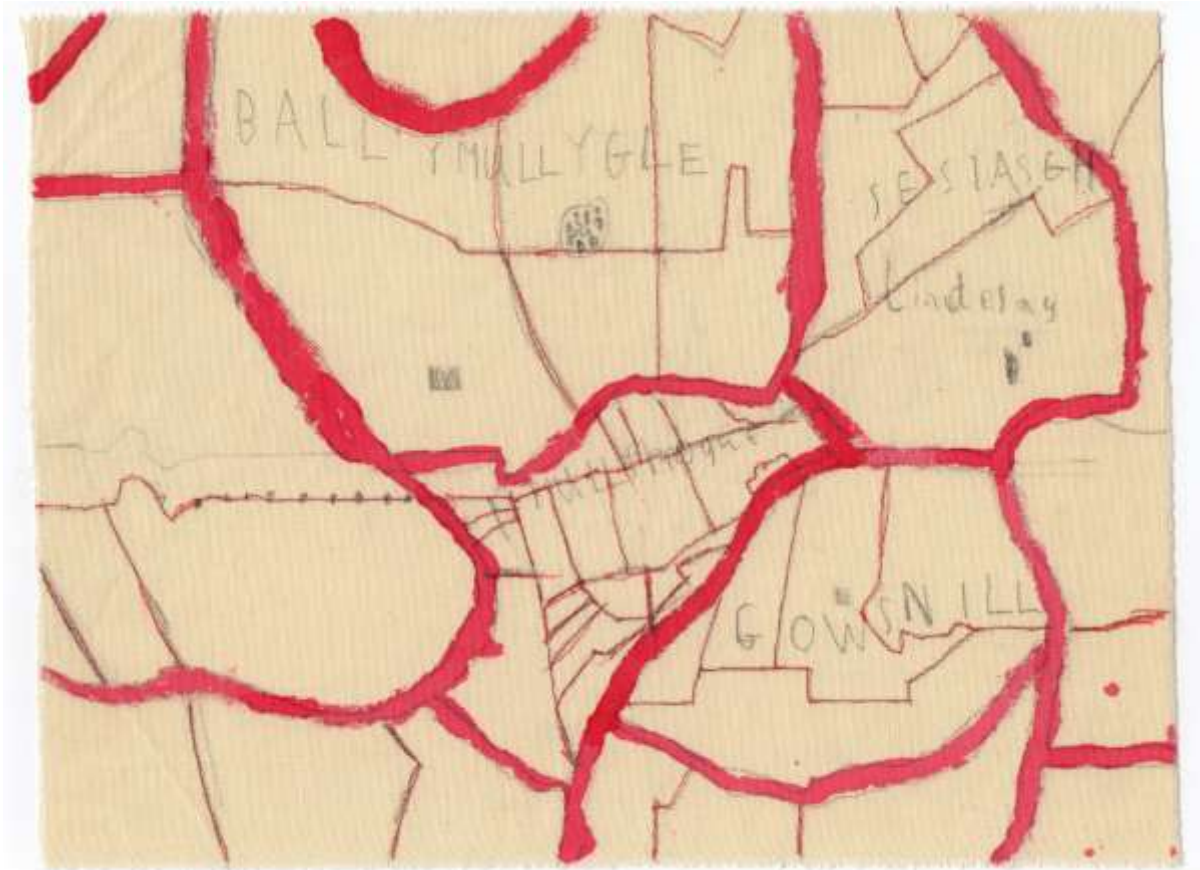




Kids' Own Children's Exhibition
(Title TBC)

An exhibition of children's artwork and writing from Kids' Own's 23-year archive, co-curated by children with artist Vanya Lambrecht Ward.

The exhibition seeks to provide a dynamic and interactive response to the extensive body of work developed by Kids' Own over many years – through presentation of original artwork, reproduction of imagery and text from our many books, as well as development of new spaces and interactive activities in response to many processes of engagement developed by professional artists with children through numerous and diverse collaborations.



Artwork from Dwell, part of the Virtually There project, 2014

Context

Kids' Own has been a leader in the sector of professional arts practice with children since 1997. Kids' Own supports every child's individual creative expression alongside professional artists. Kids' Own champions the voice of the child, and the child's right to culture both as participant and audience member.

In 2022, Kids' Own celebrates 25 years of supporting children's creativity and self-expression through professional arts processes. To mark this anniversary, Kids' Own is partnering with key organisations in the development of a unique and exciting touring exhibition that presents children's work in a professional and contemporary arts context.



Artwork from Across An Open Field: Stories and artwork by children from Ireland and Northern Ireland about the Decade of Commemorations 1912-1922

Visual Thinking Team

In the summer of 2020, a group of 9-13-year-old visual and critical thinkers came together (online) to discuss, explore and make. The group was put together through a national call out and included children from all over the country. The group worked with the archive material alongside Vanya Lambrecht Ward on ideas for engagement, content and visual expression for the exhibition. To further inform the exhibition's look, activities and content we will engage a second group in 2021 to ensure cultural and socio-economic diversity and voice. This group will include children who we have worked with before or those connected with some of the key organisations we have been engaged with over the years.



