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KIDS' OWN 25TH

ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Kids Own 25th Anniversary Conference

Kids' Own Publishing Partnership, the Sligo-based children's arts organisation and publishing house, is delighted to host their 25th anniversary conference at The Model, Sligo, on the 25th of November. Marking 25 years of publishing children's voices and artwork, this cross-sectoral event invites engagement and discussion through presentations, lively panel conversations and workshops. A line-up of researchers, arts practitioners and project partners will lead conversations on topics ranging from early years arts practice and arts in education to children's authorship and social inclusion. The conference is a chance to explore and discuss the work of Kids' Own in these areas, and to share the work of associates and collaborators.

Conference Schedule

Time	Event
9am	Tea/Coffee; time for networking and exhibition browsing
10am:	<i>Welcome & Introductions</i> Ciara Gallagher, CEO and Creative Director of Kids' Own, in conversation with Kid's Own founders, Victoria Ryle and Dr Simon Spain (via live link-up)
10.30am	Social Inclusion: Publishing Unheard & Seldom Heard Voices Presentations by Mary Branley (Kids' Own Associate Writer), Francesca Hutchinson (Kids' Own Associate Artist), Gina Miyagawa (Roma Education Worker, Cork STAR Project) Rachel Coffey (Traveller Education Worker, Cork STAR Project), Dr Connie Nell (Community Development Worker, Cranmore Community Co-Op, Sligo)
11.45am	Coffee Break
12pm	Parallel presentation sessions: Cultural Rights from Birth: Best Practice in Early Years Presentations by Dr Carmel Brennan (Maynooth University), Naomi Draper (Kids' Own Associate Artist), Maree Hensey (Kids' Own Associate Artist) and Rose Murphy (CEO Waterford Childcare Committee). Research with Children: Insights from recent Kids' Own projects Presentations by Dr Amy Hanna (University of Strathclyde), Dr Susan McDonnell (ATU Sligo) and Dr Tamsin Cavaliero (ATU Sligo).
1pm	Lunch
1.45pm	Panel Discussion Children's Rights, Children's Voices: Who's Listening? Panel discussion chaired by Dr Amy Hanna, with Mary Branley, Francesca Hutchinson, Dr Bernadette Ní Áingleis (Education Advisor, Kids' Own) and Maeve Whittington (Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Coordinator).
2.45pm	Panel Discussion <i>Arts Practice with Children: What does good practice look like?</i> Panel discussion chaired by Seóna Ní Bhriain (Head of YPCE, The Arts Council), with Ann Donnelly (Kids' Own Associate Artist), Vanya Lambrecht Ward (Kids' Own Associate Artist) and Liz Coman (Assistant Arts Officer, Dublin City Council).
3.45pm	Coffee Break
4pm	<i>Youth Panel Discussion</i> An opportunity to listen to the thoughts of young people who have been part of recent kids' Own projects.
4.30pm	<i>Reflection and Discussion</i> Led by conference rapporteur Dr Bryonie Reid (Quarto Collective).

Conference Schedule

9am: Tea/Coffee: Time for networking and exhibition browsing.

10am: Welcome & Introductions

Ciara Gallagher, CEO and Creative Director of Kids' Own, in conversation with Kids' Own founders, Victoria Ryle and Dr. Simon Spain (via live link-up).

Ciara Gallagher, CEO and Creative Director of Kids' Own



Ciara has been working with Kids' Own since 2018 as project manager, and has been involved in various aspects of the organisation's development over the years. Ciara has a background in academia, including postdoctoral research on children's books. She has taught in a number of universities in Ireland and has worked in various positions in the non-profit and public sector.

Victoria Ryle



Victoria Ryle is a PhD candidate in the School of Education, University of Tasmania, researching pedagogies for publishing books with children as authors. She co-founded Kids' Own Publishing in Ireland (1997) and in Melbourne, Australia (2003), giving children a voice by publishing books through artist-led community-driven partnerships. Victoria is a co-director of all that we are, a residency space connecting communities through creativity in southern Tasmania.

https://www.allthatweare.org.au/

Dr Simon Spain



Dr Simon Spain is a strong believer in the transformational power of the arts for individuals and communities. Trained as a printmaker, Simon has forged a career in community arts and cultural development, arts programming and producing. Simon created ArtPlay, a children and family arts centre and program in Melbourne, and has since completed a Masters in Social Investment and Philanthropy and a Practicebased PhD looking at the importance of creative practice for all. Simon initiated his latest immersive practice project, all that we are, in 2016 with Victoria Ryle in Tasmania. He initiated and runs ArTELIER, a capacity building program for teaching artists in Tasmania. Simon is a Fellow of the Australia Council for the Arts, Chair of Regional Arts Australia and an International Tate Associate.

