

*Experience the diverse range of
dance practiced in a rural border
region through sculpture, sound,
video, photography and
interactive installation*

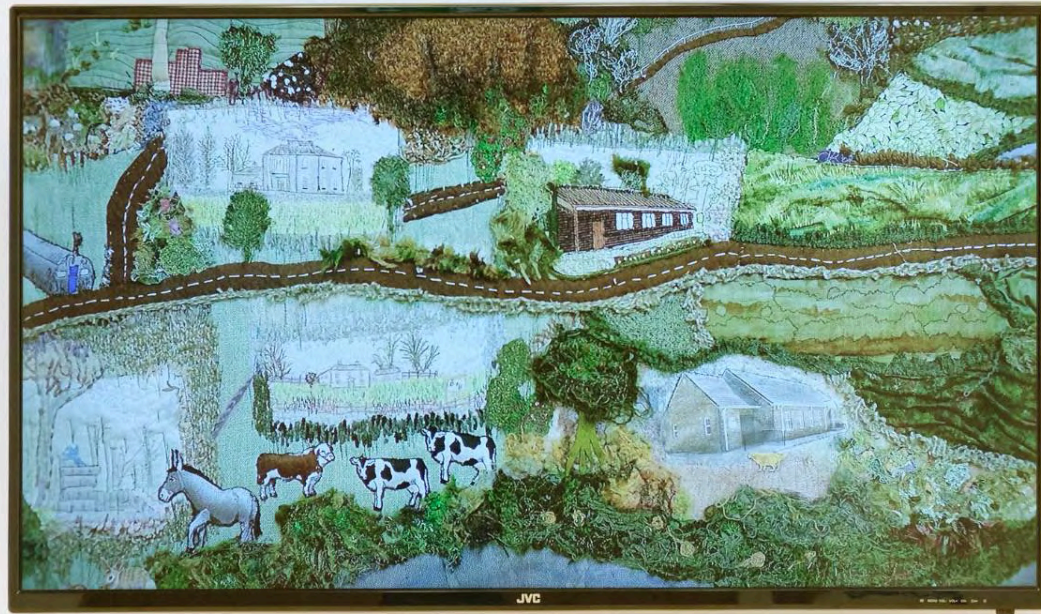
MOVING THROUGH AND AROUND

Dance on the island of Ireland



walk, walk, walk, turn...

back two, three, touch...



ABOUT THE WORK

Step into the dance worlds of people living in a rural border region on the island of Ireland. Experience the stories, sounds, geographies, and sites for dance that connect people and place. Bring your own moves to this embodied cartography of dance across borders.





"Dancing...it can be from your one-year-old to a hundred years old. Dancing is for everybody... no matter what your ability, no matter what age you are, there's just no limit to dance."

Alicia Treanor, Hip Hop dancer and teacher,
Fusion Dance School, Cavan



"If you get to be into the beat... you get the rhythm inside of you. It is like the sea, like the water of the sea...so we say, we have Flamenco in our blood"

Rebeca Sanchez,
Flamenco dance and
teacher, Cavan

"Sean Nós is a free style – the dancer and the music are at one, or should be...The dancer expresses the music from their soul, with their feet and their body movements. It's free. The only rule really, if it is a rule, is to keep time with the music, to marry the music."

Marion Crowe, Set Dance and Sean Nós dancer and
teacher, Cavan



RESEARCH-LED

OVERVIEW

Taking inspiration from the unique geological landscapes formed by the movement of water through and around rocks above and beneath the territorial border on the island of Ireland, '**Moving Through and Around**' celebrates interrelations and pathways between people and place forged through dance.

From Sean-Nós, hip-hop, Flamenco and set dancing, to contemporary, Scottish Country, jiving and line-dancing, the exhibition shares personal and place-specific experiences of dance that would not normally be recorded in mapping of dance on the island. This alternative cartography offers new perspectives on how dance is practiced, shared, and valued.

The exhibition also allows your moves to join the dance through a visual, sonic and choreographic encounter with the steps, sounds, and significant sites for dance in a rural border region.

