



Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann

2019

MISSION STATEMENT

Culture Ireland promotes and advances Irish arts worldwide, strengthening Ireland's cultural profile and global reputation and increasing career opportunities for Irish artists globally

Cover photo: *Amphi* (detail) Eva Rothschild,
Installation from *The Shrinking Universe*, Irish Pavilion,
Biennale Arte 2019 @ Robert Glowacki

Hard to Be Soft: A Belfast Prayer –
Prime Cut/Oona Doherty. Pic: Luca Truffarelli



NOTE FROM MINISTER MADIGAN



Minister Josepha Madigan with Christine Sisk

Throughout the year with the support of Culture Ireland, Irish artists have travelled worldwide and developed new audiences and gained new contracts worldwide. This report speaks for itself in terms of the talent of our artists, the diversity of their work and level of commitment and the extent of their reach.

At the beginning of 2019, I appointed five Cultural Ambassadors to work with Culture Ireland to raise the public focus on Ireland's arts and culture globally. It was an important moment, marking the beginning of Culture Ireland's implementation of the Government's *Global Ireland 2025* initiative.

Irish Arts Center NY has enjoyed a long collaboration with Culture Ireland. In September, I visited New York and saw first-hand the development of this flagship 21st century facility with Government support which will ensure its place as a

destination and gateway for Irish artists across a range of disciplines to reach New York and U.S. audiences.

At the *Imagining Ireland* concert at the Barbican in January, which concluded the Culture Ireland GB18 Programme, I announced Government support for the redevelopment of the London Irish Centre in Camden. This cultural hub will enable Culture Ireland to further develop Ireland's cultural ties with Britain at a time when Ireland-Britain relations are undergoing changes in a European context.

I thank the Expert Advisory Committee and staff of Culture Ireland and applaud all the artists who have presented their work on the international stage in 2019.

Josepha Madigan, T.D.

Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORTING ARTISTS

Culture Ireland

**creates
opportunities**

through showcasing
Irish artists at home
and abroad and
supports artists to
present their work
worldwide through our
regular grants system.

Before – Pat Kinevane/Fishamble: The New Play Company.
Pic: Patrick Redmond



NOTE FROM CULTURE IRELAND DIRECTOR



Installation view, Eva Rothschild, *The Shrinking Universe*, Irish Pavilion, Biennale Arte 2019 @ Robert Glowacki

With a Government commitment to increase the impact of Irish culture globally under *Global Ireland* and an allocation of €4.5 million, Culture Ireland reached a record number of audience members worldwide in 2019.

There were many highlights in 2019 with Irish artists winning awards and achieving critical acclaim across the globe. This review offers a snapshot of Culture Ireland's 2019 activities across artforms, giving just a sense of the range of our work and the reach of our artists. The true impact of Irish artists and their engagement with audiences globally could not be fully reflected in printed form.

Culture Ireland further developed our showcase programme, presenting Irish artists at global industry events and international marketplaces. We invited over 200 international programmers to

engage with artists in Ireland. Our strategic approach created more global career opportunities for Irish artists. It also means that in 2020 and beyond global audiences will continue to experience the work of Irish artists in key international venues and festivals.

Culture Ireland appreciates our relationships with all our international presenting partners with whom we work closely. The reach and impact of Irish arts continues to increase worldwide. Ultimately this is because of the talent of our artists. We are truly grateful to you all for your commitment to share your work with the wider world.

Christine Sisk
Director, Culture Ireland



Culture Ireland supported:

453

PROJECTS

in

56

COUNTRIES

to over

6 MILLION

AUDIENCE MEMBERS

219

**INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMERS
TO ENGAGE WITH
ARTISTS IN IRELAND**

21

SHOWCASES

with

76

ARTISTS/COMPANIES

CULTURE IRELAND'S 2019 SEE HERE PROGRAMME

Engaging with international presenters and delegates is key to our mission of promoting Irish artists and building their audiences worldwide. We bring artists together with delegates, presenters and promoters so that they can see and experience what our artists have to offer.

