

## SPEAKERS

### Caomhán Mac Con Iomaire

Caomhán Mac Con Iomaire is Education Administrator Access & Facilitation, at the NGL. He leads the development of new programmes for individuals and groups with accessibility requirements at the National Gallery including bespoke activities for visitors who live with Dementia.



### Dr. Catherine Jordan

Dr. Catherine Jordan, is a pianist and an experimental psychologist. Catherine completed her BA in psychology at National University of Ireland, Galway. She holds an MSc in human cognitive neuropsychology and a PhD in psychology from the University of Edinburgh. Catherine is an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at the Global Brain Health Institute, Trinity College Dublin. In her research, Catherine combines the areas of music and cognitive neuroscience. As an Atlantic Fellow, Catherine is exploring the potential music can offer to a person living with dementia, specifically how music can trigger autobiographical memories and thus help alleviate the psychological and behavioural symptoms of dementia.



### Dana Walrath

Dana is a writer, artist and anthropologist. After years of using stories to teach medical students at the University of Vermont's College of Medicine, she turned to writing her own. Her award-winning verse novel, *before Like and after Stone remove*, was completed during the year she spent as a Fulbright Scholar in Armenia. Her graphic memoir series, *Aliceheimer's* has brought her throughout North America and Eurasia. Dana is currently an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at the Global Brain Health Institute.



### Veronica Franklin Gould

Veronica Franklin Gould founded Arts4Dementia (A4D) in 2011 to help develop re-energising programmes at arts venues, for early stage dementia. Working with universities specializing in arts for health, her reports and symposia showcase best-practice. *Reawakening the Mind* was awarded the London 2012 Inspire Mark and *Positive Breakthrough in Mental Health Dementia Award 2013* and Veronica was named *The Sunday Times "Changemakers" finalist (2014)*. On publication of *Music Reawakening (2015)*, she was appointed A4D's president and head of research and set up a regional programme, *Reawakening Integrated: Arts & Heritage (2017)*, collaborating with Dr Trish Vella-Burrows to align with NHS England's Transformation Framework, *The Well Pathway for Dementia*.



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### Dr. Tara Byrne

Dr. Tara Byrne is the Arts Programme Manager and Artistic Director of Bealtaine Festival at Age & Opportunity. She has worked freelance on research, advocacy, cultural policy and management projects for both the arts, public service and university sectors including the Arts Council, The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (formerly Arts Sport and Tourism), Dublin City Council, Leitrim Enterprise Centre, The National Campaign for the Arts, UCD, TCD -, Limerick School of Art and Limerick City Gallery. From 2002 - 2008 she was Director of the National Sculpture Factory (Cork) and Artists' Support Executive in the Arts Council of Ireland from 1996 - 2002. Tara's talk will concern Age & Opportunity's Artist in Residence in a Care Setting programme which matches artists with care settings around Ireland in order to encourage deep and creative connections between the residents of care settings and the arts. Age & Opportunity has received funding under Creative Ireland's communities pillar to run a programme of residencies nationally in 2019.



### Ronan Smith

Ronan Smith was diagnosed with Younger Onset Alzheimer's in 2014, aged 56. He has a passion for the Arts having worked as an actor and director, before turning to management and production. Among many other projects, he was fortunate to play a significant role in the international touring of *Riverdance* and in mounting productions for the West End and Broadway. Indeed this work has led to a partnership between *Riverdance* and The Alzheimer Society of Ireland. After his diagnosis, Ronan continued to work in Dublin theatres and was particularly involved in the Gaiety Theatre. Ronan is a strong advocate and passionate about representing the voice of the person with dementia. He is Chair of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's Irish Dementia Working Group (IDWG), a member of the Understand Together Steering Group and in December 2017, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland announced that Ronan would be the first person with dementia to join its Board of Directors and Ronan is enjoying representing the lived experience of dementia at board level.



Many thanks to the National Gallery of Ireland guides - Aoife Marie Buckley, Jacinta Keane, Mary Dowling and Aoife Convery; Caroline Orr from the AZURE Project, Irish Museum of Modern Art; Camille Donegan and her team at Virtual Reality Ireland and to Bob Coggins and Francis, the DJ at Headphone Disco, for kindly offering their time, experience and equipment. Let us consider how we could utilise these mediums in enhancing the lives of people living with a dementia.

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# ONE THURSDAY AT THE GALLERY

raising awareness of the creative arts and dementia

NOVEMBER • 15 • 2018

National Gallery of Ireland  
Dublin



# ONE THURSDAY AT THE GALLERY

The Dementia Services Information and Development Centre and MISA Creative Life in association with the National Gallery of Ireland bring you 'One Thursday at the Gallery' - The Arts and Heritage organisations around Ireland are starting to recognise the need to open their doors to visitors with a variety of different needs including those people who are living with a dementia. The conference plans to explore the extraordinary impact that the arts can have on the lives of those people who are living with a dementia.

Speakers both national and international will discuss **art, theatre and music** in the morning and the afternoon will be set aside for Azure workshops, Virtual Reality and a Silent Disco!

We hope you enjoy "One Thursday at the Gallery".

## PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

### Welcome

**Sinéad Kathy Rice,**  
Head of Education, National Gallery of Ireland

### Introduction

**Professor Davis Coakley,**  
Director MISA Creative Life &  
Emeritus Professor Trinity College  
Dublin



### Chair for the Day

**Professor Philip Napier**

Professor Philip Napier is Head of the School of Fine Art at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin. Philip is an artist and educator who has been interested in the development of opportunities for artists and students interfacing with areas of the public realm. Most recently the development of Studio + offers degree level students an optional extra year of degree level study embedded in environments of interest and concern beyond the college. One of these environments has been Mercers Institute for Successful Ageing where students embedded in a suite of studios, offers a pioneering complement to the work of Creative Life Pillar in the hospital. As an artist Philip has created art work and projects nationally and internationally working both collaboratively and as a single author. These include Residencies, Biennales and particular short and long term projects in museums, galleries and in the public realm.



9.15am	<b>Doors Open</b>
9.30am	<b>Sinéad Kathy Rice,</b> National Gallery of Ireland <i>Welcome</i>
9.40am	<b>Professor Davis Coakley,</b> Director MISA Creative Life & Emeritus Professor Trinity College Dublin <i>Introduction</i>
9.50am	<b>Professor Philip Napier</b> <i>Chair for the day</i>
9.55am - 10.35am	<b>Karen Meenan,</b> Making Hay Reminiscence Theatre & Órla Horn, The Forget-Me-Nots Choir <i>Dementia is a Personal Story</i>
10.35am - 11.05am	<b>Bairbre-Ann Harkin &amp; Caomhán Mac Con Iomaire</b> <i>The AZURE Project and the National Gallery of Ireland</i>
11.05am - 11.35am	<b>Break</b>
11.35am - 12.00pm	<b>Dr Catherine Jordan</b> Global Brain Health Institute Fellow <i>Music and Dementia Exploring musical memories and the impact of dementia</i>
12.00pm - 12.25pm	<b>Dana Walrath</b> Global Brain Health Institute Fellow <i>Aliceheimer's: Comics, Medicine and Healing through Story</i>
12.25pm - 13.05pm	<b>Veronica Franklin Gould</b> Arts4Dementia UK <i>Reawakening the Mind</i>
1.05pm - 2.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00pm - 2.30pm	<b>Dr Tara Byrne Age and Opportunity</b> <i>Artists in Residence in a care setting</i>
2.30pm - 2.40pm	<b>Ronan Smith</b> Irish Dementia Working Group
2.40pm - 4.40pm	<b>The National Gallery of Ireland Experience</b> Experience treasures of the art world in the company of NGI guides and Azure-trained facilitators.
	<b>Virtual Reality Ireland</b> Sample the world of virtual reality and ponder its uses in a healthcare setting.
	<b>Headphone Disco</b> Music, at its essence, is what gives us memories
4.40pm - 4.45pm	<b>Professor Philip Napier</b> <i>Closing Remarks</i>

## SPEAKERS

### Karen Meenan

Karen Meenan has worked in marketing and training all her life as a retailer, wholesaler and start-up coach. She is a self-employed entrepreneur who has been running her "Results Training & Marketing" business for almost twenty years. In 2013 after their Mam Kathleen was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, her sister Órla Horn set up The Forget-Me-Nots choir while Karen, a founder member and volunteer provided marketing support to raise awareness for this new community dementia-inclusive choir. When Kathleen died in 2016, Karen returned to full time education and was awarded a first in her BA (Hons) Drama. Her dissertation subject "Reminiscence Theatre" inspired by Kathleen, brought her to London to meet Pam Schweitzer MBE, founder of the European Reminiscence Network (ERN) which has partners and members in more than 20 countries worldwide. Karen founded "Making Hay Reminiscence Theatre" in September 2017 and has been invited to be the first Ireland member of the ERN.



### Órla Horn

Órla Horn worked in a senior executive capacity within the global financial services industry until the downturn caused her to take redundancy in 2010. This coincided with her mother, Kathleen, being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Kathleen loved to sing and one morning Órla heard on the radio about a dementia-inclusive choir in New York City called The Unforgettables. She set about creating such a choir in North Dublin. This quality arts project had to be a real choir - not a sing-song - and in 2013 The Forget-Me-Nots was born, becoming a registered charity in 2017 (No 20144661). Kathleen died in 2016 but the choir lives on. It now has more than 100 members with a rolling attendance of 70-80 people each week and has performed in places such as The Oireachtas, Dublin Airport, The Helix, with Riverdance at The Gaiety, Busáras, Bloom in the Park, Fingal Atrium, the RDS, ASI headquarters and various nursing homes, cafés, supermarkets and libraries along the way. Most recently the choir has provided backing to Brendan Grace's re-release of The Dutchman in aid of Engaging Dementia.



### Bairbre-Ann Harkin

Bairbre-Ann Harkin is an Arts & Ageing Fellow at the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA). Bairbre-Ann Harkin is an art-educator with a particular interest in accessible programming. Currently IMMA's Art & Ageing Fellow, Harkin formerly completed an internship at the Museum of Modern Art (New York), worked as Access Manager/Education Assistant at Dublin Contemporary 2011 and spent six years as Butler Gallery's Education Curator, where she developed and delivered arts programmes for multiple audiences. She regularly facilitates art-looking tours, trainings and workshops for organisations nationally and internationally.