The exhibition is part of the **Dance Connects in Rural Border Regions** project funded by Creative Ireland's Creative Communities on a Shared Island scheme (Creative Ireland Programme, 2023-2027). Dance Connects partners local authorities of Cavan, Monaghan, and Fermanagh-Omagh with practitioners of diverse dance communities working in their border areas, and researchers Professor Aoife McGrath (School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen's University Belfast) and Dr Victoria Durrer (School of Art History and Cultural Policy, University College Dublin). Employing an innovative, creative engagement approach combining dance practice-as-research and social science, partners are building a sustainable cross-border exchange that informs policy and is meaningful to the unique dance ecology of rural, cross-border areas.



MARIAN CROWE
INDEPENDENT

Sean-nós, Set Dance, IRE

Marian Crowe is an award-winning Set Dancing and Sean Nós teacher from Cavan. Specialising in the improvisational, percussive Sean Nós tradition, she teaches in schools, arts centres, and community halls. Marian regularly collaborates with musicians such as Martin Donohoe, bringing Irish traditional dance into contemporary contexts while nurturing its roots.



JAMIE FAGAN
URBAN MOTION

Hip Hop, NI

Urban Motion is a leading hip hop coaching company, offering classes, school programs, camps, and workshops across the UK and Ireland. Rooted in Hip Hop culture, they focus on freestyle, creativity, and confidence, ensuring access for both urban and rural communities. Their mission: inspiring dancers of all ages to grow, perform, and thrive.



JESSIE KEENAN
INDEPENDENT

Contemporary Dance, IRE

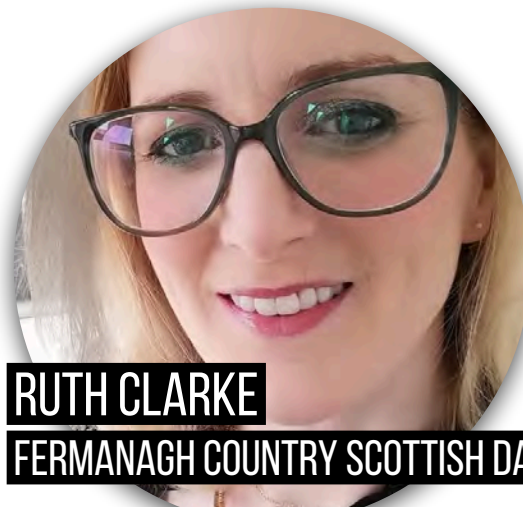
Irish choreographer Jessie Keenan works across live performance, film, and curation, merging dance with science, music, and visual art. A curator for Light Moves Festival, she has created works for Dublin Fringe, Cavan Arts, and Museum of Literature Ireland, supported by an Arts Council Next Generation Award. Her practice bridges screen-based and live choreographic experiences.



TINA MCGURREN
MODERN COUNTRY MOVES

Jive, Line, Social Dance, NI

Tina brings country-inspired dance to life through Modern Country Moves. Her classes mix line dancing, jive, quickstep, and waltz, creating an inclusive, confidence-building space. With a focus on fun, fitness, and community, her sessions promote movement and connection for all ages, making country dance accessible, uplifting, and social.



RUTH CLARKE
FERMANAGH COUNTRY SCOTTISH DANCERS

Scottish Country Dance, NI

Ruth Clark has over 20 years' experience teaching Scottish Country and Ceilidh Dancing. Based in Northern Ireland, she shares traditional dance in schools and leads lively ceilidhs with the Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band. Her teaching celebrates the social and life-enhancing power of dance, connecting heritage with contemporary joy and community.



REBECA SANCHEZ
INDEPENDENT

Flamenco Dance, IRE

Seville-born dancer Rebeca Sánchez trained in Flamenco at the Conservatory of Dance in Seville and has performed across Europe. She works as both teacher and performer, regularly collaborating with guitarist Juan José Manzano. From major orchestral works at Dublin's NCH to community workshops, Rebeca is dedicated to sharing Flamenco's artistry with diverse audiences.