Showcase Artist Timmy Creed (*Spliced*) at the Culture Ireland – Global Ireland Conference in January



Culture Ireland supports over 200 programmers, presenters, festival directors and other industry professionals to travel to Ireland to these festivals

Tradfest

Dublin International Film Festival

New Music Dublin

Choice Music Prize

Young At Art

Dublin Dance Festival

Dalkey Book Festival

FreshStreet

Carlow Arts Festival

Galway Film Fleadh

Galway International Arts Festival

Spraoui

Information Toolbox at
Dublin Fringe Festival

International Theatre eXchange
at Dublin Theatre Festival

Ireland Music Week

Baboró International Arts Festival

National Circus Festival

Cork Film Festival

Fundacao Bienal de Sao Paolo

Culture Ireland thanks our presenting partners

**Baboró International
Arts Festival**

**Contemporary
Music Centre**

Dublin Dance Festival

First Music Contact

Galway Film Fleadh

**Irish Street Art, Circus
& Spectacle Network
(ISACS)**

Irish Theatre Institute

Tradfest

Young At Art

ARCHITECTURE

Supporting Artists

Freemarket, the exhibition which represented Ireland at the 2018 **Venice Architecture Biennale**, an initiative of Culture Ireland, in partnership with the Arts Council tours to market towns in Ireland, July to September

Thomas O'Brien's *Radical Arcadia* is presented by Catalyst Arts, Zaratan – Arte Contemporânea, **Portugal**, October

John McLaughlin Architects presents *Accessing the National Archives of Ireland* at Works+ WORDS Architecture Biennale, **Copenhagen** in November



CIRCUS, STREET ART & SPECTACLE

Creating Opportunities

Ireland is represented at Firatárrega, the international meeting point for the circus and street art genres in Spain by an Irish delegation led by Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network

International delegates supported to attend Spraoi, Waterford and The National Festival Circus Ireland, Kerry and FreshStreet in Galway to attend festival events and showcases, leading to further growth for Irish Street Art, Circus and Spectacle worldwide

Supporting Artists

Lords of Strut tour
Australia, February – March

Fidget Feet Aerial Dance performs at The National Eisteddfod of Wales, Llanrwst, **Wales**, August

Fanzini Productions presents Ballet Poulet at South Korean Street Arts Festivals **Korea**, September – October

Ballet Poulet – Fanzini Productions



DANCE

Creating Opportunities

17 international festival and venue directors supported to attend Originate 2019 – a showcase for new and recent Irish choreographic work and other Irish shows within the Dublin Dance Festival

Body Language by CoisCéim Dance Theatre performs at Dance Base as part of Culture Ireland's Edinburgh Showcase, August

Supporting Artists

Teac Damsa's Production of *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala* opens at the Perth Festival, kicking off an extensive tour which includes New York, Minneapolis, Ottawa, Los Angeles, Michigan, and North Carolina

Prime Cut presents Oona Doherty's *Magma: The Birth of A Cult and Hard to be Soft: A Belfast Prayer* in Paris, Pau, Geneva and at the Edinburgh International Festival

John Scott Dance tours *Totem Ancestor* and *Solo from Second Hand* by Merce Cunningham at Théâtre de la Ville, Paris, October and *Actions, Night Wandering* and *Totem Ancestor* to Washington, D.C., US

Actions –
John Scott Dance.
Pic: Chris Nash



FILM

Creating Opportunities

Film programmers are supported to attend the Galway Film Fleadh, a key festival premiering Irish film and gathering point for Irish film festivals across the globe, as well as to Dublin International Film Festival and Cork Film Festival, with a priority of programming Irish work



Supporting Artists

Through its annual support of Irish Film Institute International, Culture Ireland facilitates:

138 Irish film events to over **35,000** audience members with over **650** screenings of **230** Irish films

Culture Ireland supports the following Irish Film Festivals to present a strong range of Irish films:

Annual Irish American Movie Hooley
 Australia Irish Film Festival
 Belgrade Irish Festival
 Capital Irish Film Festival, Washington D.C.
 Chicago Irish Film Festival
 Irish Film Festa Rome
 Irish Film Festival Boston
 Irish Film London
 Moscow Irish Film Festival
 San Francisco Irish Film Festival
 Toronto Irish Film Festival

Irish film producers and artists attend screenings of their films at:

Berlin Film Festival
 SXSW Film Festival
 Tribeca Film Festival
 Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival
 Cannes Film Festival
 Venice International Film Festival
 Toronto International Film Festival
 London Film Festival

Creating Opportunities

Children's Books Ireland lead Ireland's delegation at the **Bologna Children's Book Fair**. A record-breaking **20** Irish authors and illustrators attend including Ireland's three children's laureates

Literature Ireland hosts the Ireland Stand at the **London Book Fair** and meets **50** international publishers to expand theirs of Irish literature in translation. Literature Ireland also leads Irish book fair attendance at Frankfurt and Beijing

Culture Ireland's partnership with Literature Ireland in the international promotion of literature facilitates **78** translation grants for works by Irish writers into 29 languages. Highlights include the Chinese editions of Sally Rooney's *Conversations with Friends* and Colin Barrett's *Young Skins*, Sebastian Barry's *Days without End* and Bernard MacLaverty's *Midwinter Break* in German, Mike McCormack's *Solar Bones* in Greek, four Brazilian editions of plays by Tom Murphy



Supporting Artists

Irish writers are represented at key international literary festivals:

Auckland Writers Festival

AWP Conference & Bookfair, Portland, Oregon

Bay Area Book Festival, San Francisco

Dunedin Writers and Readers Festival, New Zealand

Edinburgh International Book Festival

Festival of World Literature Croatia

Goa Arts & Literary Festival, India

Hong Kong International Literary Festival

International Literary Festival, Nicosia, Cyprus

Melbourne Writers Festival, Australia

Miami Festival, US

San Patrizio Livorno Festival, Italy

Sydney Writers' Festival

Vent d'Irlande, France

VERSeFest, Canada

Vilenica International Literary Festival, Slovenia

Poetry Ireland and the Irish Writers Centre curate special appearances by Irish writers and poets at Bualadh BOSTon and the American Writers Museum in Chicago.

Creating Opportunities

Culture Ireland supports **11 international delegates** to travel to Dublin to attend showcases at Tradfest

Largest ever delegation travels to **Folk Alliance International in Montreal**, where **8 Irish bands** showcase

Dublin Guitar Quartet is **the first Irish act to be showcased at Classical NEXT!**, Rotterdam

At the **Milwaukee Irish Fest**, attracting more than **130,000** visitors, **Galway 2020** and **Tradfest** host showcase stages

Ireland Music Week hosts 66 international delegates, **the largest number of music representatives ever supported to engage with 50 emerging bands**

The *Music from Ireland* programme, delivered by First Music Contact and supported by Culture Ireland enables 58 Irish bands to present at the following events:

Eurosonic
South by Southwest
The Great Escape
Primavera Pro
A2IM Indie Week
Reeperbahn
Airwaves
Mondo NYC
M for Montreal



Supporting Artists

Fontaines D.C., one of 14 Irish bands showcasing at Eurosonic, becomes the most booked showcase at the event. Subsequently nominated for an NME Award and performed on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* in the US

David Keenan rounds up a busy year of touring with performances across the USA and Canada including:
Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, Boston, Washington, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Tempe, San Diego, Oakland, Seattle, Portland, Vancouver, New York City

Irish Baroque Orchestra performs at Les Lumières Festival, Helsinki, Finland

Irish Chamber Orchestra tours the USA including a landmark performance at Carnegie Hall, **New York**

