

Plain English Version

Bíodh Orm Anocht

General Information

Bíodh Orm Anocht is a group exhibition.

The exhibition features four artists: Ciarán Ó Dochartaigh, Laura Ní Fhlaibhín, Seán Hannan, and Kiera O'Toole.

It has been developed by Ormston House and EVA International. It takes place at Ormston House and in other places in Limerick City.

The exhibition runs Friday, 29 August – Sunday, 26 October 2025.

Theme

Artists in this exhibition are interested in traditional knowledge. This type of knowledge has been passed down through generations. It goes beyond language and doesn't fit into modern science or logic.

They believe objects can hold deeper meanings. They draw inspiration from things like old stories, animals, and maps, shaping these ideas in their own unique way. Through their work, they show that we can learn valuable lessons from nature.

The title of the exhibition translates to *Be with me tonight*. It comes from a traditional Irish song. The song was passed down through generations by singing and it changed over time. It was written down for the first time in 1936.

In this type of song, music is more important than words. In the few recordings that exist, the singer's words are hard to understand and shift between different meanings, sounds, and rhythms. This shows how people can share feelings and stories that go beyond time and language.

Click this link to see the transcription of the song:

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbe/9000619/7127514/9061544>

Click this link to hear a recording of the song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGXM0AJzOSc>

Artists and Artworks

Seán Hannan

Seán Hannan looks at how old traditions and forgotten voices can still have meaning today. His work uses technology, memories, and old Irish traditions to show things that are disappearing or changing.

Received at the Graveyard is a sound installation that uses a changing voice made with artificial intelligence. The piece includes recordings of

keening made in the 1950s in Ireland. *Keening* is the Gaelic tradition of singing and crying at funerals. This tradition is almost gone today.

LUCK is a sculpture in the shape of an egg. It is based on a *piseóg*. A *piseóg* is an object used in old Irish magic to bring bad luck. People believed that curses could be placed on things like a chicken egg.

Laura Ní Fhlaibhín

Laura Ní Fhlaibhín works with stories connected to places and magic. She uses materials linked to healing and care. She creates complex and detailed sculptures that sometimes include live animals or plants.

Laura Ní Fhlaibhín's artworks in this exhibition are sculptures made from blocks of salt and ash wood. The sculptures have been shaped by horses licking the blocks of salt. The ash tree is important in Irish stories, and it is believed to bring protection.

Ciarán Ó Dochartaigh

Ciarán Ó Dochartaigh makes artworks about nature, history, and the human body.

Ciarán Ó Dochartaigh's artworks in this exhibition are massage tools for donkeys, ceramic objects shaped like his late father's stomach, and a set of printed drawings that connect the loss of fish in nature with changes to the body, Irish history, and British rule.

Kiera O'Toole

Kiera O'Toole explores public spaces by walking through them without any plan or destination.

For this exhibition, Kiera O'Toole explored the city centre of Limerick. She created drawings, maps, and charts to show the feelings and moods of the places she visited.

Events

There are four events happening as part of the exhibition:

- **Saturday, 30 August, 12–1pm:** artist Seán Hannan will give a talk and broadcast his sound installation *Received at the Graveyard*. We will meet at Ormston House and walk for five minutes to St. Michael's Graveyard. There are steps and uneven ground, which may make access difficult.
- **Friday, 19 September, 5–6pm:** historian-in-residence Sharon Slater will give a talk at St. Michael's Graveyard about the history of the graveyard. There are steps and uneven ground, which may make access difficult. That day the exhibition will be open until 9pm as part of Culture Night 2025.

- **Friday, 26 September, 6–8pm:** artist Laura Ní Fhlaibhín and horse therapist Muriel Foxton will give a talk and a workshop. Click this link to book a free ticket:
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/biodh-orm-anocht-in-touch-with-horses-tickets-1567069339579>
- **Saturday, 27 September, 2–4pm:** artist Kiera O'Toole will give a drawing workshop where you will create maps of Limerick based on your feelings and experiences. We will meet at Ormston House and walk to different places in the city. We will provide the necessary materials. Click this link to book a free ticket:
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/biodh-orm-anocht-kiera-otoole-drawing-workshop-tickets-1567421191979>

Artist Biographies

Seán Hannan lives and works in Amsterdam. He graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academie Amsterdam in 2009. His work has been shown in art venues around the world. He has received numerous project grants.

Laura Ní Fhlaibhín is an artist from Wexford. She completed her MFA at Goldsmiths, University of London in 2019 with Distinction. She completed her BA at National College of Art and Design in Dublin in 2013. She is the recipient of numerous prizes and bursaries.

Ciarán Ó Dochartaigh is an artist, researcher, and fluent Irish speaker from Derry. He lives and works with chronic illness. His work uses



different materials to explore how personal grief connects with political violence and lived experience. His sculptures combine handmade crafts with industrial processes.

Kiera O'Toole is a visual artist and a lecturer at ATU Sligo. She lives and works in Sligo. She shows her art internationally and writes about contemporary drawing. She is a member of various artist networks and platforms.

Funding

The exhibition is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland and Limerick Arts Office.

Seán Hannan's participation in this exhibition is partly made possible by the Mondriaan Fund, the public fund for visual art and cultural heritage in the Netherlands.

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