



# Outside Inside

EXHIBITION SERIES

CATALOGUE **MARCH-JUNE 2006**



Members of the IWA pictured with artist Alice Maher at the opening of their selected works from the Collection of the Irish Museum of Modern Art. Front (L-R): John Egan, Pat Sherlock, Kate Daly, Peggy Nagle, Paddy Concannon, Peg Whelan, Ann Connolly, Helen Kennedy. Back (L-R): Bill Morrell, Sean Hennessy, Alice Maher artist. The work inspired and informed each individual person's artistic development.

## Outside Inside

### EXHIBITION SERIES

Offaly County Council Arts Office has developed a strong and viable Arts in Health programme over the past two years. Part of this programme is a collaboration between the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) and the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) with a series of exhibitions titled **Outside Inside**.

Artist Julie Spollen, who has led the members of the IWA down a journey in exploration of modern art, has facilitated this collaboration. This journey has brought out a unique artistic voice in each member, who now understand art as a process and as a dialogue. The artwork that they have created in this project is unequalled; such is the personal journey of each participant. The journey has been paramount in the project from the beginning, and this is just a chapter along the road.

We look forward to continuing to develop this programme and to ensure that the experience of all participants and partners is a positive and progressive one. We would like to sincerely thank the members and staff of the IWA in Cloghan, Julie Spollen, Johanne Mullan (IMMA) and Tom Meskeil, Offaly County Council, Artist in Residence for their enthusiasm, dedication and vision.

Sinead O'Reilly  
Arts Officer, Offaly County Council.

### THE MENTORING PROGRAMME

The Mentoring Programme was initiated by Offaly County Council Arts Officer Sinead O'Reilly and Community Artist Tom Meskeil in September 2005 and set out to support and assist four local artists in the county. Julie Spollen was one of those artists and has worked with the Irish Wheelchair Association in Cloghan for six months as part of the Mentoring Programme.

**"I am inspired by the work that has grown out of the IWA group. Since I first met them in 2004 to this show in IMMA, the work has gained another dimension, another edge that comes from honesty, and the expression of that heart-felt human experience. 'Beauty is truth, truth beauty – that is all ye need to know.' John Keats The work in this project is beautiful and reaches out to me, that is all I know."**

Tom Meskeil  
Artist in Residence Offaly County Council, September 2005– May 2006



**Camille Souter** Old Wheel Gate Entrance to Estate  
Oil on paper 51.9 x 34 cm  
Gordon Lambert Trust, 1992  
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art



### **Anne Connolly** Sweet Sixteen

This is a photo of myself, aged 20 with my eldest son Declan at his christening in July 1951, sadly he drowned on May 1979. The son I loved and lost. The other photo is my passport photo when I was 16. Written on the back "Wasn't I terrible looking". The wheat and berries represent working on the farm. The bell was on my Mam and Dads wedding cake in 1924, surviving. The cup was lost and found in my garden. I love dolls and jewellery. The shells, the sea, never lost a chance to walk by it. The leaves are a symbol for my love of trees; the magnificent oak is reflected in my artwork.



**Gwen O'Dowd** Rain II  
Oil on canvas 106 x 134 cm  
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art  
Purchase, 1993



**Bill Morrell** Heart & Soul

The name of my box is Heart & Soul. My heart and soul is represented by the picture of my family. The stones allow me to reminisce living beside Pallas Lake and playing with my children.





**Oliver Comerford** Out Here III  
Oil on canvas over board 153 x 229 cm  
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art  
Purchase, 2003



### **Helen Kennedy** Dear Daddy

This is a letter to my Daddy who is the background of the box. It describes the time I was in a car accident and broke my back, there is a photo of me during the recovery time, there is also a photo of a lady I called Mammy, she raised me alongside her own children as my mother passed away when I was two and a half. The ceramic Angel doll is from my collection and part of her back is broken.



**John Kindness** A Monkey Parade  
Chalk on sandpaper 64 x 64 cm  
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art  
Donated by the artist, 1991



### **John Egan** My Memories

Having built shelves out of slate I placed different objects on each shelf to represent different periods of my life. The tools represent my younger days training to be a mechanic and where it brought me. The currency shows three different currencies that I have lived through. I was a soldier and have my lapel pin, cap badge and a shell from the Dead Sea. There is a background photo of me during that period; the medal is a service medal. The dolmen is made out of slate and represents one of my first paintings that was significant to me.



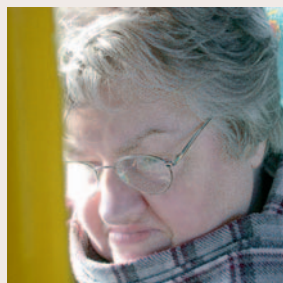
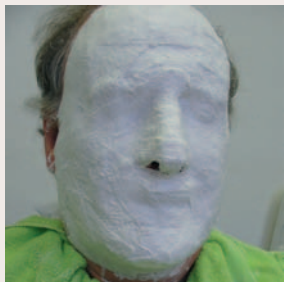
**Patrick Hall** Ancestors  
 Oil on canvas 152 x 157 cm  
 Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art  
 Purchase, 1992



**Kate Daly** Kate's Cottage

We lived in the bog, the house is made out of turf and represents my young days when we played as we saved turf on the bog, wheeling the turf in a barrow. The teacup represents the enjoyment of having tea on the bog. The background is painted bog cotton.