The Second Violinist by Enda Walsh and Donnacha Dennehy, co-produced by Irish National Opera and Landmark Productions has its Dutch premiere at Dutch National Opera, **Amsterdam**, in March

Irish bands, *We Banjo 3* and *Sharon Shannon* perform as part of a Celtic Christmas tour throughout **Japan**

Creating Opportunities

Culture Ireland's Edinburgh Showcase Programme includes **8 productions at key Edinburgh venues as well as over fifteen Irish authors at the Edinburgh International Books Festival**

Pat Kinevane is awarded a Herald Archangel Award to mark his **'sustained and excellent contribution'** to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. He has been part of the Culture Ireland Edinburgh Showcase programme since 2011

Gina Moxley receives **Fringe First and Herald Angel awards** for her show *The Patient Gloria* which was produced by the Abbey in association with Pan Pan Theatre Company and presented at the Traverse Theatre

In partnership with Irish Theatre Institute, Culture Ireland hosts **20 delegates seeking to programme Irish work** at the Information Toolbox as part of the Dublin Fringe Festival

At International Theatre eXchange, in partnership with the Irish Theatre Institute, five artists present their work at **The Pitching Initiative for international programmers**

Cahoots NI showcases its production of *Penguins* at IPAY (International Performing Arts for Youth) for the third time in Philadelphia. This results in **US and China tours**



THEATRE

Supporting Artists

The Abbey Theatre Production of *Two Pints* by Roddy Doyle tours to eight venues across the **United States**

Dead Centre tours to the Hong Kong Arts Festival with performances of *Hamnet* and *Chekhov's First Play*. Further performances by the company feature in **Great Britain, USA** and **China**

CLASS by David Horan and Iseult Golden opens at the Bush Theatre, **London** following its Culture Ireland Edinburgh Showcase in 2018

ANU Productions becomes the first Irish Company to feature at the **Manchester** International Festival with its production of *The Anvil* marking the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre

DruidShakespeare's *Richard III* opens at Lincoln Center's White Light Festival, **New York, US**

Rooms by Enda Walsh, presented by Galway International Arts Festival, has its British premiere at the Barbican Centre, **London**

Creating Opportunities

The Irish Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition in Venice opens with Ireland represented by Eva Rothchild's exhibition *The Shrinking Universe* curated by Mary Cremin. Ireland at Venice is an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council. The exhibition is opened by Cultural Ambassador, Yvonne Farrell

A large number of Irish visual artists including Damien Flood, Dorothy Cross, Gerard Byrne, Willie Doherty, Isabel Nolan and Áine McBride are represented through Irish Galleries at key artfairs such as Art Basel and VOLTA Art Fair in Switzerland, Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Brussels, Frieze London



VISUAL ARTS

Supporting Artists

A solo exhibition of Jeanette Doyle's pictorial and video work is held at the AC Institute, Manhattan, **New York**, along with presentations by The Enquiry and The Aesthetics Group

CIACLA - Contemporary Irish Art Center Los Angeles presented by MART opens in **Los Angeles**, featuring a broad programme of artists from across art forms

Brian Maguire's *Scenes of Absence (Escenarios de Ausencia)* opens at Museo de Arte de Ciudad Juarez, **Mexico** and at Rubin Centre, **El Paso**, Texas followed by shows at the UN Headquarters, **New York** and American University Museum, **Washington DC**

fair is foul & foul is fair, Aideen Barry & Alice Maher, curated by Dr. Tina Kinsella at American University Museum at the Katzen, NYU NYC, NYU DC, VCU Virginia & The Film Makers co-op Manhattan NYC

GLOBAL IRELAND 2025: SUPPORTING IRISH CENTRES

Culture Ireland supports the annual arts programme in the following Irish Cultural Centres:

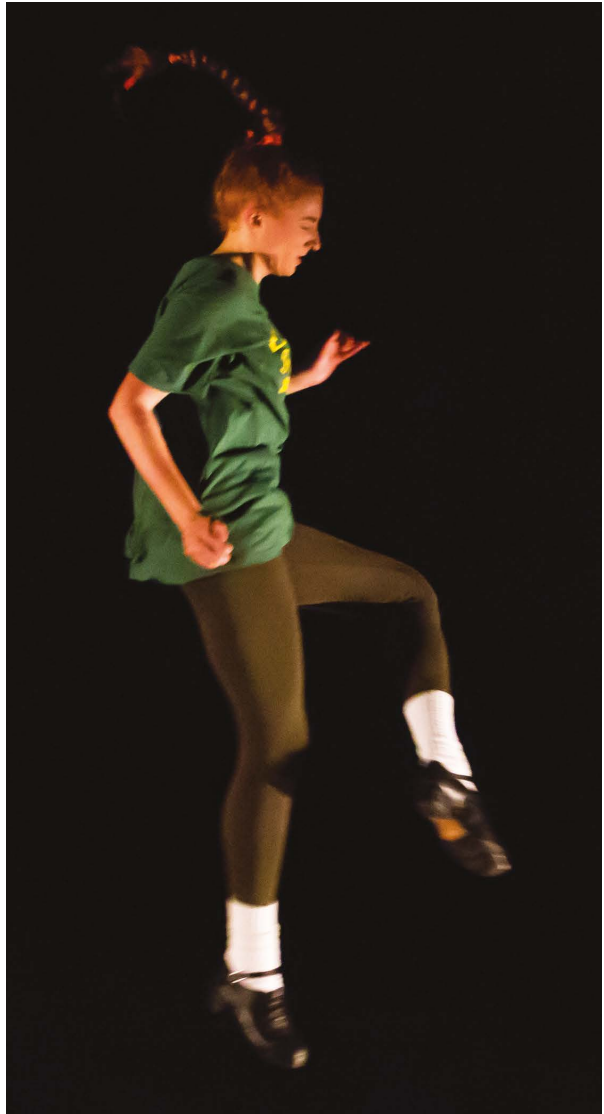
Irish Arts Center, New York presents a strong multi-disciplinary arts programme including musician David Keenan and Declan O'Rourke presenting his masterwork, *Chronicles of the Great Irish Famine*.

Margaret McAuliffe's *The Humours of Bandon*, produced by Fishamble, presents as part of a wider tour to regional Irish centers around New York, Long Island and Connecticut.

Colin Dunne's dance theatre homage to Tommy Potts, *Concert*, is co-presented at the Baryshnikov Arts Centre.

A strong showcase of contemporary dance, curated by John Scott is co-presented at the legendary 92Y Fridays at Noon Series.

The Humours of Bandon –
Fishamble: The New Play Company/
Margaret McAuliffe. Pic: Maria Falconer



GLOBAL IRELAND 2025: SUPPORTING IRISH CENTRES

The **Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris 2019** programme is presented over **208** days to audiences of almost **25,000** and includes exhibitions, visual arts events, concerts, films, talks, performing arts events and 3 days of a cultural think-tank.

Among the highlights are The Gloaming at l'Athénée Theatre, while Tomi Ungerer's solo exhibition draws almost **9,000** visitors. A very well attended Fête de la Musique takes place on mid-Summer's day with **5,000** visitors.

In the Autumn, two jazz concerts are presented at the JazzColors festival at the Hungarian Institute.



Saint Patrick's Day.
Pic: Julien Mouffron-Gardner

GLOBAL IRELAND 2025: SUPPORTING IRISH CENTRES

A growing programme at **London Irish Centre, Camden** reached new territory in 2019 with the presentation of some of the best emerging Irish voices.

The highlights include the London debuts of poet Natalya O'Flaherty, very special gigs from Inni-K, Grainne Hunt and The Scratch, the return of poet Stephen James Smith, theatre from Kevin Toolis and John Connors and another London debut from Louise O'Connor's innovative Céilí Dance Project.