DYLAN QUINN
DYLAN QUINN DANCE THEATRE

Contemporary Dance, NI

Artistic Director of Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre since 2010, Dylan has 27+ years experience as dancer, choreographer, and movement director. His work explores social, cultural, and political contexts, from borderland commissions to Abbey Theatre collaborations. Supported by Arts Councils North and South, Dylan is deeply committed to participatory dance and community engagement.



AYSHA TREANOR
FUSION DANCE

Hip Hop, IRE

Fusion Dance School which is an award-winning school based in Cavan and Monaghan. Offering classes in styles including hip hop and heels, it provides a vibrant and creative environment for young dancers. Fusion is known for its inclusive approach, encouraging self-expression, confidence, and performance opportunities across the region.

DANCE PARTNERS



PROF AOIFE MCGRATH
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST
Research Co-Lead

Professor of Dance at Queen's University Belfast, Aoife has worked as a choreographer, performer, and Arts Council advisor. Her research values embodied knowledge within interdisciplinary collaborations spanning sociology, psychology, film, and health. Widely published and internationally funded, she bridges creative practice with engaged, policy-informing research.



DR VICTORIA DURRER
DR VICTORIA DURRER
Research Co-Lead

Cultural Policy scholar at UCD and Co-Director of Cultural Policy Observatory Ireland, Victoria researches how policy and administration shape and are shaped by artistic practice. She specialises in engaged, collaborative, and mixed-methods research, bringing creative practice into dialogue with social science approaches and policymaking.



DR ARGYRO TSAMPAZ
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST
Project Assistant

Dance researcher and choreographer, Argyro's work investigates dance, religion, and spirituality. Holding a PhD in Dance from Queen's University Belfast, she has choreographed across contemporary, ballet, and theatre, and held roles as artistic assessor for EU and Arts Council NI. She is a member of Postsecular Performances network.



HELENA HAMILTON
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST
Digital Media Artist

Artist and PhD researcher at Queen's University Belfast, Helena works at the intersections of sound, visual art, performance, and digital interaction. Her internationally exhibited practice creates sensory encounters that invite participation and reflection, exploring how technology mediates experience and blurs boundaries between physical and digital forms.



SIMON MILLS
INDEPENDENT
Videographer + Filmmaker

Belfast-based photographer and filmmaker, Simon documents creative practices, cultural heritage, and landscapes. His projects include collaborations with dancers and artists, as well as international exhibitions from South Korea to London. His work explores communities, making processes, and evolving relationships with land and place.



SORCA MCGRATH
INDEPENDENT
Composer

Musician, vocalist, and producer, Sorca has worked nationally and internationally for over two decades. A Choice Music Prize winner with the band Ships, she composes and designs sound across film, contemporary dance, and television. Her practice blends technical expertise with emotional depth, exploring sound, memory, and movement.

RESEARCH TEAM

CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS
OFFICE AND CREATIVE CAVAN

Lead Partner



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS
OFFICE



ARTS AND HERITAGE, FERMANAGH
OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL



FUNDED BY:

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



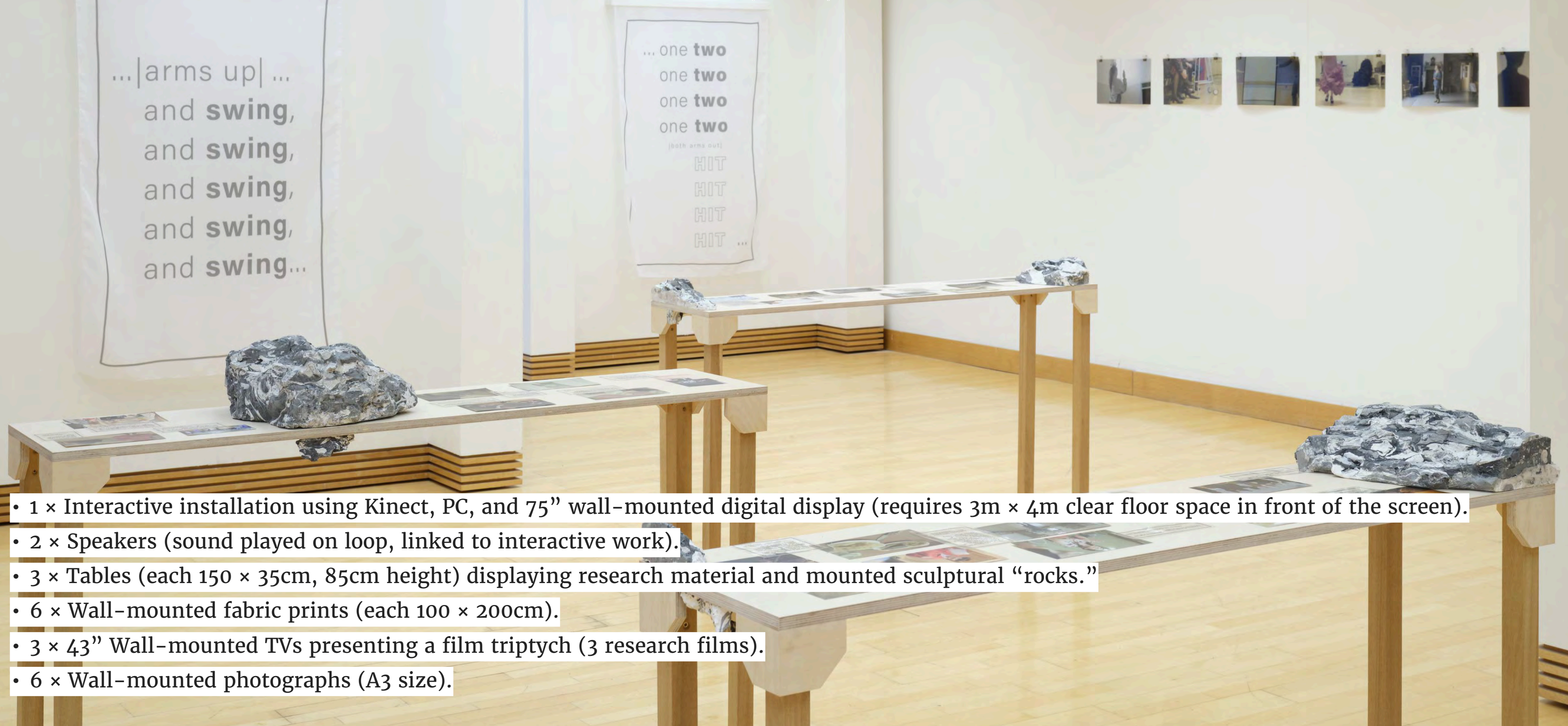
Shared Island
Initiative

Creative Ireland 's Creative Communities on a Shared Island scheme is a five-year programme which connects people, creativity and wellbeing. It is an all of government culture and wellbeing programme that inspires and informs people, places and communities through creativity. Creative Ireland is committed to the vision that every person in Ireland should have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential.

Shared Island initiative is a whole of government priority to engage with all communities and political traditions to build consensus around a shared future on the island, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement. Further details on the Shared Island Initiative is available at: www.gov.ie/sharedisland

WORKS INCLUDED IN EXHIBITION

MOVING THROUGH AND AROUND: PREVIOUSLY EXHIBITED AT STRULE ARTS CENTRE, OMAGH, NI



- 1 × Interactive installation using Kinect, PC, and 75" wall-mounted digital display (requires 3m × 4m clear floor space in front of the screen).
- 2 × Speakers (sound played on loop, linked to interactive work).
- 3 × Tables (each 150 × 35cm, 85cm height) displaying research material and mounted sculptural "rocks."
- 6 × Wall-mounted fabric prints (each 100 × 200cm).
- 3 × 43" Wall-mounted TVs presenting a film triptych (3 research films).
- 6 × Wall-mounted photographs (A3 size).