## Art - the process

### Describing the creation of the boxes and workshop process

People were asked to identify aspects and thoughts about their person and describe them within the confines of the box, bringing what is inside, outside. Identical boxes enabled the group to the work individually, whilst creating one larger piece of artwork once placed together.

"The excitement of choosing the work was evident from our first trip to IMMA, sitting down to do it was harder as IMMA have a wonderful collection." Julie Spollen

"My main objective is to keep thinking and responding to my feelings and my environment. Where ever that takes me at that moment in time. Human experiences shared allow a healthy and powerful thought process to develop for all involved. The opportunity for us to participate together and ensure "inclusion" for all who are interested in creating art is a positive reflection on the art world. Exclusion is too common and too easy. Outside Inside allowed me to meet the person and the artist; it's been a privilege and a pleasure." Julie Spollen BDES NCAD MA RCA

### About the IWA

The Irish Wheelchair Association is the national organisation dedicated to the achievement of the full social, economic and educational integration of people with disabilities as equal, independent and participative members within the general community.

"An object or image has a life of its own and it brings the past with it. Memories and culture are like reservoirs that you can take things from and put them back."

Alice Maher at the opening of IMMA **Outside by Us** on March 16th 2006 in Tullamore





**John Kindness** Scraping the surface  
1990 Etched painted steel (N.Y. taxi door) 112.5 x 87.5 cm  
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art  
Purchase, 1991



**Paddy Concannon** The Way it Was & the Way it is Now

This a mask I made during the IMMA workshop and painted at the IWA workshop in Cloghan, the photo is a picture of me with my dog, adding the coins representing an era gone by. This is the time that was.



**Alice Maher** Berry Dress  
 Rosehips, cotton, paint, sewing pins 16 x 26 x 30 cm  
 Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art  
 Purchase, 1995



**Pat Sherlock** Through My Eyes

I have a photo of my brothers and myself out fishing behind my mask. The mask I made and painted to represent me being involved with my art work. We are all individuals.



**Dorothy Cross** Kitchen Table

Wood, enamel bowl, steel, glass test tube, fossilised sharks' teeth 90 x 162 x 60 cm  
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art  
Purchase, 1991



**Peggy Nagle** The Card Player

In my box I have memorabilia from the time I was Lord Mayor of Ferbane, it was worthwhile hard work, I'll never forget it, the bottle represents when I started with the IWA and I am so happy to be with them. I am an enthusiastic card player!!!





**Mary Swanzy** Abstract  
Oil on board 40 x 60 cm  
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art  
Donation, Maire and Maurice Foley, 2000



**Peggy Whelan** Self Portrait

This is a photo of me now, surrounded by significant times in my life, from a small child with my mother, having fun with friends, a photo of me days before my stroke, and me with my daughters and grandchildren.



**John Kindness** Dog with Altarpiece  
Chalk on sandpaper 64 x 64 cm  
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art  
Donated by the artist, 1991



**Sean Hennessy** Vagaries

This box represents the ups and downs in my life, the ups having freedom to be out on the green, this was one of the most enjoyable times for me before I had my stroke. The downs, losing that sense of freedom. The gold golf ball and the painted green lead to the gold door in the distance.

# IMMA

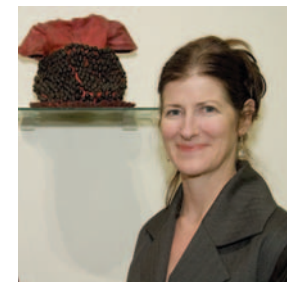
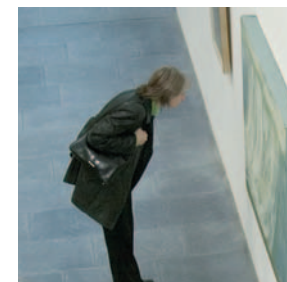
The Irish Museum of Modern Art is delighted to have had this opportunity to collaborate with the Irish Wheelchair Association and the Offaly Arts Office. IMMA's National Programme was established to create greater access to the Museum's collection and programmes and to promote access and enjoyment of contemporary art throughout Ireland.

*Outside Inside* embodies its spirit and participative objectives.

The process involved the group visiting the museum and researching its collection. This was done in tandem with a workshop facilitated by artist Julie Spollen in the IMMA studios.

On behalf of the Museum I would like to thank the group for their engagement, enthusiasm and commitment in what I believe to be one of the National Programme's most successful partnerships.

Johanne Mullan  
National Programmer







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**Irish Wheelchair Association**  
*National organisation of people with mobility impairment*



Áras  
Nua-  
Ealaíne  
na hÉireann