10.30am: Social Inclusion: Publishing Unheard & Seldom Heard Voices

Presentations by Mary Branley (Kids' Own Associate Writer), Francesca Hutchinson (Kids' Own Associate Artist), Gina Miyagawa (Roma Education Worker, Cork STAR Project) and Rachel Coffey (Traveller Education Worker, Cork STAR Project), Dr Connie Nell (Community Development Worker, Cranmore Community Co-Op, Sligo)

Mary Branley (Kids' Own Associate Writer)



Mary Branley is a poet, writer and musician based in north Sligo. She is the author of three collections of poetry: A Pinch of Snow in a Black Velvet Glove Lepus Print 2021 Martin. Let Me Go 2009. A Foot on the Tide. 2002 with Summer Palace Press. Her poetry has been included in such anthologies as Windharp: Poems of Ireland Since 1916, The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing and The Watchful Heart: A New Generation of Irish Poets: Poems and Essays, as well as translated into Catalan and Spanish. She was awarded the Patrick and Katherine Kavanagh Fellowship in 2008 and she is the recipient of numerous residencies and bursaries from the Arts Council of Ireland. Closely associated with Kids' Own Publishing Partnership, a children's arts organisation and publishing house, Mary has facilitated children's writing for over twenty years and forty titles.

Francesca Hutchinson (Kids' Own Associate Artist)



Francesca Hutchinson is an Offaly based multidisciplinary artist, born in 1999. She has recently graduated from Limerick School of Art and Design where she specialised in Fine Art, Painting. Francesca is continuing her journey through education by pursuing a Professional Master in Education with Art and Design.

Her work is "ever evolving" and stems from a variety of inspirations, intuitively her work is motivated by her family, and her family's heritage coming from the Travelling community. Her dream is to continue to pursue her career as an artist and as a teacher, by enriching the lives of young people through the joy and freedom that creativity brings.

Gina Miyagawa (Roma Education Worker, Cork STAR Project)



severe life struggles, it is not uncommon for their lives to unravel. My greatest passion is working with people, especially people who experience poverty, racism and discrimination, and even more so working with children who come from marginalised backgrounds. In mv own personal endeavours to reinvent myself in a new country, I have had to learn how to negotiate what is a new culture, something which is often experienced by people from my own Roma community, indigenous Traveller community and other people from different cultural backgrounds. I understand what it means to experience racism and social exclusion and how one can begin to unravel this new culture around you, take one step at a time and seek what's best for you and your community.

In my current job, my main aim is to support the Roma children in Cork city and show them what it is to follow their dreams and break cultural barriers that could potentially stop them from experiencing life to the full. I know that I cannot reach out to every child in my community but if I can reach one child at a time it is the greatest achievement I could dream ever about. My educational background includes a B.Soc.Sc. Youth & Community and an MA in Contemporary Migration and Diaspora. My personal motto: "Be someone's strength. Be someone's inspiration. Be someone's reason to never give up". Vanshdeep Mishra.

Rachel Coffey (Traveller Education Worker, Cork STAR Project)



Rachel Coffey is a Traveller Education Worker with STAR (Supporting Traveller and Roma in Education), the Traveller Visibility Group. She previously studied Global Youth Work and Development Education at Maynooth University, and Youth and Community Work at UCC.

Dr Connie Nell (Community Development Worker, Cranmore Community Co-Op, Sligo)



Dr. Connie Nell has a PhD in Social Anthropology and a great interest in culturally informed ways of knowing and learning, particularly about community, sustainability and climate concerns. Her interest in interpersonal and intercultural communication shows in her work in socially-engaged participatory projects.