“Great exhibition showcasing the diverse range of dancing in the border areas.”

“A very special shared work. Loved every aspect of it. I left filled with good feeling.”

“Widened my view of dancing – v. interesting exhibition.”

“Excellent – well done to you all”

“Huge congratulations excellent collaboration with Artists”

“Amazing video, sculpture and dance. Love it! These videos look great in this space. Well done.”

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK



VENUE REQUIREMENTS

PREVIOUS EXHIBITION: STRULE ARTS CENTRE, OMAGH, NI

VENUE REQUIREMENTS

Floor Space in front of Interactive:

- 3m × 4m clear area in front of 75” display (interactive installation)

Power: 8 sockets total

- 5 × interactive installation (incl. sound)
- 3 × 43” TV triptych

Wall Mounting Capacity for:

- 1 × 75” screen
- 3 × 43” TVs
- 6 × fabric prints (100 × 200cm)
- 6 × A3 photographs

Furniture / Objects

- 3 × tables (150 × 35cm, 85cm height)

Access

- Ground-floor or lift access for large screen and tables

VENUE-PROVIDED

- 1–2 Gallery Technicians to assist with installing and uninstalling the exhibition (incl. mounting, cabling, setup etc)
- Suitable walls for mounting large digital screens, prints, and photographs
- Cable management inline with public safety standard
- Ladders, tools, and standard gallery install equipment
- On-site staff presence at all times during opening hours (the exhibition cannot be installed in an unmanned space)

INSTALLATION TIME

- Approx. 2 days with 1–2 gallery technicians.

SUITABILITY STATEMENT

This exhibition is suitable for staffed gallery and arts centre contexts. It cannot be exhibited in unattended or unsupervised venues due to the interactive technology involved.

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- PC and Kinect sensor (interactive work), with relevant cables
- 75” digital display
- 2 × speakers (relevant cables)
- 3 × tables (sculptural display)
- 3 × 43” TVs (film triptych)
- Wall-mounted fabric prints (6) and photographs (6)
- All necessary media content and software.

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

- Daily: turning interactive installation, TVs, and speakers on/off.
- The system has been designed for ease of use. At Strule Arts Centre staff reported simple, reliable daily operation.

A woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a black top, is leading a dance workshop. She is gesturing with her hands towards an older woman with white hair and glasses, who is wearing a white shirt. They are in a room with a red wall and a blue table. The background is slightly blurred.

Engagement Options include:

- **Dance Workshops:** led by Dance Connects partners, offering styles such as hip hop, flamenco, line dancing, set dancing, and contemporary.
- **Family-Friendly Sessions:** informal introductions to movement for children and parents.
- **Artist Talks & Panel Discussions:** insights into dance research, creative practice, and collaboration.

Benefits for Venues:

- Builds deeper connections with local communities.
- Broadens audience engagement across all ages and backgrounds.
- Accessible design that allows interactivity for all abilities

ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Alongside the exhibition, we can offer community and audience engagement opportunities. These events bring the diversity of dance practice directly to local communities, creating opportunities for learning, creativity, and connection.

We are Looking for Venues:

- Staffed galleries / arts centres across Ireland
- Basic technical capacity & install support (2 days with 1-2 technicians)
- Daily operation support (on/off for interactive & AV works)

What we offer:

- A ready-to-install exhibition with interactive, visual, and sound-based works
- All core technology and artworks provided by the artist
- Clear, proven operational procedures (tested successfully at Strule Arts Centre)
- Opportunities to expand the exhibition with community engagement events (e.g. workshops, ceilidhs, artist talks)

