



Acquisitions 2020-21

Arts Council of Northern Ireland Collection

#ACNICollection



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Foreword

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland grew its Art Collection in 2020-21 with the purchase of 53 new works by 28 artists currently working in Northern Ireland. The acquisitions represent the recent practice of artists at different stages in their careers, from emerging to established, covering a wide range of disciplines including painting, sculpture, craft, print, photography and video. The artworks reflect artistic practice that is innovative and challenging and which contributes to the development of the visual arts in Northern Ireland.

The Arts Council recognises the importance of purchasing contemporary work as a vital support mechanism for artists, perhaps now more than ever. The work purchased can be seen as reflective of the pandemic year, as artists responded to the changed world we found ourselves in. The new acquisitions will bring the total number of artworks in the Collection to over 650.

These new works of art are accessible to audiences both within and outside Northern Ireland as part of the Arts Council's Lending Scheme.

To find out more about our Art Collection and our Lending Scheme, please contact the Arts Council of Northern Ireland at:
collection@artscouncil-ni.org

View our recent acquisitions on Instagram: [@artscouncilni_collection](https://www.instagram.com/artscouncilni_collection)
[#ACNICollection](https://www.instagram.com/ACNICollection)

Dr Suzanne Lyle
Head of Visual Arts



Self portrait at the age of 28
by Mantas Poderys
Pastel on paper. 2018



Social Distancing Ballet (after Degas) by Gerry Gleason

Night of the Fish Supper (after Picasso)
by Gerry Gleason



Gerry Gleason

Mixed Media Drawing- Ink, watercolour, coloured pencils and red chalk. 2020

Gerry Gleason is an established painter, renowned for his paintings of Northern Ireland during the Troubles. 'The Lockdown Chronicle' is a series of twelve mixed media drawings created during the first lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic. They represent a personal visual diary of ideas and feelings; sometimes with humour, sometimes with great sadness at the loss of life, and at other times observing the unfolding of events as they occurred. The artist draws inspiration from the compositions of the Old and Modern Masters, who themselves lived through plagues and, in recent times, the Spanish Flu. The Covid-19 symbol appears in many of the works, floating nearby, an ever-present threat, unseen to the naked eye.



The Virus Dance
by Gerry Gleason



Transverse by Anne Butler

Anne Butler

Sculpture - Parian porcelain. 2021

Anne Butler is an established ceramist whose practice is interested in the relationship between process, material and time. *Transverse* is part of a series of sculptures, 'On the Edge', which was developed over the last year, influenced by issues around health, climate change and political change. The piece is an exploration of the changing state of Parian porcelain through a combination of traditional and unconventional making and firing processes. The rigid base contrasts with the flowing delicacy and translucency of the porcelain, which has been allowed to collapse and fold over the edge in the high temperatures of multiple firings. In contrast, the rigid lines of the blue porcelain grid pattern remind us of manmade societal and personal structures, creating interesting parallels in the work and capturing the wider themes the artist is exploring.



Marankal
by Anushiya Sundaralingam

Anushiya Sundaralingam

Sculpture - Bamboo, Thread, Encaustic, Oil, Plywood. 2019

Anushiya Sundaralingam's practice is influenced by nature, culture, conflict and identity - themes relating to her memories and experiences of growing up in Sri Lanka, later moving to England, and subsequently settling in Northern Ireland. She works with a range of media to suggest the intricate and layered nature of belonging, identity and place. In her recent practice the artist has focused on the concept of roots and their various connotations and has sought inspiration from indigenous Sri Lankan Palmyra trees, which have visible root systems. Whilst relating to previous work, this piece has a strong sense of containment in its tightly constructed structure and can be seen as a reflection of the experience of living in lockdown and experiencing a different relationship with nature, whilst also alluding to broader environmental concerns.



