

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### DENIS CONNOLLY, VISUAL ARTIST

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#### Profile

I am a visual artist, curator and arts producer living and working between Ireland and France and co-founder of the School of Looking, a collaborative arts organisation based in Tullamore. Following studies in architecture in the 1980's I moved to Paris and set up the collaborative arts practice Cleary and Connolly with Anne Cleary, exploring relationships of power inherent in the artist / institution / audience triangle. Our interests evolved towards interactive digital arts as a means to create engaging new media art accessible to a wide range of publics, and from there our work evolved towards visual perception as an essential component of the human relationship with art and life. Ecological arts practice and education have emerged as important new focal points in recent years.

#### Experience

##### **January 2019 - present: Lead Artist, School of Looking.**

Since founding the School of Looking in 2019 we have produced and delivered the first Eco Showboat expedition, travelling on the solar boat Mayfly from Limerick to Enniskillen and producing twelve public events along the way with artists and scientists on the theme of climate change, as well as commissioning ten new artworks from collaborating artists. We are currently delivering Year 2 of the Eco Showboat project. From 2019 - 2021 we produced Invisible Light, a STEAM exhibition at Crawford Art Gallery including 7 new artworks on the electromagnetic spectrum. During this time, we delivered a week long programme of STEAM workshops as part of WexSci Festival and we illuminated the Triumphal Arch in Dublin Docklands with interactive art for the New Year celebrations 2019/2020.

##### **January 1991 - present: Independent visual artist**

Since 1991 I am a partner in the collaborative art practice Cleary & Connolly with Anne Cleary. Our work revolves around visual perception. How we see the world, each of us from our own singular perspective, is central to what we are as human beings. We have a people centred approach with a strong participatory ethos. Exhibition artworks include the Meta-perceptual Helmets, a series of wearable artworks that transform vision and invite the viewer to become a living artwork, produced with Arts Council support in 2014, and Pourquoi Pas Toi? an interactive exhibition at the Pompidou Centre in 2009. Recent collaborative projects include: a project on art and neuroscience with David Byrne in New York; Self Perceptions, a multi-disciplinary event based project at the Tate Modern in London; and Less than Thirteen, a commission from the Barbican Centre exploring the movements of conductor Sir Simon Rattle. We have produced over twenty permanent public artworks since 2005.

#### Education

Bsc Arch. Trinity College Dublin, 1983 - 1989

Dip Arch. DIT Dublin, 1983 - 1989

#### Skills

My skills includes art concept development, drawing, photography, design, interactive software development, web design, camera and steadycam skills, video and audio editing, motion tracking, digital image processing, teaching, communication and STEAM.

#### Awards (selection)

2022: Limerick City and Council Strategic Award, Eco Showboat project.

2021: Arts Council Open Call Award, Eco Showboat project.

2021: SFI Discover Award, Eco Showboat project.

2020: SFI Discover Award, Invisible Light.

2019: Arts Council Bursary Award to investigate interactive arts for children with autism.

2015: Arts Council Touring Award to tour 5 Helmets exploring animal vision.  
2013: Arts Council Project Award to tour an interactive exhibition exploring visual perception,

## References

Mike Fitzpatrick, Dean Limerick School of Art and Design, LIT, Clare Street Campus, Limerick  
e: [mike.fitzpatrick@lit.ie](mailto:mike.fitzpatrick@lit.ie), m: +353 (0)87 2276723.

Helen Carey, Director, Fire Station Artists' Studios, 9-11 Lower Buckingham Street, Dublin 1  
e: [Helen@firestation.ie](mailto:Helen@firestation.ie), m: +353 (0)86 384 7022

## TOURING EXHIBITIONS

2021 - 2023 The Eco Showboat Project (countrywide).  
2012 - 2013 Hall of Mirrors (Farmleigh Gallery, LCGA Limerick, Ballina Arts Centre, Solstice, Navan.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2022 The Music Box, Lord Mayors Pavilion, Cork.  
2020 Invisible Light, The Crawford Gallery, Cork.  
2018 The Colour of Time, South Tipperary Arts Centre, Junction Festival, Clonmel, Tipperary, July 2018  
2015 The Meta-perception Club, Irish Cultural Centre, Paris, France.  
2014 Meta-perceptual Helmets for the Dead Zoo, National Museum of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland.  
Particles or Waves. Limerick City of Culture, Limerick, Ireland.  
2013 The Absent Architect, Casino at Marino, Dublin, Ireland.  
Look Both Ways, Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, France.  
2012 Hall of Mirrors, Farmleigh Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.  
2011 Plus/Minus, Les Arches du Grand-Pont, Lausanne, Switzerland.  
2010 Pratiques, Cultural Centre, Sorgues, France.  
Still life with..., The Hunt Museum, Limerick, Ireland.  
2009 Pourquoi pas toi?, Pompidou Centre, Paris, France.  
2008 Moving Dublin, Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, France.  
2005 Yokohama House Guests, Yokohama Triennial, Japan.