Connie has worked and volunteered in the education sector, in the arts and on environmental issues. As a Community Development Worker she currently works with community members of all age groups and focuses on sustainability and resilience through activities in a small community garden, the wider outdoors and a community workshop. Having lived in Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Bolivia and Spain, she also brings language skills and lived cultural experience from those countries along to any project.

Collaborations with Kids' Own include the short report 'Children and Climate Action' and projects with young people in Cranmore Community Co-op.

11.45am: Coffee Break

12pm: Parallel presentation sessions

Cultural Rights from Birth: Best Practice in Early Years

Presentations by Dr Carmel Brennan (Maynooth University), Naomi Draper (Kids' Own Associate Artist), Maree Hensey (Kids' Own Associate Artist) and Rose Murphy (CEO Waterford Childcare Committee).



Dr Carmel Brennan (Maynooth University)



Dr. Carmel Brennan has worked in the field of early childhood education for 30 years, as a preschool leader, an advisor, and most recently as Director of Quality with Early Childhood Ireland. Her particular area of interest and the subject of her PhD research thesis is children's pretend play and how children construct and reconstruct the world through their play narratives. Her interest in the connection between play and creativity has led to her involvement with Kids Own over the years. She has collaborated on early years projects such as Being and Belonging and the wonderful Lullaby project with babies. She is also author of two papers published on the Arts in Education portal, managed by Kids' Own. She now works part time with Maynooth University and enjoys bringing theory to practice in her play with her grandsons.

Maree Hensey (Kids' Own Associate Artist)



www.mareehensey.com https://www.instagram.com/mareehense/

Maree Hensey is a visual artist based in Dublin. Her practice encompasses drawing, sculpture and installation. Maree Hensey has collaborated with Kids' Own on the 'I hope you grow' book project with writer Mary Branley and Focus Ireland, working with children in temporary accommodation, (2018), 'To be To Wallow To wonder' project, as part of 'the lives we live' Grangegorman Public Art, Community-based projects (2017/18), the Virtually There project, artist in residence (2013-2015), the Lullaby Project Tour (2014) with Early Childhood Care & Education Centres in County Sligo, and Being & Belonging (2013/14), a border counties early years initiative. Maree's 'DrawSpace' formed part of the 'Practice' national touring exhibition of work by artists and children in 2014.

Naomi Draper (Kids' Own Associate Artist)



Naomi Draper is an artist and educator based in Boyle, Co. Roscommon. Naomi graduated from NCAD with a Bachelor of Design specialising in glass in 2007. Following an Erasmus programme at the Academy of Art, Architecture and Design, Prague, she received a scholarship to attend Pilchuck Glass School, Seattle. In 2011, she completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Community Arts Education at NCAD. Naomi has participated on a number of residency programmes within contemporary art institutions, community and educational contexts; including the Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, LOCIS Residency at Residence Botkyrka, Sweden, The Model, Sligo, and The Harrington Studios, Boyle, Co Roscommon. She is currently Curator in Residence at Roscommon Arts Centre. In 2020 Naomi presented a solo exhibition at the Mattress Factory Art Museum, Pittsburgh, and at Limerick City Gallery of Art in 2018.

Previous solo exhibitions; Florilegium, a gathering of flowers at Roscommon Arts Centre and Artbox Projects, Dublin. Group and selected exhibitions include; A seed's a star, the Hamilton Gallery, Sligo, On Beauty, Roscommon Arts Centre, One Million to One, Botkyrka Konstall, Sweden, Paper for the Sky, Interstate, Brooklyn, NY and Practice national tour; West Cork Arts Centre, Axis Balymun, Dublin, The Model, Sligo.

Rose Murphy (CEO Waterford Childcare Committee)



BA Early Childhood Studies, MSocSc Youth & Community UCC CEO Coiste Cúram Leanaí Phort Láirge During the course of my career, I have enjoyed and been fortunate to work as a preschool educator and manager, family support worker, early learning and care tutor, as manager of Waterford County Childcare Committee and more recently as CEO of Coiste Cúram Leanaí Phort Láirge following the merger of Waterford City & County Childcare Committees in 2014.

I believe that nurturing the imagination and creativity of young children is one of the best gifts we can give them - our world needs creative and innovative people to flourish and survive. Our shared creative endeavours with Kids Own Publishing, local partners, services, children and families over the years have been hugely enjoyable, beneficial and rewarding. I look forward to our continuing creative endeavours!