Tender by Alana Barton

Alana Barton

Painting - Oil on canvas. 2021

Alana Barton is an early career artist. *Tender* was created as part of her 'Habitat' series, which was developed from an online art project where the artist invited the public to take part in free online art tutorials tailored for families to capture positive memories of time spent at home. This piece, depicting a young child being held by her father, explores the nature of childhood and family relationships. It powerfully evokes the sense of being in the present whilst simultaneously caught in a dream-like state, through a distinctive painterly approach, which combines realism with a more abstract use of colour and form.



A Peeling (Pink Marble/Green) by John Rainey

John Rainey

Sculpture - Parian Porcelain. 2020

John Rainey is an established sculptor working with mixed media, including ceramics, 3D print and metal. His work is preoccupied with bodily forms and he is drawn to the aesthetics of the artificial as well the histories and processes of manufacturing. *A Peeling* is influenced by Classical Greek bronze sculptures and the tradition of artists copying these works over centuries. Cast in porcelain, the use of the material is subversive and playful, masquerading both as green silicone, which appears to peel off like flayed skin, to reveal the illusion of pink marble beneath. The work has a visceral, liminal quality to it, being caught mid-skinning, and pushing the boundaries of the material to capture a sense of transformation.



Fake Waist Girl
by Haley Morris Cafiero

Haley Morris Cafiero

Photography - Digital photograph. 2019

Haley Morris Cafiero is a photographer who takes on a number of roles – part performer, part artist, part provocateur and part spectator, as she explores the act of reflection in her photography. *Fake Waist Girl* is part of a series of self-portraits, 'The Bully Pulpit', where the artist has photographed herself dressed up in different scenarios which reference people who have attempted to cyber bully her. The work comprises a series of arresting images parodying the cyber bullying comments posted about her online, adopting different personas using wigs, clothing, and prosthetics. The images are then overlaid with transcripts of the bullying comments, as if the artist were “subtweeting” them.



Genesis Lost Dome I
by Mhairi Sutherland



Genesis Lost II
by Mhairi Sutherland

Mhairi Sutherland

Photography/Print - Cyanotype photographic print. 2019

Mhairi Sutherland is a multidisciplinary artist interested in the history of photography, archival research and the decoding and understanding of a landscape. *Genesis Lost* is a research-based project of photographic and drawn images, exploring elements of the history and landscape of former military airfields along the eastern coastline of Lough Foyle. This cyanotype print was made from some of the original ironwork and equipment that would have been used for projecting military training films inside the Training Dome buildings, as they were known. This was the first architecture of its kind in which moving image was presented to create an immersive landscape, and as such could be considered a forerunner of VR technologies. The work can be seen as a reflection on technological progress and the relationship between photography and warfare.



Indoor Sunlight by Michael Hanna

Michael Hanna

Digital video. 2019

Michael Hanna is a conceptual artist, primarily working in video, using affective experiences to explore connections between psychology, physicality and society. *Indoor Sunlight* is a video work which explores how affective experience can shape visions of a better world. The work's title is one of the 253 patterns outlined in Christopher Alexander's 1977 book *A Pattern Language*, whose core message is that of agency and empowerment, providing people with tools to design their environments using combinations of these patterns to bring 'aliveness' to the spaces they inhabit. Through a use of archive footage, the work considers promised futures and the disparities between utopian ideals and local realities, a recurring theme in the artist's practice.

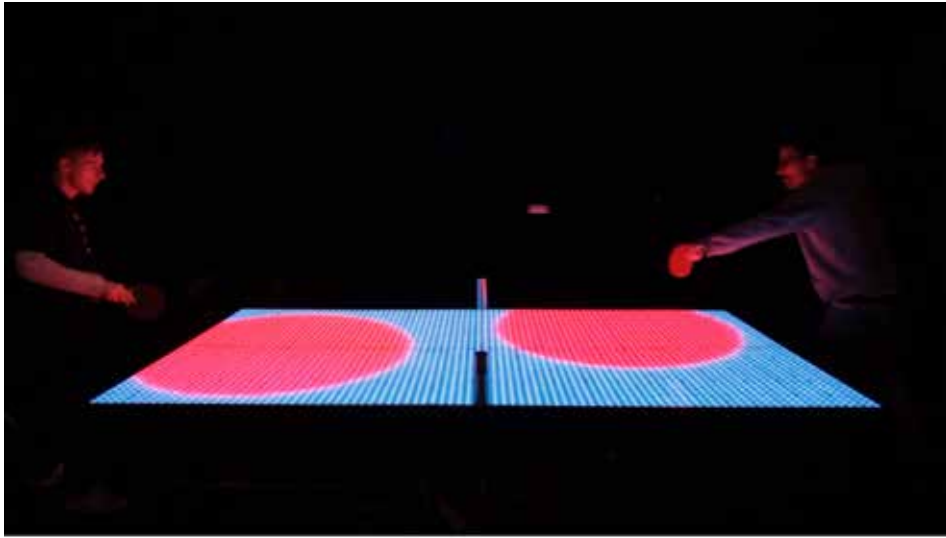


Baltic Theme, Rosevia, Poland by Philip Flanagan

Philip Flanagan

Painting - Acrylic on linen. 2020

Philip Flanagan is an established painter with a painting practice informed by the artist's origins as a sculptor. *Baltic Theme* is one of a series of painted works on linen, inspired by a visit to the north coast of Poland in 2019. The artist observes the topography of a landscape, using flat planes of colour to create plastic space and in doing so creating an 'inscape'. Form and light are achieved by working over coloured grounds, utilizing patterns of colour to create an energy within the work. Architectural compositions create a sense of simplicity and purity, built on formal principles of firmness and balance, proportion and structure.



This is Not a Table by Robin Price

Robin Price

Sculpture - Interactive AV ping pong table. 2019

Robin Price works with new technologies, creating work in a range of 2D and 3D media which explores the appropriation and augmentation of existing objects. *This is Not a Table* is an antidote to the 'do not touch' gallery mentality, being an object designed to be played on and with. Comprising 4000 LEDs, speakers, microphones and custom electronics built into a full size ping pong table, it responds to the ball's bounce in a variety of engaging audio visual displays which playfully undermine and subvert the object's original function.



Fionnghlas
by Paul Moore

Paul Moore

Video and audio installation with light box. 2020

Paul Moore's practice explores ideas of journey - between nations, across borders, and through technology - in order to be present elsewhere. A recurring theme is an exploration of motion, the push-pull of physical and immaterial boundaries, exertion, labour and effort. He works with video, AV installation and performance. *Fionnghlas* was created in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic and explores the notion of endurance exercise and cold water swimming. For the artist, this activity provided a place to both escape and exist, drawing interesting parallels with virtual reality. Through the meditative nature of the piece, it raises questions about how we as a society are equipped to deal with adversity.



Unwind 2 by Brian McKee

Brian McKee

Craft - Ash and stainless steel. 2020

Brian McKee is a craft maker with an established practice in contemporary furniture design. The concept of *Unwind 2* evolved from a desire to create a sculptural, yet functional piece of furniture through steam bending hardwood. The resulting curvaceous form is both inviting to repose upon as a chair, and aesthetically pleasing as a sculptural object, where form exists in harmony with function.



Mika, The Yellow Steps series by Xanthe Hutchinson

Xanthe Hutchinson

Digital Photography and monoprint. 2019

Xanthe Hutchinson is an early career photographer whose work is concerned with the precept of transition, in particular the liminality of gender and adolescence. Her practice explores gender as a human construct and, using the theories of Foucault, Csordas and Bourdieu, it aims to unpick the idea that gender, like so many other human constructs, can be undermined. 'The Yellow Steps' is a photographic and print series, developed as a collaboration between the artist and Mika, a trans boy. The series, as a whole, represents the process of transitioning as a constructed visual narrative. The work explores in a wider sense transgender identity, the gaze and our collective complicity as viewers.