## FESTIVALS AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2023 Être(s) ensemble, Musée d'ethnographie de Genève  
2022 Eco Sunday, Junction Festival, Clonmel, County Tipperary.  
BIOTOPIA SENSE Festival, Naturkundemuseum Bayern, Munich.  
2020 Vision Revolution, Junction Festival, Clonmel, County Tipperary.  
2019 Nuit Blanche, Paris, 5 October 2019.  
International Women's Day Festival, Cinémorphe, Paris, March 2019.  
Festival des Arts et des Savoirs, Paris, July 2019  
Festival Le Mois de la Nature, Paris, May 2019  
2018 Self Perceptions, Tate Modern, London, March 2018.  
2017 This is Rattle, Barbican Centre, London, September 2017 - January 2018.  
Young at Art, Belfast, Northern Ireland, March 2017.  
2016 BIZARRO à Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Paris, September - October 2016.  
Lumiere, Festival of Light, London, UK, January 2016.  
2015 Lumiere, Festival of Light, Durham, UK, November 2015.  
Liverpool Arts Festival, Liverpool, UK, October 2015.  
Phoenix Rising: Art and Civic Imagination, Hugh Lane Museum, Dublin, Ireland, January 2015.

- 2014 27eme Instants Vidéo Numériques et Poétiques, Marseille, November 2014.  
 Derry City of Culture, Derry, Northern Ireland, November 2014.  
 BORG2014, Antwerp, Belgium, September - October 2014.  
 Videoformes Festival of digital art, Clermont Ferand, March 2014.
- 2013 Faites l'Europe, Mairie de Paris, Hôtel de Ville, Paris, May 2013.  
 Building Europe, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 4 May 2013.
- 2012 Tulca Season of Visual Arts, Galway, Ireland, November 2012.
- 2011 Artsfest, Barbican Centre, London, UK, July 2011.  
 Dublin Contemporary, Dublin, Ireland, September - October 2011.
- 2010 Barbican Weekender, Barbican Centre, London, UK, March 2011.

## RECENT COMMISSIONS

- 2018-2019 In the Picture. Participative art project and permanent artwork, Marino School, Bray, Ireland.
- 2018-2019 Our Worlds. Participative art project and permanent artwork, St Finnachta's N.S., Clare, Ireland.
- 2018 Less than 13. Barbican Centre, London, with Sir Simon Rattle.
- 2017 -2018 Theatre of the Mind, Governors Island New York, with David Byrne and Patrick Cavanagh.
- 2017-2018 School of Looking. Participative art project with CÚRAM Centre for Research, Galway
- 2017-2018 School of Looking. Participative art project with MIC Teacher Training College - Limerick
- 2017 Questions. Participative art project with Scoil Nioclais, Douglas, Cork
- 2016 Marconi series. Clifden, Galway, Ireland - Galway County Council,  
 Run River Run. Participative art project at Galway University Hospital, Galway, Ireland.
- 2015 Walk the Walk. Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Cavan, Ireland.

## LECTURES, SEMINARS AND TALKS (SELECTION)

- 2021 Creativity Talk (on line) for employees of Optum Ireland/UK.
- 2020 Vision Revolution: 7 online talks on the electromagnetic spectrum for Junction Arts Festival.
- 2019 ENS Louis-Lumière, La Plaine Saint-Denis, France.
- 2018 Mayo Ideas Week, Castlebar, Ireland.  
 Science Week, Westside Galway, Ireland.  
 Limerick School of Art and Design, Limerick, Ireland.
- 2017 Biotopia Senses Seminar, Venice, in collaboration with Naturkundemuseum Bayern.  
 ENS Louis-Lumière, La Plaine Saint-Denis, France.  
 Biotopia festival, Schloss Nymphenburg, Munich, Germany.
- 2016 Université Paris Descartes, Paris, France.  
 Institut Psychologie, Universität Regensburg, Germany.
- 2015 ENS Louis-Lumière, La Plaine Saint-Denis, France.
- 2014 National Museum, Dublin, Ireland  
 Bergen Academy of Art and Design, Bergen, Norway.
- 2013 Ecole nationale supérieure des beaux-arts, Paris, France.  
 Ecole Nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France.  
 UFR Arts, Philosophie, Esthétique, Université Paris-VIII, France.  
 Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture, Nantes, France.  
 National School of Art and Design, Dublin, Ireland.

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2019 Art and Ideas, using light and colour to alter our sense of self, Gemma Tipton, Irish Times, January 29th 2019.

2018 CLEARY & CONNOLLY, The Art of Looking, CLOT MAG, January.  
2017 Arts & Health, Perspectives, Summer 2017.  
2016 Usbek & Rica (Paris), Etáinn Zwer, 'Les Artistes du Future', June.  
2015 Télérama (Paris), Thierry Voisin, 'Les Casques Méta-Perceptuels', 4 February.  
2015 Pour les Sciences (Paris), Loïc Mangin, 'Les Casques Méta-Perceptuels', January.  
2013 Art Forum (New York), Gemma Tipton, critic's pick, June/July 2013.  
2012 Sunday Times (Dublin), C Lea—ch Hughes, 'Time to make an exhibition of yourself', 17 June.  
2011 Irish Arts Review (Dublin), Helen O'Donoghue, 'Cleary & Connolly, sans frontières', Winter edition.  
2009 Frieze (London), Brian Dillon, 'City report, Dublin', vol. 124, June - August.

## **COLLECTIONS**

The Model Arts Centre, Sligo, Ireland  
Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, France  
The Barbican, London, UK  
Cinémathèque Française, Paris, France  
Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, France  
University of Auckland, Australia  
The Arts Council, Ireland  
The Arts Council of Northern Ireland  
South Dublin County Council, Dublin, Ireland  
Limerick City Gallery of Art, Limerick, Ireland  
École Nationale Supérieure de Paris La Villette, Paris  
Private collections in France, Ireland, United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, USA.