

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART at IMMA, KILMAINHAM, ON 10th JUNE at 15.00pm.

Present: Ali Curran (Chair), Eva Kenny, Sinead O'Sullivan, John McLaughlin, John Cunningham, Margot Lyons, Dermod Dwyer, Mike Fitzpatrick, Gerard Byrne, Jess Majekodunmi

On-line: Mary Apied

Apologies : Rhoda Lane-O'Kelly

In attendance: Annie Fletcher, Fintan McDonald (Company Secretary), Sheena Barrett for selected items.

1 Conflict of Interest

All Directors confirmed that they had no conflict of interest in relation to the matters to be dealt with at this meeting. DD drew the Board's attention to his role as Chair of Powerscourt House which hosts wedding receptions, and that this may conflict with commercial proposals to host wedding receptions at IMMA.

2 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 13th April 2025 were proposed by JC, seconded by ML and approved.

3 Matters Arising

It is requested that details of any acquisitions and donations be circulated for each meeting.

4 Director's Report

- a. AC and AF had a meeting with the OPW and met with the OPW Chair, John Conlon, and Assistant Secretary General, Rosemary Collier. OPW expressed concerns about the branding of the North Range as IMMA given the State's significant investment in the fire safety works. IMMA highlighted its mandate that established the whole site as a Cultural Centre for the arts. IMMA also highlighted its investment in the Heritage of the site and a forthcoming major publication that will review the site's history through the prism of its cultural significance. IMMA has taken the initiative to develop a joint signage project with the OPW. IMMA and OPW will work in partnership to advance major capital projects for the site.
- b. The exhibition 'Staying with the Trouble' opened on 1st May with a very large crowd for the opening event. The exhibition features over 40 Irish and Ireland-based artists
- c. The Sam Gilliam exhibition, Sewing Fields, will open on 12th June. The fabric artworks merge painting with sculpture.
- d. The performance of Sweat Variant will take place in the Chapel on 14-15th June.
- e. One of IMMA's Collection curators visited the Irish Arts Centre in New York ahead of Patricia Hurl's upcoming exhibition in September.

- f. Simone Rocha and Perry Ogden headlined the second IMMA MEMBERS event of the year with over 300 attendees in the Great Hall.
- g. IMMA has launched a new Digital Wayfinding App to help visitors navigate the site, access exhibition content, and engage more deeply with the Collection.
- h. The L'internationale Museum of the Commons Summer School' is confirmed for 7th – 11th July, delivered in partnership with NCAD and featuring over 30 international participants.
- i. IMMA Perspectives hosted 7 neurodivergent artists for a week-long site-based research residency. The project culminated in a workshop for IMMA and DCC staff, sharing experiences of accessibility and creative insight.

5 **Engagement & Learning – SB**

The work of the department is informed and structured by the IMMA Strategy 2024-28. The department has a number of distinct strands:

- a. IMMA Horizons – this evolved from IMMA's earlier Art & Ageing programme that was developed through collaboration with the Alzheimer's Society and MISA at St James Hospital. The focus has broadened to embrace Lifelong Wellness and interesting research projects are in progress with the Global Brain Health Institute and Trinity College. A number of new engagement approaches have been developed.
- b. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The assistant curator for EDI has formed some significant partnerships that are bringing new audiences to IMMA. Workshops have been developed for young people as part of the IMMA Explorer programme (Co-created with Angelica Network & Superprojects, funded by Department of Children, Disability and Equality). Neurodivergent artists co-designed a weeklong encounter programme in collaboration with Dublin City Council Arts Office, Creative and Cultural Skillnet. And IMMA is collaborating with the Liberties Community Project.
- c. The schools and family programme includes School Tours, Family Explorer, Transition Year Programme, Teacher Training programmes, and collaborations with Helium Arts.
- d. New engagement resources have been developed with kids' and adults' audio guides that present exhibitions through a different lens for 3-80 year-olds.
- e. The IMMA Talks programme centres around two public talks per month.
- f. The Third Level programme will include a collaboration with NCAD to host the L'Internationale summer School, and there are collaborations with all the major Third Level colleges.
- g. IMMA's residency programme Dwell Here received over 400 applications for the first round and has welcomed 12 scholars so far in 2025.

6 **Finance, Audit & Risk Committee Update - SOS**

The Committee met on 10th June. The external auditor from the OCAG and the Internal Auditor attended the early parts of the meeting in person. The external auditor commented on the

progress of the external audit and was satisfied with all of the information and explanations from the IMMA Executive.

The Internal Auditor presented a report on the implementation of the IMMA Strategy 2024-28 Action Plan. The report made seven recommendations, all of which were accepted by management. The result of the audit was satisfactory.

The Internal Auditor presented an update on the audit plan whereby the finance controls audit will look into the IMMA Pension Scheme to assess its status and operation, and how future liabilities are calculated and communicated with the Department.

The FAR Committee reviewed its 2024 Annual Report and presented it to the Board. The report summaries the work and findings of the committee during 2024.

The Board approved the Annual Report.

7 Strategy Update

The update on strategy includes actions in response to the Internal Audit recommendations. These included a recommendation that formal updates be given to the Board quarterly. The audit also recommended updates on report review, monitoring of costs, and a summary of changes from the last report. Lastly, the internal auditor recommended the addition of a Benefit Effort matrix to the action plan.

A progress update on the implementation plan was presented showing three of the 19 actions to be significantly behind schedule. The Board asked the Director to review these 'red' actions and to update these actions for the next Board review.

8 External Assessment of Board Performance

A sub-group of the Board will be formed to prepare a tender document for external assessment. It is hoped that questions relating to the IMMA Strategy and the Board's understanding of its role in the execution of the strategy can be addressed through this process.

9 Finance

The draft Financial Statements 2024 were presented. The external audit is not yet complete but no concerns have yet been raised by the auditor.

The Board approved the Financial Statements in their current form. Any revisions resulting from observations by the OCAG will prompt a return for further approval by the Board.

The Management Accounts to April 2025 were presented. The forecast for the year is in line with the 2025 budget. The two major financial matters, pensions and energy costs, were brought to the attention of the Department by the Director. There has been no formal response from the Department on the matter of pension liabilities and the Board will write again to the Department to communicate the urgency of this matter. Inflated energy costs led directly to a deficit in 2024 and are expected to deliver a further loss in 2025. IMMA has no reserves to cover these deficits, but the Department has no further resources to offer IMMA. The Director remains in close contact with the Department on this matter. It is hoped that adequate resourcing of the pensions liability may be forthcoming in 2025 and that this matter may be properly addressed for 2026 through the allocation process.

10 **Risk Register**

The latest version of the Risk Register was discussed and the changes from the April version were noted.

11 **AOB**

Margot Lyons tenure as a Board Member has come to an end. The Chair thanked Margot for her incisive contributions to Board discussions, her committed support during her two terms on the Board, and for her service as Chair of the FAR Committee.

12 **Close**

The next meeting is scheduled for 16th September 2025.

13 **In Camera**

The executive left the meeting and discussions continued In Camera.