ASK

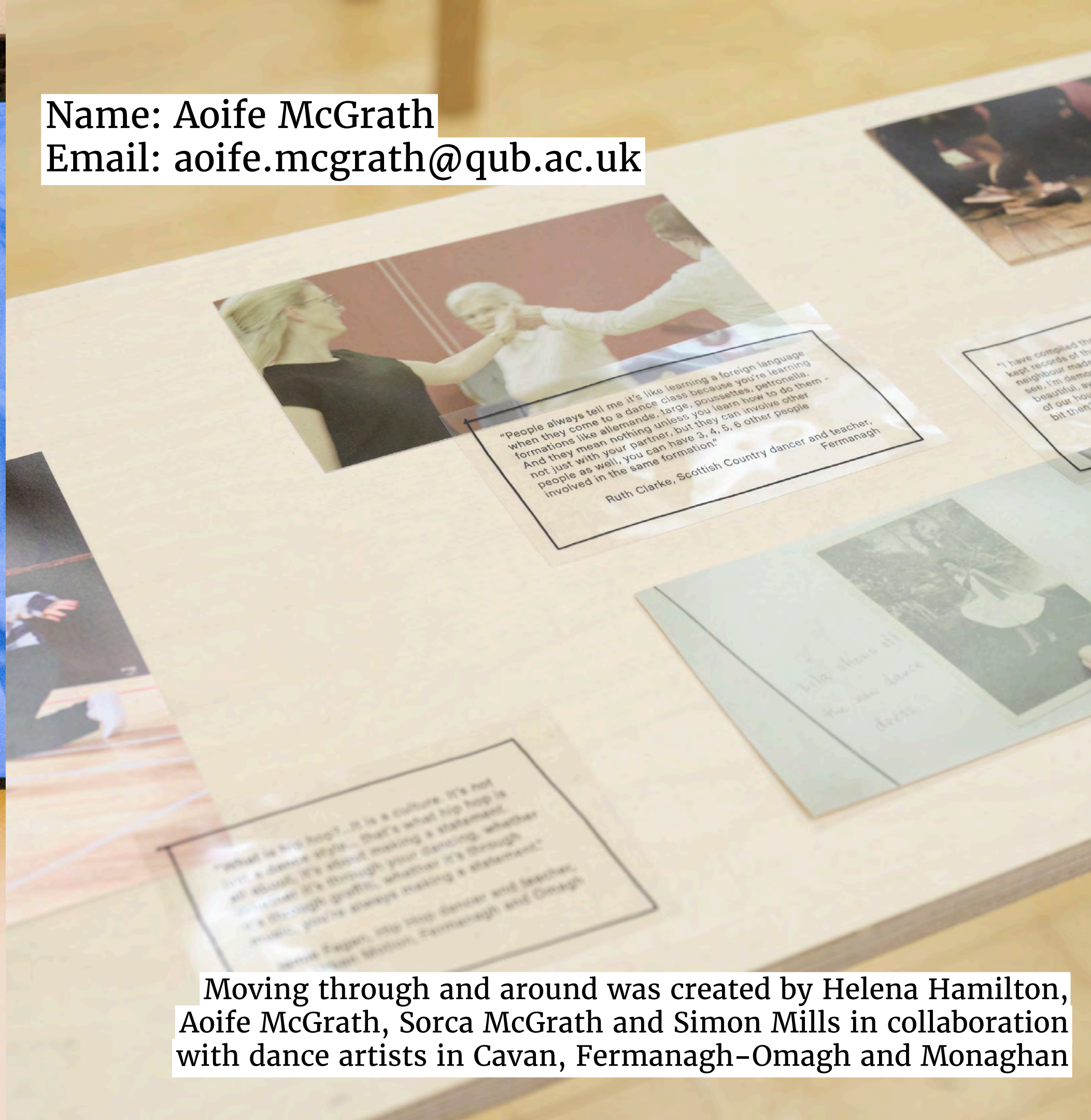
We are seeking suitable exhibition spaces, galleries and arts centre partners across the island of Ireland to host the 'moving through and around' exhibition.



CONTACT

Please get in touch with any questions

Name: Aoife McGrath
Email: aoife.mcgrath@qub.ac.uk



Moving through and around was created by Helena Hamilton, Aoife McGrath, Sorca McGrath and Simon Mills in collaboration with dance artists in Cavan, Fermanagh-Omagh and Monaghan