Artwork created by members of the Visual Thinking Team, Summer 2020

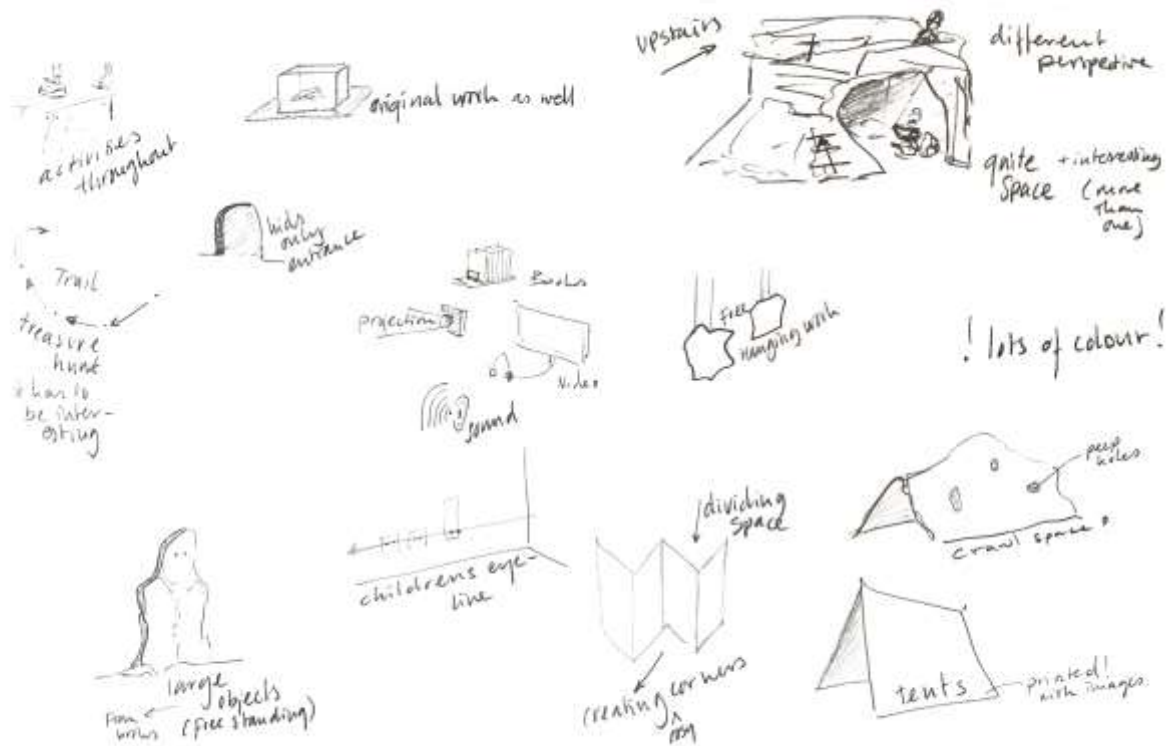
The Exhibition:

- Will be developed by our visual thinking panels of children in collaboration with artist Vanya Lambrecht Ward, generating ideas, concepts and visual stimulus for an exciting and extensive multimedia and multi-dimensional exhibition of work.
- Present children's artwork and voices within a critical contemporary context.
- Offer a professional platform for the consideration of children's work and the recognition of children as equal and active cultural producers and participants.
- Provide a programme of engagement that connects national audiences with an exciting dynamic of new contemporary artworks made in response to an extensive archive of children's work alongside professional artists.
- Initiate a national dialogue that foregrounds children as artists and activists and interrogates how children and children's voices are viewed in our society.

Initial Ideas that came from Visual Thinking Team process in summer 2020

The group voiced the need for:

- A highly interactive exhibition
- Full of interesting elements/ themes
- Full of colour and things
- Creating a narrative throughout the show (self-directed treasure hunt)
- Mix of text, image, video and sound
- Mix of engagements and interactions
- Catering to all ages (even adults) and abilities
- Active but with room for pause and quiet
- Lots of room for creative responding
- Dynamic use of the space (ceiling/ floor etc)
- Use of both technology and simple materials
- Mix of original art work and reprint/ enlarged work (both 2 and 3D)
- Not too much content on display but good access to books and other materials



Sketch by artist/curator Vanya Lambrecht Ward in response to the work of the Visual Thinking Team, Summer 2020

Partner venues in 2021:

- Baboró International Arts Festival for Children
- Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Partner venues in 2022 – TBC.

© Kids' Own Publishing Partnership, 2020
 40 Wolfe Tone Street, Sligo
 Co. Sligo, F91 R231
 +353 7191-70759
info@kidsown.ie



Artwork created by Visual Thinking Team member, Donncha, Summer 2020