The Centre also presents more established artists such as Imelda May, Gavin James, Maverick Sabre, Gemma Hayes, Blindboy, Lisa Lambe and Foy Vance.



GLOBAL IRELAND 2025: INITIATIVES



2019 commences with a Culture Ireland – Global Ireland Conference attended by over **250** delegates in Dublin Castle. The conference sets out to engage with key stakeholders in the arts world and debate how Ireland can strategically strengthen and advance its renowned distinctive global reputation for creativity

Imagining Ireland at the Barbican concludes the Culture Ireland GB18 programme with a full to capacity concert in London featuring Irish and British artists. The Culture Ireland GB18 programme reaches over **530,000** live audiences at nearly 300 venues, **200** of which are hosting Culture Ireland-supported work for the first time.

The tradition and practice of Irish Harping is given official international recognition by being inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE ROLE OF CULTURAL AMBASSADOR



On 7th January 2019, Minister Josepha Madigan appointed Paul Muldoon as a Cultural Ambassador alongside Yvonne Farrell, Martin Hayes, Shelley McNamara and Ruth Negga

The idea of being a Cultural Ambassador is not one to which I naturally gravitate. I'm more inclined to think of art as being perfectly able to put in a good word for itself, to hoist a canvas sail and set out unapologetically under its own colors, to toot its own horn.

There are, however, one or two elements in the definition of an ambassador which are relevant to our present predicament and which suggest that the arts might need spokespersons. The first defining

characteristic is that the term refers to "a diplomatic agent accredited to a foreign government as the resident representative of his or her own government." Built into the idea of being an ambassador, therefore, is that one is functioning on something other than one's own turf.

The fact is that a familiarity with, and any sense of the efficacy of, art are indeed foreign to most people in most regions and realms. Poetry, for example, is too often seen as "other," as

being non-naturalized. Perversely, then, the ambassador's main job is to make poetry seem matter-of-fact, ordinary, no less vital to the infrastructure of a healthy society than plumbing, psychiatric care, potato-pollination.

In addition to flying a flag on soil that is always "foreign," I'm very proud that the flag that myself and my fellow ambassadors will be flying is that of the Republic of Ireland. Ireland is now one of the most free-thinking, forward-looking, and fearlessly self-confident nations of the world. That self-confidence stems not from jingoism but from a double sense of justice and joy. Ireland now represents not the building of walls, nor the drawing up of borders, nor any form of banishment (internal or otherwise), but a demonstrable wish to take its place as a catalyst among nations. This is an era when inclusiveness rather than exclusiveness is to be valorized.

I am particularly keen to take that message from Ireland to my adopted homeland – the United States. Who would have guessed, thirty years ago, that the US might have anything to learn from Ireland's example? It's clear that Ireland has as much to teach in 2019 as it did in 819, when the influence of the Irish monastic tradition extended from Bangor to Bobbio. The term "ambasadóir na hÉireann" is itself an instructive one, since it derives from Anglo-Norman *ambassadeur*, *ambassadeur* and is connected to the Latin *ambasiator*. The Latin *ambactus* ("vassal, servant, dependent") is thought to derive from the Gaulish *ambaxtos* ("servant") and the Proto-Celtic *ambaxtos* ("servant").

I've had occasion recently to be thinking about the slip jig, *Bogadh Faoi Shúsa* (also known as "The Kid on the Mountain"), and was reminded that the ghost of the Irish term *bogadh*

("moving about") is quite literally at the heart of the word *ambassador*. This is emblematic for me of the interconnectedness of all things and all peoples, an idea I look forward to promoting as I set out in the service of my fellow Irish artists, be they the fiddler Kevin Burke playing "The Kid on the Mountain" or the painter Brian Bourke, or the poet Eva Bourke.

Paul Muldoon



Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann



An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht