

Distance is a Measure of Closeness

Plain English Version

General Information

Distance is a Measure of Closeness is a solo exhibition by **Kerry Guinan**.

The **exhibition** runs Wednesday, 17 May – Saturday, 16 July 2025.

A **preview** of the exhibition takes place on Saturday, 17 May, 2–4 pm.

The **closing event** will be a talk between Kerry Guinan and Dr. Kieran Cashell. It will take place on Saturday, 26 July, 6pm.

Theme

“Capital creates space-time.” This quote comes from David Harvey, a geographer who uses the ideas of Karl Marx to explain how cities are shaped by **money, power, and inequality**.

Today’s world is controlled by **large, complex systems** that can be hard to see or understand, like technology and money. This exhibition by Kerry Guinan helps to make those hidden systems **more visible**.

The exhibition also brings together people and places that are **far apart**. Even though these subjects are thousands of miles away, the live aspect of the work feels very **real and immediate**.



Works are inspired by “**time-space compression**,” a concept that comes from Marxist geography. This concept says that modern life moves so quickly it can change how we feel time and space, making faraway places seem closer, or nearby things feel distant.

Using this idea, Kerry Guinan explores **social and economic issues**. Her work looks at how people experience expansion and compression, connection and isolation, and closeness and distance.

Featured Works

The exhibition at Ormston House features **three works**: *Portraits*, *The Red Thread*, and *Landscapes*.

Portraits is a series of three video portraits that are **filmed live** and shown in the gallery on three different days during the exhibition time. Each video features a professional content creator **sitting still** for the camera in their own home. This work is directed by Kerry Guinan and is a development of an earlier staging in 2019.

Each **performance** of *Portraits* takes place on a different day:

- **17 May:** Nirvaya Subedi from Nepal.
- **21 June:** Oleg Repetskiy from Ukraine.
- **26 July:** Maimana Ghonim from Egypt.

Each performance runs **12–6 pm**.

The Red Thread is an installation. It consists of **six sewing machines** that are operated remotely by workers in a clothes factory in Bengaluru (India). It was presented in 2022 at The Complex, an arts centre in Dublin. *The Red Thread* is presented at Ormston House in the form of a **12-minute documentary film** by Anthony O'Connor and a **collection of materials** that Kerry Guinan used for the project.

Landscapes are two large-scale **photographs**. One shows the most expensive land for sale in Ireland in 2018, and the other shows the cheapest. The photos show how we **assign value to land** in arbitrary and unnatural ways.

Kerry Guinan Biography

Kerry Guinan explores **economic, technological, and political issues** through contemporary art. She is interested in the systems that control our society and their negative effects, such as technology, labor, and property. She uses installation, photography, participatory art, and performance in her work.

Kerry Guinan holds a **PhD in Artistic Practice** from TUS: Midlands Midwest (2024). She is currently an **artistic researcher** at the Centre for Art and the Political Imaginary, a centre for excellence in artistic research at HDK Valand and the Royal Swedish Academy of Fine Arts (Sweden).



Support for her work comes from the Arts Council of Ireland and local councils in Fingal and Limerick.

Some of her **recent projects** include:

- *Staying with the Trouble* (Dublin, 2025), a group exhibition at the Irish Museum of Modern Art,
- *Cosmic Debris* (Cork, 2024), a residency and group exhibition at the National Space Centre and Greywood Arts, and
- *Apocalypse Anxieties* (Athlone, 2024), an exhibition at the Laun Gallery, where she was both an artist and curator.

Funding

This exhibition is supported by the Art Factory at The Complex, Dublin City Arts Office, Limerick Arts Office, the Arts Council of Ireland, and the Centre for Art and the Political Imaginary (Sweden).

