Cian Deegan *Participants:* of de Blacam and Meagher.

2008 11th International Architecture Exhibition *Exhibit:* The Lives of Spaces *Joint Commissioner/Curator:* Nathalie Weadick and Hugh Campbell *Participants:* Hasset Ducatez, Simon Walker + Patrick Lynch, McCullough Mulvin, Gerry Cahill Architects, O'Donnell + Tuomey, dePaor architects, TAKA, Dara McGrath (in assoc with Robinson McIlwane Architects), Grafton Architects.

2006 10th International Architecture Exhibition *Exhibit:* SubUrban to SuperRural *Commissioner:* Shane O'Toole (for IAF) *Deputy Commissioner:* Ciarán O Gaora *Curators:* Michelle Fagan, Paul Kelly and Gary Lysaght of FKL architects. *Participants:* Boyd Cody Architects, Bucholz McEvoy Architects, dePaor architects, FKL architects, Henchion + Reuter Architects, heneghan.peng.architects, MacGabhann Architects, ODOS architects, Dominic Stevens Architects, Constantin Gurdgiev, Frank McDonald, Jennifer Keegan, City Models.

2004 9th International Architecture Exhibition *Exhibit:* Letterfrack – Transformation of an Institution *Commissioner:* Shane O'Toole, *Deputy Commissioner:* Paul Kelly *Architects:* O'Donnell and Tuomey.

2002 8th International Architecture Exhibition *Exhibit:* Limerick County Hall *Commissioner:* Raymund Ryan, *Architects:* Bucholz|McEvoy Architects.

2000 7th International Architecture Exhibition *Exhibit:* N^o *Commissioner:* Raymund Ryan, *Architect:* Tom dePaor.

Biographies

Elizabeth Francis was born in Co. Donegal, Ireland. She studied architecture at University College Dublin and graduated with honours in 1993. Based in Bologna in Italy, she has studied and worked in Italy, France, Ireland and the UK.

In 2010 she founded **atelier Francis** to pursue her interests in architecture, art and research. **Atelier Francis** cultivates cultural links internationally, curating events and exhibitions and in 2011 aF brought the work of 14 Irish visual artists to Italy for a major environmental sculpture trail.

Prior to this she was partner in Mario Cucinella Architects in Paris and Bologna, an award-winning practice at the forefront of contemporary design whose work has been internationally recognised for its architectural, environmental and technological quality. She developed research and design in the field of renewable energies and brought this work to an international audience with exhibitions, publications and seminars in Europe, Asia and the USA.

www.atelierfrancis.it

John McLaughlin is a practicing architect who also lectures in architecture in UCC and UCD. His work covers a range of projects integrating architecture with urbanism, landscape and art. He is interested in developing an expanded field for architecture through interdisciplinary work and has collaborated in this with other architects, engineers, landscape designers and visual artists. Before founding his design practice in 2010, John was director of architecture with Dublin Docklands Authority where he directed many groundbreaking projects including the Grand Canal Square development. He is a graduate of UCD. After college he worked in Paris and London for over a decade on major cultural and civic projects before returning to settle in Ireland in 2003. He has served on many design juries including European 10 and the RIAI Silver Medal 2011. He was a member of the advisory panel on the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015.

heneghan peng architects (hparc) was founded in 1999 in New York by Roisin Heneghan and Shih-Fu Peng and relocated to Dublin in 2001. The work of the hparc is concerned with site, understanding site as a physical, cultural, environmental and economic construct. Working at a range of scales from domestic to landscape and urban masterplan, the practice interrogates, draws from and rethinks the site.

Establishing a practise through competition, the first “real” project for hparc won an award was the “Arts Heritage Gaeltacht and the Islands” Departmental Headquarters building where they were the runner-up. In 2000 they won the competition for the Kildare County Council Civic Offices in Ireland subsequent to which they moved back to Dublin.

Based in Dublin, the work of the practise remains international. In 2003, hparc won its most significant competition for the Grand Museum of Egypt on the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Great Pyramids, with 1557 submissions. In 2005, hparc won the Giant’s Causeway Visitors’ Centre international open competition, the second World Heritage Site project to be awarded to the practise. Other projects include the Central Park Bridges at the London 2012 Olympics, the primary link between North & South Park, the new School of Architecture and Library for the University of Greenwich, the Neubau Zentrales Museums Archiv for Klassik Stiftung Weimar and the Palestinian Museum Hub at Bir Zeit University close to Ramallah.

Both Shih-Fu Peng and Roisin Heneghan retain strong connections with academic discourse and have taught at Cornell School of Architecture, MIT School of Architecture, Harvard University Graduate School of Design and University College Dublin School of Architecture.

Ireland at Venice Partners

Culture Ireland is the state agency for the promotion of Irish arts worldwide, working under the aegis of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Culture Ireland creates and supports opportunities for Irish artists to present their work at strategic international festivals, venues, showcases and arts markets. The agency comprises a board appointed by the Minister and an executive staff led by the Chief Executive. *www.cultureireland.gov.ie*

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon is the national agency for funding, developing and promoting the arts in Ireland. *www.artsCouncil.ie*