12pm: Parallel presentation sessions

Research with Children: Insights from recent Kids' Own projects

Presentations by Dr Amy Hanna (University of Strathclyde), Dr Susan McDonnell (ATU Sligo) and Dr Tamsin Cavaliero (ATU Sligo).

Dr Amy Hanna (University of Strathclyde)



Amy is a lecturer in education at the University of Strathclyde and was previously a research fellow at the Centre for Children's Rights at Queen's University Belfast where she learned and researched children's rights methodologies. Her research interests are in childhood and children's participation rights. Amy's research examines the role of silence in youth 'voice' and asks what children's silences can tell us about their participation.

Dr Susan McDonnell (ATU Sligo)



Dr Susan McDonnell (she/her) is a sociologist and lecturer in the Department of Social Science at ATU Sligo. She is interested in visual, creative and

participatory approaches to teaching, learning and research. Teaching areas include race & migration, climate & society, visual sociology and intersectional perspectives on social justice. Her current projects include the development of a children's book/ classroom resource on the topic of race and racism, which draws on her art-based research with children, exploring constructions of race and belonging in Irish primary schools.

Susan is also involved (with Dr Tamsin Cavaliero and Dr Máire Hanniffy) in a HEAfunded project that aims to support the embedding of sustainability and socioecological imagination in the Social Sciences curriculum at ATU Sligo by engaging perspectives from academic and community experts and designing re-usable resources. Prior to joining IT Sligo in 2007, she worked as an artist/ facilitator in a range of community contexts.

Dr Tamsin Cavaliero (ATU Sligo)



Dr Tamsin Cavaliero is a Lecturer in the Department of Social Sciences at ATU Sligo. Her research interests include Creative Methodologies, Educational Inclusion, Groupwork, Cultural Contexts of Childhood and Youth, Sustainability and Traveller and Roma Communities. Prior to taking up her lecturing post she worked in practice in a variety of posts with Traveller Youth in formal and informal educational settings and was involved in a number of arts-based projects with Travellers in schools, Youthreach, and homework clubs. Tamsin is a trained Graphic Facilitator regularly involved in Graphic Facilitation work which focuses on Family support, Youth participation, inclusive research practices and counselling. Tamsin provided illustrations for the forthcoming book

Romani Studies in the Age of Covid-19 edited by Paloma Gay y Blasco and Martin

1pm: Lunch

1.45pm: Panel Discussion

Children's Rights, Children's Voices: Who's Listening?

Panel discussion chaired by Dr. Amy Hanna, with Mary Branley, Francesca Hutchinson, Dr Bernadette Ni Áingeleis (Education Advisor, Kids' Own) and Maeve Whittington (Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Coordinator at Tusla).

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Dr Bernadette Ní Áingleis (Education Advisor, Kids' Own)



Dr Bernadette Ní Áingléis is an Education Advisor to Kids' Own, Ireland's only publication house for books by children for children. Her work is building on the success of Kids' Own in providing opportunities to hear and see the voice of the child in education through the arts. Over her extensive professional career, Bernadette has worked in a diverse range of contexts including primary teaching, principalship of a Gaelscoil (Gaelscoil Adhamhnáin), curriculum design and consultancy, the Inspectorate (Department of Education), and in Dublin City University (Institute of Education) as a teacher educator. researcher. and academic.

Her own academic background straddles both education and law and her longstanding commitment to enabling 'voice' in learning, teaching and education policy development. The voice of children and young people is central to her vision and her work in education and in law.

Maeve Whittington (Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Coordinator)



Maeve Whittington has been working as the Coordinator of the Sligo Leitrim Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) since 2013. Sligo Leitrim CYPSC was first established in 2014 and is one of 27 CYPSC nationally with the purpose of improving outcomes for children and families at local and community level. Prior to this, Maeve worked in a community development role with a local organisation, Sligo Social Service Council CLG, for many years. In this role Maeve supported many locally based community groups including the Cranmore Abbeyquarter Community Centre and MCR Community Centre. She supported the establishment of childcare and School Age Childcare in both centres and was instrumental in drawing significant capital funding into both centres, as well as supporting projects to deliver services in these communities. She worked with the community in the Cranmore Estate to develop the Springboard Family Support Service which caters for families as well as delivering childcare services. Maeve also was member of the committee which а established and supported the Lifestart Programme in Sligo and was a member of the committee which established Sligo Co Childcare Committee,

2.45pm: Panel Discussion

Arts Practice with Children: What does good practice look like?