Untitled (Bird), Sleeping Dogs Lie series by Aoife Herrity

Aoife Herrity

Photographic print on rice paper. 2019

Aoife Herrity is an emerging photographer and recent MFA graduate from the University of Ulster. 'Sleeping Dogs Lie' is an interdisciplinary photographic project that explores psychological landscapes; the darker side of memory and suppressed narratives surrounding insidious experiences in the aftermath of trauma. Merging archival and contemporary imagery and text, this body of work addresses the complexities involved in difficult and sensitive histories. The work navigates complex personal histories by suggesting, in its unsettling and claustrophobic imagery, the elusive and oblique nature of grooming, coercion, surveillance and control in domestic and community environments.



Untitled (Tree), Sleeping Dogs Lie series
by Aoife Herrity



Untitled (Hedge), Sleeping Dogs Lie series
by Aoife Herrity



Shower at Dusk by Saffron Monks Smith

Saffron Monks Smith

Painting - Oil and gouache on MDF. 2020

Saffron Monks Smith is an emerging artist and recent MFA graduate from the University of Ulster. This series of small painted works on wood explores the juxtaposition between light and dark, absence and presence, through the depiction of everyday, mundane and often nocturnal surroundings. The artist intends to question the viewer's sensory perception of a landscape by translating the ordinary into somewhere sinister and unfamiliar. She draws on light and weather as tools to create physical presence within the work and to instil an instinctual fear of the unknown.



Alley Way Gleam by Saffron Monks Smith



Shadows of Amber by Saffron Monks Smith



Fluidity Glimpse
by Delvna Cunning
Photography. 2019



Dystopia
by June Hill
Installation. 2020



Stad Tacsaithe (Taxi Stand)
by Ciara Walsh
Screenprint. 2020



Portrait of Maru
by Anna Evans
Drawing. 2018



Conference
by Tim Millen
Painting. 2020



Alone
by Paula Caffrey
Video. 2020



RIP Decky
by Chad Alexander
Photography. 2018



Aeroplane
by David Copeland
Photography. 2020



I See You in Feathers
by Catherine Creaney
Painting. 2018



La descente No.1
by Nollaig Molloy
Photography. 2020

List of Acquisitions 2020-21 (Purchases and gifts)

Alana Barton, Tender. Oil on canvas. © Courtesy of the artist
Anna Evans, Portrait of Maru. Nitram Charcoal and Chalk on Hand-tinted Arches Paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Anne Butler, Transverse. Sculpture in parian porcelain. © Courtesy of the artist
Anushiya Sundaralingam, Marankal. Sculpture - Bamboo, Thread, Encaustic, Oil, Plywood. © Courtesy of the artist
Aoife Herrity, Tree. Photographic Print. © Courtesy of the artist
Aoife Herrity, Hedge. Photographic Print. © Courtesy of the artist
Aoife Herrity, Bird. Photographic Print. © Courtesy of the artist
Brian McKee, Rocking Chair. Chair, wood. © Courtesy of the artist. Photography by Vizz Creative
Catherine Creaney, I See You In Feathers. Oil on linen. © Courtesy of the artist
Chad Alexander, RIP Decky. Photographic print. © Courtesy of the artist
Chris Wilson, A Certain Place. Painting. Acrylic on canvas. © Courtesy of the artist
Ciara Walsh, Stad Tacsaithe (Taxi Stand). Photographic print. © Courtesy of the artist
David Copeland, Aeroplane. Photographic print. © Courtesy of the artist
David Copeland, Swing. Photographic print. © Courtesy of the artist
Delvna Cunning, Glimpse. Photographic Print. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, Lockdown Dream. Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, Social Distancing Ballet (after Degas). Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, Indoor Exercising Blues. Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, Fatigue Covid 19 Ward (after Rubens). Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, The White Rabbit Sees All (after Del Sarto). Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, Lockdown Island Blues (after Caravaggio). Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, Sitting it Out. Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, Night of the Fish Supper (after Picasso). Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, The Return River Crossing (after Degas). Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, Sharing with You (after Mantegna). Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, Virus Dance. Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Gerry Gleason, The Long Short Break. Mixed media on Fabriano Classico watercolour paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Haley Morris-Cafiero, Fake Waist Girl. Photographic print. © Courtesy of the artist
Janet Mullarney, Same but Different. Sculpture. Aluminium and bronze. © Courtesy of the artist
John Rainey, A Peeling (Pink Marble/Green). Sculpture - Parian Porcelain. © Courtesy of the artist
June Hill, Dystopia, Light installation on sculpture. © Courtesy of the artist
Lorcan Vallely, Colin Morgan. Charcoal and oil on canvas. © Courtesy of the artist
Mantas Poderys, Self Portrait at Age of 28. Drawing - Pastel on paper. © Courtesy of the artist
Mhairi Sutherland, Genesis Lost (Dome I). Photographic Print - Cyanotype photographic print. © Courtesy of the artist
Mhairi Sutherland, Genesis Lost (Dome II). Photographic Print - Cyanotype photographic print. © Courtesy of the artist
Michael Hanna, Indoor Sunlight. Digital HD Video. © Courtesy of the artist

