This collaboration between artists and academics takes place during Galway Dance Days and the annual Conference of Irish Geographers as part of the fiftieth anniversary celebrations for the Department of Geography, NUI Galway. Over three days of performances, workshops, film shorts, panel discussions and academic papers, artists, academics, practitioners and curators will engage with shared concerns relating to space, place, landscapes, environments, bodies and activism. La Veronal reflects upon placed bodies, the choreography of national representation that allows the shapes thrown by Soviet gymnasts to suggest not only physical but also political risk. Elena Giannotti explores the remains of desire, the imaginative self and ambiguous boundaries. Olwen Fouéré reads from James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* as if it the text choreographed a body, a body that must also be a river and a life. Fitzgerald & Stapleton provoke the settings in which they announce their flesh, *The Work The Work*, and it can’t and must be funny.

Thinking through and moving with our bodies, Art&Geography Ireland participants will explore places, spaces and environments, taking the bodily measure of landscapes from bogs to docklands, forests to streetscapes, coastlines to gardens, continents to asylums. We will (re)imagine the folds of the spatial fix as an origami of political economy. Learning from children, artists and residents, we will see how sustainable spaces of inhabitation are performed. We will reflect upon the ways communities curate themselves and animate the places they inhabit, even as they choreograph pathways through global networks. With body and movement we will be able to draw upon new repertoires and follow the contours of evanescent traces, perhaps enabling us to create new performances of place that invite more just social, spatial and ecological futures.

Just as the body is an archive, places are embodied, yet shared, contexts of meaning and memory that connect us to our multiple emotional, cultural and political worlds. And yet against this, when we see the reduction of inhabited places to real estate, or the displacement of social and ecological communities into reservations, we find the denial of connectedness in favour of a myth of entitled autonomy. Living as we do in the time of the great global warming, when the pursuit of private profit denies communal claims, and when the reckless corruption of the few meets the immiseration of the
many, the connections between bodies, between bodies and places, and between bodies, landscapes, homes and communities need to be rethought and re-emphasised. Galway Dance Days with Art&Geography Ireland gives us a space to do just that.

Organised by Space&Place (NUIM Geography) and the Galway Dancer in Residence, with generous support from: the Conference of Irish Geographers (NUI Galway Geography), Ómós Aite (NUIG Centre for Irish Studies) and Mapping Spectral Traces.

The Galway Dancer in Residence ‘Galway Dance Days’ public programme is supported by the Arts Council, Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Town Hall Theatre, the Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway, Galway Dance Project, Ealaín na Gaeltachta & National University of Ireland Galway.

Galway Dance Days Performance and Workshop Venues (Reduced rate tickets for Art&Geography and CIG participants available at www.tht.ie and CIG registration desk)
- Town Hall Theatre, Galway City
- The Cube, NUI Galway campus
- Druid Lane Theatre, Galway City
- Galway City (walking and cycling workshops)

Art&Geography/Galway Dance Days Paper, Film and Workshop Session Venues
- The Cube, Aras na Mac Léinn, NUI Galway campus
- Bank of Ireland (BOI) Theatre, NUI Galway campus
- Aras na Mac Léinn, NUI Galway campus
(Adjacent venues, less than one minute walk)

CIG Sessions and Plenaries
- New Engineering Block, NUI Galway campus
(This venue is about a 10-15 minute walk from The Cube/BOI Theatre)

NUIG interactive map: http://nuigalway.ie/campus-map/images/nuigalway_campusmap_3000.jpg
Thursday, 16 May 2013

11.00-13.00: 1. Art&Geography Concurrent Workshops: Exploring Galway City.
Meeting points for both workshops: BOI Theatre.
Pre-registration required for both of these limited capacity workshops.

1a. [Re]Mapping the childhood landscape of Galway City.
Limited capacity (12 participants): Pre-registration required. Walking/outdoor gear recommended. Outcomes and post-workshop exhibition to be installed at the New Engineering Block foyer.

Workshop leader: Jackie Bourke. Independent practitioner.

1b. Spatial Fissures Fieldwork: Cycling the City of Galway.
Limited Capacity (5 participants): Pre-registration required. Cycling gear recommended; rental bikes provided. Outcomes and post-workshop exhibition to be installed at the New Engineering Block foyer.


13.00: CIG Registration.
Location: New Engineering Block, NUI Galway campus. Tickets for Dance Days and CIG dinner available.

Location: BOI Theatre.

Chair: Gerry Kearns, NUI Maynooth Geography

Karen E. Till, NUI Maynooth Geography. ‘Learning from Artists: Remapping Bogotá through Mapa Teatro’s “Cartographic Quicksand”’.

Brian Fleming, Musician and Artistic Director of Spectacle of Defiance and Hope. ‘Regeneration, Renewal and Revolution: The artist as an agent for change’.
Joe Lee, Independent Film Artist. ‘The Fate of Place’. 15.15-15.45 Tea.

15.45-17.15: 3. Concurrent Art&Geography Workshop and Paper Session.

3a. Workshop: A Spatial Fix.  
Location: The Cube. Limited capacity (12 participants). Pre-registration required. No experience needed. Post-workshop exhibition to be installed at New Engineering Block foyer.

Workshop Leader: Blaithin Quinn, Independent Artist and Architect.


Chair: Tomás Hardiman


Katrinka Somdahl-Sands, Dept. of Geography and Environment, Rowan University NJ. ‘Reclaiming the Scale of landscape? When dance dominates the scene’.

Michelle Browne, Independent Artist and Curator. ‘Mapping Mothers’.


Workshop leader: Ambra Gatto Bergamasco, NUI Maynooth NIRSA & Geography, and Independent Dance Artist.
19.00-20.00: **Opening CIG and Galway Dance Days/Art&Geography Reception.**
Location: Town Hall Theatre.

20.00-21.30: 5. **Galway Dance Days: Performance.**

La Veronal, “Short Cuts - Moscow, Reykjavik, Siena”.

Post-show discussion: La Veronal Choreographer and Artistic Director, Marcus Morau in conversation with Professor Gerry Kearns, NUI Maynooth Geography.

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**Friday, 17 May 2013**

9.00-10.30: 6. **Art&Geography Concurrent Paper Sessions.**

**6a. Curating Place.**
Location: The Cube.

Verena Commins, Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway. ‘Performing the Local: The construction of “West Clare” at the Willie Clancy Summer School’.


Hollie Kearns, Commonage Curator. ‘Landing Place’.

**6b. Spatial Aesthetics: Archives, Fragments and Placemaking.**
Location: BOI Theatre.

Jenny Sjöholm, Dept. of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University. ‘The Modern Art Studio as Archive: Body, Space and Memory in Artistic Practice’.

Aidan Williams, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, University of Dundee. ‘Building Fragments’.
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10.30-11.00: **Coffee and Session.** 7. **Dance Work in Progress. BOG.**
Location: The Cube

Respondant: Thomas Conway, Druid Theatre Director in Residence, NUI Galway

Liadain Herriott, Independent Dance Artist. A work-in-progress investigating how the internal space of the body reacts with that of the external, as the body moves through a landscape.

11.00-12.30: 8. **Paper Session. Socially/Ecologically Engaged Creative Research Practices.**
Location: BOI Theatre

Chair: Karen E. Till, NUI Maynooth Geography

Ailbhe Murphy and Ciaran Smyth, Vagabond Reviews Co-Convenors. ‘This Must be The Place: Situated practice and interdisciplinary arts-based research’.

Moira Sweeney, DIT Fiosraigh Scholar, and Independent Filmmaker. ‘Dublin Docks: Visualising place and changing identities’.

Federico Ferretti, Département de Géographie et Environnement, Université de Genève. ‘When Geographers Worked with Painters: Élisée Reclus and the Social Art’.

Montage credit: Aidan Williams
Simon Read, Independent Artist and Department of Fine Art, Middlesex University. ‘The Autonomy of the Artist and the Compromises Needed for Effective Transdisciplinary Collaboration’.

Cathy Fitzgerald, Independent Visual Artist and Filmmaker. ‘Seeing and Tending the Forest’.

Bryonie Reid, Independent Visual Artist and Scholar. ‘Can Cultural Geography Speak to Visual Art?’

12.30-13.00. Lunch.


Elena Giannotti, “Rider in Arena”.

Rider in Arena is the series of solo works exploring the relationship between the performer and the ethereal elements of performance. Dead Head is a new exploration into the remains of desires. The dancer works with flags of favourite movements, symbols and borrowed suggestions. From this series Elena has presented already Lo Sguardo del Cane (2012) and in November 2013 will premiere One of US, One of YOU with dance artist Mikel Aristegui.

Introduced by Ríonach Ni Néill, Galway Dancer in Residence.

Location: BOI Theatre.

Photo credit: Aoife Desmond, Making Journeys without Maps
Aoife Desmond, Independent visual artist and filmmaker. ‘Embodied Film- and Soundscapes: Place, nature and history’.

Sharon Watson, Richard Coles, and Zoë Milliman, Birmingham Institute of Art and Design. ‘How to Make a Tree Talk: Imagining, being and talking landscapes’.

Silvia Loeffler, Independent artist; Visual Culture, DIT& NCAD. ‘Crossing the Dead Ends: Moving between desire and care’.

Beatrice Jarvis, Choreographer, visual artist and urban space researcher/creative facilitator, University of Ulster. ‘Towards a Socio- Choreographic Practice | Developing a practice of social choreography through practice of individual and collective embodiment’.

Location: Áras na Mac Léinn, NUI Galway campus.
Informal open discussion about experimental urban fieldwork; no registration required.

Workshop Discussion Leader: Alan Mee, Architecture and Urban Design, UCD.

15.45-17.15: 11. Concurrent Paper and Film & Discussion Sessions.


Chair: Maeve Mulrennan, Visual Arts Officer, Galway Arts Centre
Margaret Fitzgibbon, Independent Artist and Scholar. ‘Archival Promises: Loss & return in an Irish family archive 1950 to mid 1960s through installation art process’.
Tracy Fahey, Limerick School of Art and Design. ‘Walking and Talking: Gothic sites and stories’.
Lisa Moran, IMMA Education Director & NCAD. ‘If This is a Man: The body in the work of Miroslaw Balka’.
Kate McMillan, Curtin University (Perth, Australia), ‘Unremembered Islands: Contemporary art and un-forgetting’.

Artwork Credit: Kate McMillan

11b. Spatial Explorations.
Location: Áras na Mac Léinn, NUI Galway campus.

Colette Nolan, Independent Artist and Director, Cork Artists Collective and The Guesthouse Workspace. ‘Extimacy: independent artist and researcher, Revealing the hidden embodied gestures of child’s play through video art installation’.

Maria Nillson Waller, Independent Dance Artist. ‘Last Land: The movie’.
Carolyn Collier, Crawford College of Art and Design. ‘Work in Progress: Creative connections’.

Gwen MacGregor, Independent Artist and University of Toronto Geography. ‘New Materialities’.

Saturday, 18 May 2013


Chair: Mark Boyle, NUIM Geography

Ríonach Ní Néill, Galway Dancer in Residence. ‘I forgot but my body remembered – How a building taught me to tap’.

Fiona McDonald. Visual Artist | Architect. ‘On the Wall: Looking back to move forward’.

Laragh Pittman, Visual Artist. ‘Travels into Several Remote Corners of Dublin’.

Location: BOI Theatre.

Siobhan McDonald, Independent Visual Artist. Seism makes the invisible visible by creating a tangible response to forces that are not immediately apparent in nature. Mapping the imperceptible movements of the Earth subtly manifests links to particular moments in time.
11.00-12.30: 15. **Paper Session: Performance Communities.**

Location: BOI Theatre.

Chair: Ríonach Ní Néill, Galway Dancer in Residence


Finola Cronin, Independent Dance Artist and UCD School of English, Drama and Film. ‘Dance and the Performance of Place and History’.


Deirdre Ní Chongaile, Independent Artist and IRC fellow, Moore Institute, NUI Galway. “‘Bhíodh muid ag damhsa go maidin’: Dance, Music and Community in Árainn’.

12.30-12.45: Lunch.


Location: The Cube. Limited seating available for Art&Geography and CIG participants, and general public.

**Reading of ‘riverrun’, adapted and performed by Olwen Fouéré through the voice of the river in James Joyce’s *Finnegans Wake*.**

Introduced by Gerry Kearns, NUI Maynooth Geography.

* A full production and premiere of this new work will take place at the Galway Arts Festival 2013.

*VSE: A vision for space exploration.*


Workshop Leader: Elena Giannotti, Independent dance artist.

15.15-15.45 Tea.

15.45-16.15: 18. **Closing Panel, Dance Days, Art and Geography.**

Location: The Cube.

Aoife McGrath, Queens University Belfast. ‘Discomforting/Disarming Touch in Fitzgerald & Stapleton: dance, affect and vulnerability’.

Closing panel discussion with: Aoife McGrath, Queens University Belfast; Rionach Ní Néill, Galway Dancer in Residence; Gerry Kearns, NUI Maynooth Geography; Karen Till, NUI Maynooth Geography.

*Informal happy hour and dinner (tba) (at own expense).*

20.00 – 21.00: 19. **Galway Dance Days: Performance.**

Location: Druid Lane Theatre. Tickets required. Booking at [www.tht.ie](http://www.tht.ie).

**Fitzgerald & Stapleton, “The Work The Work”.**

Introduced by Aoife McGrath, Queens University Belfast.

21.30 – 23.00: **Closing Concert with The Bahh Band.**

Location: Druid Lane Theatre (included with ticket to ‘The Work The Work’).
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A special thank you to the Conference of Irish Geographers, in particular, Dr. Frances Fahy, NUI Galway Department of Geography for their generous support of the many artists and practitioners involved in this special series of sessions.

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