

Create Networking Day 2020

SPEAKER
BIOGRAPHIES



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Khaled Barakeh is a Berlin-based conceptual artist and cultural activist. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus, Syria, in 2005, completed his MFA in 2010 at Funen Art Academy in Odense, Denmark, and a Meisterschuler study in 2013 at the Städelschule Art Academy in Frankfurt, Germany. Driven by his observations of longstanding social injustice, Barakeh approaches creative practice as a tool for societal change; manipulating commonplace visual and cultural touchstones to expose and undermine stagnant power structures. In a recent major shift in his practice, Barakeh developed coculture in 2017 - a non-for-profit umbrella organisation with a suite of initiatives that leverage artistic thinking to directly address issues of contemporary mass migration. Among these projects is the SYRIA Cultural Index and the Syrian Biennale. Barakeh has exhibited at Hamburger Kunsthalle, The 11th Shanghai Biennale, The Frankfurter Kunstverein, Salt Istanbul, The Busan Biennale, State Gallery of Lower Austria, Krems and MKG Hamburg, among many others.

Caroline Bergvall is a poet and sound artist who works across artforms, media, languages, histories. Her award-winning works alternate between books, performances, sound installations and prints. She frequently works with other artists, musicians, and scholars, and shows internationally. The recipient of many commissions, she is a noted exponent of writing and performance methods adapted to contemporary audiovisual literacy, as well as multilingual identities and practices. Her sparse textual and audio works often expose hidden or difficult historical and political events. Her book and electronic live performance *Drift* (2015) juxtaposes ancient quest poetry to harrowing contemporary sea migration. Her travelling outdoors sunrise performance *Ragadawn* (2016-2020) (with composer Gavin Bryars) creates a nomadic sung poetry that traces current minorised languages within the EU. Cholmondeley Award for Poetry 2017. Bernard Heidsieck-Centre Pompidou Art Literary Prize, 2017. Currently Visiting Professor, Medieval Studies, Kings College London.

Ceara Conway is an Irish artist and vocalist working in performance, song and traditional folk practices. She produces innovative experiential performance works that utilise live singing, appropriated texts, testimonies and visual art to explore issues such as cultural colonialism, migration and environmental and feminist concerns. Recent and upcoming commissions include: Viriditas - Vocal Commission with Saolta Arts, Galway University Hospitals and Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture, Feb 2020, Pocahontas Opera House song project, West Virginia, 2021, "Weathering" with Choreographer Mary Wycherly and Composer Jurgen Simpson, The Feminist Supermarket, commissioned by Ormston House Cultural Centre, March 2021.

Oein DeBhairduin is a writer and creative soul with a passion for poetry, folk herbalism and preserving the beauty of Traveller tales, sayings, retellings and historic exchanges and is the inaugural recipient of Creative Places Tuam's 'Thinking on Tuam residency'. Oein manages an education centre and is a long-time board member of several Mincéirí community groups, including having had the honour of being vice-chair of the Irish Traveller Movement and a council member of Mincéir Whidden. He seeks to pair community activism with cultural celebration, recalling old tales with fresh modern connections and, most of all, he wishes to rekindle the hearth fires of a shared kinship.

Avery Gordon is a Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara and Visiting Faculty Fellow at the Centre for Research Architecture, Department of Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths College, University of London. She is the author of *Notes for the Breitenau Room of The Workhouse—A Project by Ines Schaber and Avery Gordon*; *Keeping Good Time: Reflections on Knowledge, Power and People* and *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination*, among other books and articles. Recent scholarly publications have appeared in *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *Race & Class*, *PMLA*, and other collections. Her work focuses on radical thought in action and over the last few years, she has been writing about captivity, war and other forms of dispossession and how to eliminate them. She is also the Keeper of the Hawthorne Archives, which records the living history of the arrival and existence of runaways, secessionists and in-differents who form autonomous zones and settlements, and have receded from living as obedient subjects.

Francesca La Morgia is a linguist, researcher and social entrepreneur based in Dublin. She is the founder and director of Mother Tongues and Mother Tongues Festival. Her background in linguistics and multilingualism draws her to all forms of creativity that allow for the full expression of individuals' languages and identities. Her creative projects focus on using language as a tool to promote dialogue among individuals and communities to activate social change. In the last 10 years Francesca has been lecturing in linguistics in Trinity College, Ulster University, Maynooth University and the University of Reading. Her publications focus on bilingualism, intercultural education and diversity in cultural and creative environments.

Glenn Loughran is an artist and a lecturer in Fine Art at Dublin School of Creative Arts (DIT), where he is also Programme Chair of the MA Art and Environment and the B.A in Visual Art on Sherkin Island (B.A.V.A). Originally from Belfast, N.Ireland, Loughran has studied Art and Design at The Ulster University (1991), Dun Laoghaire College of Art Design Technology (Diploma / 2002), Fine Art Painting at the National College of Art and Design (B.A / 2003), Sculpture at N.C.A.D (M.A / 2005), and has a doctorate at the N.C.A.D/Graduate School Of Creative Arts and Media (GradCAM.2013).

Alexis Maxwell is an interdisciplinary artist based in St.Helens, who blends spoken word and animation into performance art. As someone of mixed heritage, she seeks to embrace the fluidity of race, culture and sexuality in politically charged performances that champion the basic human right of existing without judgment. Her work focuses on themes of identity, seeking to embrace the ever-growing multi-cultural communities in the UK. Her projects are often unapologetic in their boldness; they focus on creating a multi-layered experience through a unique blend of tech, text and illustration.