Nollaig Molloy, Worth your Salt. Giclee print. Edition 1 of 3. © Courtesy of the artist
Nollaig Molloy, La descente. Giclee print. Edition 1 of 3. © Courtesy of the artist
Nollaig Molloy, Worth Your Salt (video). Digital video, animation and digitized Super 8mm. © Courtesy of the artist
Paul Moore, Fionnghlas. Video/Photographic/sound Installation. © Courtesy of the artist. Installation shots by Simon Mills, courtesy of The Golden Thread Gallery
Paula Caffrey, Alone. Animated film (acrylic paint and mixed media). © Courtesy of the artist
Philip Flanagan, Baltic Theme, Rosevia, Poland. Acrylic on Linen. © Courtesy of the artist
Robin Price, This is not a table. Interactive Sculpture / Ping Pong Table. © Courtesy of the artist. Photography by Simon Mills
Saffron Monks-Smith, Shower at Dusk. Gouache and oil paint on MDF. © Courtesy of the artist
Saffron Monks-Smith, Shadows of Amber. Gouache and oil paint on MDF. © Courtesy of the artist
Saffron Monks-Smith, Back to Back. Gouache and oil paint on MDF. © Courtesy of the artist
Saffron Monks-Smith, Alley Way Gleam. Gouache and oil paint on MDF. © Courtesy of the artist
Saffron Monks-Smith, Around the Corner. Oil paint on MDF. © Courtesy of the artist
Saffron Monks-Smith, Downpour. Gouache and oil paint on MDF. © Courtesy of the artist
Saffron Monks-Smith, Road to Nowhere. Gouache and oil paint on MDF. © Courtesy of the artist
Tim Millen, Conference. Oil on Canvas. © Courtesy of the artist
Xanthe Hutchinson, Boy 1 & 2. Photographic Print. © Courtesy of the artist
Xanthe Hutchinson, Surface. Photographic Print. © Courtesy of the artist
Xanthe Hutchinson, Mika. Photographic Print. © Courtesy of the artist
Xanthe Hutchinson, Luke. Photographic Print. © Courtesy of the artist
Xanthe Hutchinson, Self Portrait. Photographic Print. © Courtesy of the artist

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A Certain Place by Chris Wilson
Painting. 2020



Arts Council of Northern Ireland

To find out more about the Arts Council's Art Collection and Lending Scheme, please contact the Arts Council of Northern Ireland at: collection@artscouncil-ni.org

View the recent acquisitions on social media: [#ACNICollection](https://twitter.com/ACNICollection)