

## **Minister Humphreys announces €600k in funding for Irish arts globally through Culture Ireland**

The Minister for Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD, is delighted to announce approval for the award of over €600,000 by Culture Ireland to 85 Irish artists and arts organisations to present their work worldwide later in 2016 and 2017.

The projects, covering circus, dance, film, literature, music, theatre and the visual arts, will enable Irish artists to showcase and export their work to over 28 different countries around the globe.

### **Speaking today Minister Humphreys:**

“The support awarded by Culture Ireland to Irish artists offers the opportunity to build on Ireland’s cultural connections. Through this support increasing numbers of worldwide audiences will experience the strength and diversity of Ireland's artists as the interest in Irish artistic excellence continues to grow internationally.

“Supporting Irish culture on the world stage is one of the key priorities identified in the Culture 2025 Framework Policy, which I published last week. Culture Ireland provides vital funding to Irish artists, helping them to develop relationships with their international counterparts and grow their career both at home and abroad. I wish all of the travelling artists being funded under this round of support the very best as they go forward and represent Ireland on the world stage.”

Highlights include CoisCéim Dance Theatre touring ‘The Wolf and Peter’ across Australia next summer, Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre new production of ‘Swan Lake/Loch na hEala’ in a number of European countries, visual artist Gerard Byrne exhibiting 'A late evening in the future' at the Australian Centre of Contemporary Art, Melbourne later this year, Druid’s production of Martin McDonagh’s ‘The Beauty Queen of Leenane’ touring in the US in January to March 2017 and Fidget Feet presenting two shows 'Hang On' and 'Furdu Fjadrir/Strange Feathers' in Denmark, The Faroe Islands and Italy next spring.

**ENDS**