Panel discussion chaired by Seóna Ní Bhriain (Head of YPCE, The Arts Council), with Ann Donnelly (Kids' Own Associate Artist), Vanya Lambrecht Ward (Kids' Own Associate Artist) and Liz Coman (Assistant Arts Officer, Dublin City Council).



Seóna Ní Bhriain (Head of YPCE, the Arts Council)

Seóna Ní Bhriain is Head of Young People, Children and Education (YPCE) at the Arts Council. In this role, she manages Art Council investment targeting children and young people and leads development initiatives in this area. Seóna previously worked as an independent consultant to the Arts Council in the area of arts-in-education and youth arts. She has a Masters in International Education from New York University: Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development and has delivered arts and cultural programmes in New York City public schools and in Ireland. She first discovered the potential and impact of children and young people's arts as a member of Dublin Youth Theatre.

Ann Donnelly (Kids' Own Associate Artist)



Ann Donnelly is a Northern Irish artist, balancing solo and engaged practice for many years through a range of projects, publications and residencies, including the Further Afield, Virtually There and Really Here residency projects with Kids' Own. Her practice often involves elements of photography and video, and her work has been exhibited internationally.

For the artist, online residency work has opened up new ways to extend geographical reach, connecting and collaborating through virtual space. Virtual engagement has also drawn attention to the idea of embodied practice, something she is currently exploring through somatic movement work. Kids' Own has always championed the value of peer support and conversation between artists, and Ann has been lucky to benefit from ongoing opportunities for creative exchange between artists from the Kids' Own network over the years. Sharing her practice at seminars and symposia has helped to extend that conversation across the cultural sector

Vanya Lambrecht Ward (Kids' Own Associate Artist)



Vanya is a multi disciplinary artist whose work exists as a studio and research practice alongside many collaborative, educational and community engagements. She has worked with Kids' Own Publishing Partnership as an associate artist and curator since 2008, including book projects such as A strong Heart, Bouncing Away and What is Art as well as, most recently, the anniversary Exhibition: TADA! to name but a few.

In her studio practice, through a variety of topics and media, she explores our relationship to our natural environments and built surroundings. Her current research centres around fungal ecologies, system thinking, and language with particular focus on relationship and perceptions of our environments and ecological partners, which takes the form of small publications and events.

She has a background in theatre making, and lectures at YAADA (ATU Sligo) across various disciples. She holds Bachelors degrees in both Fine Art and Architecture and an MA (Art in the Contemporary World) from NCAD.

Example of recent work: https://www.thedock.ie/whatson/mycothoughts https://www.instagram.com/vanyalambrec htward_studio/?hl=en)



Liz Coman (Assistant Arts Officer, Dublin City Council)

I am an Assistant Arts Officer for Dublin City Council and a Visual Arts Education Curator. I have an MA in History of Art and Museum Studies and fifteen years' experience in the creative arts, culture and education sectors in Ireland designing new opportunities and projects that support the integration and promotion of the arts in Ireland. I am a curator of contemporary visual arts experiences with children and young people. I am trained at an advanced level in Visual Thinking Strategies, USA. I have led trainings in enquiry led approaches to mediating artwork for visual arts facilitators in The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children, The National Gallery of Ireland, and The Turner Prize, Derry and conduct ongoing mentorship for individual artists, arts educators and teachers as an integral part of project development.

3.45pm: Coffee Break

4pm: Youth Panel Discussion

An opportunity to listen to the thoughts of young people who have been part of recent Kids' Own projects.

4.30pm: Reflection and Discussion

Led by conference rapporteur Dr Bryonie Reid (Quarto Collective).

Dr Bryonie Reid



www.bryoniereid.com www.quartocollective.com

I am a writer and artist and for two decades have been exploring the relationships between place, belonging, identity and memory. I am interested in the complexity and nuance that always underlie simplified public narratives of what place means to people. I value collaborative work and when I am working with others, listening and reflecting are at the core of my practice. I use these to refresh and deepen my own and others' understanding of the matters at hand.