



The 39th EVA International features the work of Irish and international artists presented across venues in Limerick city and online.

For the first time in EVA's long history the programme is being delivered in three 'phases' through 2020 and 2021. The phased approach has been organised in response to the consequences of COVID-19, ensuring that we do our best for artists and audiences in a way that is safe and sensitive to public health concerns. We also believe more than ever that art can play an important part in the way that society connects and re-connects itself. We hope that the 39th EVA International can have a significant role in that process.

The 39th EVA International has been developed in relation to the broad theme of the 'Golden Vein', the 19th century descriptor for the Limerick region that was used to boast of its agricultural benefits (now more commonly referred to as the 'Golden Vale'). This reference extends to questions that are relevant to our own time, asking how we might consider our relationship to the land in terms of ideology, identity, and resource.

This programme for Phase 1 of the 39th EVA International contains information about artist projects taking place in various venues, off-site and online, between 18 September and 15 November 2020. There are a number of presentations that form part of a 'Guest Programme' curated by Merve Elveren, titled *Little did they know*, alongside newly commissioned works that have been developed as part of EVA's 'Platform Commissions' and 'Partnership Projects' initiatives. With thanks to everyone who has helped us to deliver the 39th EVA International in such challenging circumstances (artists, curators, organisational partners, funders, EVA's dedicated team and Board), we hope that you'll find plenty to engage with in the programme. Perhaps it can offer some respite to the struggles of the past six months; whether that's relief, enjoyment, or critical provocation.

Matt Packer, Director, EVA International

The health and safety of our visitors, artists, staff and volunteers is our primary concern.

Together with our venue partners we have implemented social distancing measures across all venues and will be monitoring attendances within capacity guidelines. For this reason it may be necessary to queue outside of venues during busy periods.

For groups of 6 or more, please contact us with 72 hrs advance notice of your visit (info@eva.ie or +353 83 144 1051). We will do our best to facilitate you.

Hand sanitiser stations will be provided at all venue entrances and exits for public and staff use. EVA staff will be wearing facemasks in venues and we ask that all visiting members of the public do the same.

While opening hours and the safety measures listed here are correct at time of going to print, we do advise visitors to check eva.ie or our social media pages in case this information has been since updated due to advice from the relevant health authorities.

Core Team, 39th EVA International

Director/CEO
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Curator, Guest Programme
Merve Elveren

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Eimear Redmond

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Board of Directors
Mike Fitzpatrick
Brian Haugh
Lisa Killeen
Kerstin Mey
Áine Nic Giolla Coda
Con Quigley
Kevin Roland
Marta Sławińska



Little did they know

Curated by Merve Elveren, *Little did they know* is the Guest Programme of the 39th EVA International. Across all three phases of the programme, it will feature over twenty Irish and international artists and four 'research projects' presented in various venues in Limerick City and online.



Driant Zeneli, *Maybe the cosmos is not so extraordinary*, (2019), © the artist and Prometeogallery di Ida Pisani, Milan Lucca

Driant Zeneli

Maybe the Cosmos is not so extraordinary, 2019
From the trilogy "Beneath a surface there is just another surface," 2015–2019

Sailor's Home 7

Set in the mines of Bulqizë, the three-channel video installation *Maybe the Cosmos is not so extraordinary* recalls Albania's contentious history of chrome extraction. Through the journey of five children, Zeneli playfully mobilizes excerpts from Arion Hysenbegas's sci-fi novel *On the way to Epsilon Eridani*, 1983, to a faux-propagandistic end, bringing forth promises of liberation as well as a utopian future. [ME]

Driant Zeneli

It would not be possible to leave planet earth unless gravity existed, 2017
From the trilogy "Beneath a surface there is just another surface," 2015–2019

Sailor's Home 7

Zeneli's video work visits the imposing industrial complex Çeliku i Partisë [Steel of the Party]—one of the relics of the historical alliance between Communist Party of China and the Party of Labour of Albania. The video

follows Mario, the protagonist, journeying through this dystopian site, revealing the social and political failures of the project, as well as probing alternative modes of space travel. [ME]

Michele Horrigan

Stigma Damages, 2011–Ongoing
Sailor's Home, The Hunt Museum (Jewellery Gallery)

3 7

Horrigan's ongoing work *Stigma Damages* reflects on bauxite, a mineral ore that is imported from Africa by Aughinish Alumina Refinery (Ireland's largest industrial complex) located in Askeaton, County Limerick.

Through archival objects, documents, and videos that follow the trail of bauxite, Horrigan reveals how it connects to discussions of class, gender, ecology, and value. [ME]

Women Artists Action Group (WAAG), Slide Exhibition, 1987

Sailor's Home 7

WAAG was founded in April 1987 as a reaction to the exclusion of women artists from key local and international exhibitions. That same year WAAG organised a photo slide exhibition at the Project Art Centre, Dublin, of works by 91 women artists working in Ireland—a strategy of exhibition-making much ahead of its time. The material presented here is drawn from the collection of Pauline Cummins, held at the National Irish Visual Arts Library (NIVAL), Dublin. [ME]

Merve Elveren is a curator based in Istanbul, Turkey. Elveren was part of the founding team of Research & Programs at contemporary art institution SALT. Independent projects include the co-production of Köken Ergun's film *Ashura* (2013) and Volkan Aslan's solo exhibition *Shoot Me! Don't turn me over!* (Pi Artworks, 2018).

"The first phase of *Little did they know* attempts to reframe the political and economic consequences of major societal transformations comparable to the Golden Vein. Centring on personal histories and recollections as their point of departure, the eight projects included in the programme aim to deconstruct these changes, offer critical readings, and suggest potential modes of survival."

– Merve Elveren



Melanie Jackson, image from *The Inextinguishable* (2019–20), © the artist

Melanie Jackson and Esther Leslie

The Inextinguishable, 2020 ✨

Limerick City Gallery of Art and other venues 6

Jackson and Leslie's illustrated pamphlet, *The Inextinguishable*, is the latest in their ongoing collaborative exploration of milk. Their work studies milk as a substance that is both primal and subject to the latest biotechnological developments, intersecting political, colonial, and gender histories. Copies of *The Inextinguishable* are free to take away. [ME]

New commission supported by British Council.

Eirene Efstathiou

A Jagged Line Through Space, 2017–2019

Limerick City Gallery of Art 6

A Jagged Line Through Space is a speculative commentary on placemaking. Using the question "Is Exarcheia an island?," as her jumping off point, Efstathiou juxtaposes her personal archives with collective experiences, and offers an unconventional journey through Exarcheia, a politically charged neighbourhood

in Athens. This series of mixed media works on paper and linen carefully examine the complex roles of societal actors and how they are negotiated in public spaces. [ME]

Yane Calovski

Personal Object, 2017–Ongoing

Limerick City Gallery of Art 6

The installation integrates Calovski's recent work *Personal Object* (2020) and his earlier works, emphasizing the intertwining of personal, societal, and cultural narratives. The work draws reference from a number of sources, including instruments of societal control through to objects once belonging to his mother and forms inspired by the teachings of architect Oskar Hansen. [ME]

It's Not for You We Did It ✨ Online 6

A series of online research dossiers dedicated to the social and cultural context of Derry from the mid-1980s to the early 1990s. It maps various networks of relationships that were formed by individuals and groups that shared common concerns of self-representation and resistance. The project forms part of the Derry Film and Video Workshop research project led by curator Sara Greavu in collaboration with Ciara Phillips. [ME]

New commission supported by British Council and Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

A dedicated website for *Little did they know* will launch in September 2020, featuring additional research contributions and artists' responses.

✨ = New Commission

[ME] = Descriptions by Merve Elveren

Platform Commissions

Platform Commissions is an initiative by EVA International to support the production of significant new works by artists based in Ireland. Selected for the 39th EVA International by Anne Tallentire (artist), Merve Elveren (curator), and Matt Packer (Director, EVA).



Emily McFarland, *Curraghinalt* (2019), © the artist

Laura Fitzgerald

Fantasy Farming, 2020 ✨

Limerick City Gallery of Art 6

Laura Fitzgerald's installation is the latest in the artist's ongoing exploration into the personal and political tensions that exist between rural Irish life and cultural internationalism, featuring two large-scale 'hay shed' audio-enclosures and a series of drawings that depict micro-dramas of provincial insecurity.

Áine McBride

and/or land, 2020 ✨

Sailor's Home, Enable Ireland and other venues 1 7

McBride's sculptural works at the Sailor's Home are subtle interventions that are both integral and interrogative to the fabric of the historical building, originally designed as a resting place for international sailors. Accompanying the sculptural works are a series of photographs presented in bespoke frames, distributed across various locations in Limerick city.

Emily McFarland

Curraghinalt, 2019 ✨

Limerick City Gallery of Art 6

Curraghinalt is the first work in a three part video series that makes visible and bears witness to the changing ecology of a particular landscape in the Sperrin Mountains of West Tyrone, in the North of Ireland.

Eimear Walshe

The Land Question: Where the fuck am I supposed to have sex? 2020 ✨

EVA Offices and Archive + Online 2

Walshe's video presents a brief history of land contestation in Ireland, and questions how the history of land relations persistently impacts our most intimate thoughts, aspirations, and interactions. The research presented in this video serves as a primer for video works to be presented by the artist in phase 2 and 3 of the biennial programme. With soundtrack by The DOE and featuring Ian Lynch.

Eimear Walshe

How much no thanks, 2020 ✨

John's Street 4

21 Sept-4 Oct 2020

How much no thanks is a billboard on the junction of John's Street and Quinn's Lane, drawing on a series of images by the artist addressing the relationship between housing, sexuality and Irish colonial history. The billboard image references the artist's video work on display at EVA Offices and Archive.

✨ = New Commission

Partnership Projects

New commissions and educational initiatives developed in collaborative partnership with local, national and international organisations.

Bora Baboci

Predictions, 2020 ✨

Merchant's Quay + Online 5

Predictions is an audio work by Tirana-based artist Bora Baboci that was produced following a period of residency in Limerick city, where the artist was struck by the turbulent and unpredictable nature of the River Shannon. Taking the Curragower Falls as its main subject, the audio script uses tidal charts and fantasy fiction to create a forecast of the river run dry, predicting both bureaucratic and folkloric consequences for Limerick city.

New commission supported by Magic Carpets, co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

Park Life (Ecologies of the People's Park)

Limerick City Gallery of Art (HUB space) 6

An interdisciplinary project developed with students from the Fine Art Programmes at Limerick School of Art & Design, exploring the ecologies of Limerick's People's Park through themes of SOIL, PLAY, and SHELTER.

Supported by Limerick School of Art & Design.

✨ = New Commission

Better Words

Better Words is an initiative by EVA International to empower new forms of access and engagement with contemporary art through a programme of creative language projects.



Better Words: A Field Guide to Contemporary Art & Culture (2019), © Piquant

Dhá Theanga

Online 6

A series of audio tour podcasts produced by multilingualists in the Limerick region, providing a creative mediation of the biennial programme for under-represented language communities. Available online at eva.ie from October 2020.

Supported by Magic Carpets, co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

Better Words: A Field Guide to Contemporary Art & Culture

A publication developed with five schools across Limerick City and County through a series of guided workshops and artistic encounters at leading artists' studios, museums and galleries. The Field Guide contains a new vocabulary for contemporary art from the perspectives of participating school children. Supported by Ireland's National Creativity Fund. Copies are available to view or purchase at EVA's Offices and Archive.



1 Enable Ireland 

Honan's Quay
Mon-Sat: 9am-5pm

2 EVA Offices and Archive

46-47 Catherine Street
(First / Second Floor, The Commercial)

Opening Weekend: 18-20 September

Fri/Sat: 12-7pm, Sun: 12-4pm

Regular Opening Hours:

Thurs-Sat: 12-4pm or by appointment

3 Hunt Museum 

Rutland Street

Tues/Wed/Fri/Sat: 10am-5pm

Thurs: 10am-7pm, Sun: 11am-5pm

Please get your programme stamped at EVA Offices to gain free access to the Hunt Museum.

4 John's Street (Billboard) 

Outdoor Venue / 24 Hours
21 Sept-4 Oct only

5 Merchant's Quay 

(Overlooking Curragower Falls, River Shannon)
Outdoor Venue / 24 Hours

6 Limerick City Gallery of Art 

Pery Square

Mon-Sat: 10am-5pm

Sun: 12pm-5pm

Closed on Bank & Public Holidays

7 Sailor's Home 

O'Curry Street

Opening hours: as **Venue 2**

Online

www.eva.ie