Megs Morley is an artist and independent curator. Her work explores collaborative and collective practices that expand the relationship between culture, political imagination and social change. She has worked in policy development, research, education, curating and film making, to develop research-led exhibitions and programmes with institutions including; the Van Abbemuseum, The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Galway City Council, Tulca Contemporary Art Festival and EVA International. She is currently working with Create to develop a national library and archive resource for socially engaged arts. As Curatorial Research Fellow, she is also working jointly with Create and Heart of Glass in the UK, to develop a three year transnational co-operative arts and social justice research programme.

Gemma Nash is a sound artist and digital storyteller whose work focuses on re-imagining the 'othered' body and the complex relationship between medicine, disability and ethics. She creates raw, authentic sound narratives to uncover and reimagine stories about people, places and objects. Her work often involves unusual sonic reference points and the convergence of sound and visual artistic practices. Nash has exhibited work in a variety of locations, including: Art Galleries, Museums, Pop-Ups, Shopping Centres and her own home! Her work has been shown internationally, and she regularly works with Metal, Sound and Music and Drake Music. She is also part of Cutter & Nash – a collaboration with live artist, Gareth Cutter. The collaboration was formed in November 2017 through Metal's Change Makers project led by creative producer Kate Marsh. Fusing their shared interests in non-normative bodies, voices and queerness, they create eerie and seductive soundscapes using their voices, synthesisers, DAWs and hacked controllers.

Professor Andrea Phillips is a writer and cultural organiser who lectures and writes on the economic and social construction of publics within contemporary art, the manipulation of forms of participation and the potential of forms of political, architectural and social reorganisation within artistic and curatorial culture. She works with many international partners to develop dialogues and debates about art's role in the configuration of uneven social landscapes. She is currently BALTIC Professor and Director of the BxNU (BALTIC x Northumbria University) Institute based in Newcastle upon Tyne. The BxNU Institute is committed to diverse disciplines, approaches and practices, attracting an international community of students, creative thinkers, practitioners and scholars. Prior to taking up her role at BxNU, Phillips was Professor of Art and Editor-in-Chief of the PARSE journal at the prestigious Valand Academy at the University of Gothenburg.

Jijo Sebastian is a self-educated, migrant, collaborative filmmaker with more than a decade of experience in participatory, collaborative and intercultural filmmaking in a community-based context. He is a recipient of a 2016 Next Generation Bursary award, 2015 Artist in the Community Scheme Project Realisation award, and 2020 Arts Participation Bursary from the Arts Council. Jijo has written, directed and produced 7 short films and one feature length tele-film collaborating with groups, families and individuals in Ireland. Selected films were screened at international film festivals and received best film and best director awards at Fokana film festival, Illinois, USA. Jijo's practice and films find coherence in their shared immigrant-oriented themes, participatory methodologies, suburban Dublin geographical context, relational dynamics in processes of production and social media dissemination.

Chrissie Tiller is a writer, thinker, practitioner and educator, with an extensive history of working through collaborative and social art practice, particularly in international and cross-cultural contexts, currently undertaking a PhD by publication at Technological University Dublin, exploring her lived experience as a working class woman in the arts and cultural sector. Having set up and run the MA in Participatory and Community Arts at Goldsmiths, London University, for many years, she is now co-director of the Northern Faculty of Social Art Practice, alongside her role as critical friend, advisor and embedded evaluator to a number of arts and cultural organisations. More recent think pieces and provocations include Power Up for Creative People and Places, Sharing Power: from Participation to Collaboration for the British Council and Care as a Radical Act for Heart of Glass.

Fiona Whelan is a Dublin based artist, writer and lecturer at NCAD. Her art practice is committed to exploring and responding to systemic power relations related to inequality. Fiona has a strong commitment to long-term cross-sectoral collaborations. Since 2004 she has worked closely with Rialto Youth Project exploring lived experiences of systemic inequalities with young people and adults, co-producing multiple public works including Natural History of Hope (with Brokentalkers, Project Arts Centre, 2016), Policing Dialogues (The LAB, 2010) and The Day in Question (IMMA, 2009), much of which is documented in her critical memoir TEN: Territory, Encounter & Negotiation (2014). Her writing practice focuses on the complex relationality, labour and ethical challenges of collaborative arts practice and includes co-writing with sociologist Kevin Ryan, in a collective writing platform 'Two Fuse'. See Freedom? (Cork University Press, 2018). In 2019, Fiona received her PhD at the Centre for Socially Engaged Practice-Based Research at TU Dublin.



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Create is the national development agency for collaborative arts. Our mission is to lead the development of collaborative arts practice by enabling artists and communities to create exceptional art together.
www.create-ireland.ie

Create are delighted to partner with Heart of Glass, Creative Places Tuam and Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre on this year's Networking Day

Heart of Glass is a collaborative and social arts agency based in St. Helen's Merseyside, UK.
www.heartofglass.org.uk

Creative Places Tuam is a three year cultural programme for the people of Tuam and the surrounding area, initiated by the Arts Council and managed by Create.
www.creativeplacestuam.ie

Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre is a hub of arts activity right in the heart of Skibbereen Co. Cork, established in 1985.
www.westcorkartscentre.com



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