

CREATE &
COUNTERPOINTS ARTS

SUMMER SCHOOL 2023

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE &
SOCIAL CHANGE

PROGRAMME

JUNE 12 - 17

KILLARY LODGE, TULLYCONOR, LEENAUN, CO. GALWAY



create national development
agency for collaborative arts

COUNTERPOINTS.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2023



KILLARY LODGE

"The Summer School is a unique space when it comes to sharing big yet also delicate questions related to the connection between art and community, without having to compromise. The format of the Summer School raises the question from two critical and interconnected perspectives: respecting the different artistic specialities of the participants alongside what are increasing levels of injustice experienced within and between communities. We need spaces like the School, so that artists can understand their critical role in such a demanding context, enabling them to share experiences and to interrogate their own practices. To also think 'internationally', while, at the same time, understanding that we fundamentally start everything from some form of the 'local'. The challenge is in understanding the complexity of that local in a global and interconnected context."

ABDULLAH ALKAFRI, 2023

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SUMMER SCHOOL 2023

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The purpose of art is to lay bare the questions that have been hidden by the answers.

James Baldwin

Welcome to the Summer School on Collaborative Practice and Social Change and to Killary Lodge, Tullyconor, Leenaun, Co. Galway.

Over the next six days, we will learn and unlearn through a mix of cooperative activities – sharing methods, challenges, ideas and dreams for new modes of thinking and practice.

Now in its fifth year, the Summer School takes place in a world increasingly shaped by displacement and uncertainty. Tumultuous times, to be sure, but with seeds and traces of hope, resistance and imagination, evident in your diverse yet interconnected projects. From the interdisciplinary visual arts to music and Hip Hop, live performance, film, photography, design and dramaturgy, you bring to the School an urgent mix of collaborative and socially engaged practice, blending art with civic activism and community engagement.

Regardless of what stage you are in your practice or in any one project, the Summer School is designed as a supportive space for stepping away, standing still, critically reflecting through forms of deep listening and generous, imaginative exchange.

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Every year we welcome a range of facilitators from different elsewhere(s), who influence the interdisciplinary ethos underpinning the School. Visiting international facilitators in 2023 include: Ismael Einashe (investigative journalist), Abdullah Alkafri (dramaturge) and Dana Olărescu (artist and designer in social practice). Together we will explore the possibility of collaboration between artists and investigative journalists, with the aim of integrating or making sense of the place-based skills of socially engaged practice alongside the forensic, storytelling skills of journalism.

As in previous years, the 'doing' of collaborative practice is navigated via the **MÁK Challenge**, a speculative group exercise which has become a cornerstone of the Summer School and circulated on Day 2.

The programme also allows for one-to-one mentoring with visiting facilitators, together with slots and strands for informal and impromptu discussion. Mentoring sessions with facilitators are scheduled throughout the week alongside workshops in podcasting and alternative publishing platforms.

The Summer School looks out onto the Fjord – an Caoláire Rua – inviting us all to be inspired by Baldwin's prescient words in the epigraph above.

*2023's focus on the intersection of investigative journalism and socially engaged art stems from the Collaborative Incubator programme led by the Beyond the Now Collective.

*Beyond the Now is a syndicated online platform, founded by partners working in locations across Europe and the Southwest Asian and North African region. It aims to open new creative, cultural and political affinities for a post-pandemic world. Beyond the Now was established during COVID-19 (May 2020) with the goal of creating greater solidarity and collaboration between organisations and individuals working within the interdisciplinary field of socially engaged art practice. The Beyond the Now partners comprise small to medium arts organisations and educational institutions: Ettijahat Independent Culture (Beirut and Brussels), Co Culture (Berlin), Create (Ireland), and Counterpoints Arts, (UK) in addition to individual researchers working at the Open University and Arts University Plymouth (UK) and the Mozilla Festival (Berlin/ Amsterdam London). <https://beyond-the-now.com/>.

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TEAM

2023

O'Brien (Director); Crowley (Manager + Facilitator); Courtney (Creative Producer); Olărescu (Visiting Facilitator); Einashe (Visiting Facilitator); AlKafri (Visiting Facilitator); McHugh (Podcaster); O'Shea (Social Practice Printmaker/Publisher).

KEYWORDS

COLLABORATION; EQUITY; INTERSECTIONALITY;
REPRESENTATION; JOURNALISM; DIVERSITY; LOCAL;
PLACES; IDENTITY; MOVEMENT ORGANISING;
RACIAL/SOCIAL/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE;
COOPERATION; COMMONING; CULTURES; ARTS;
SOLIDARITY; COLLECTIVES; SYRIA; DIASPORA; INJUSTICE;
PROFESSION; SECTOR; NATIONALITY (IES); POWER WITH;
CREATIVE SAVIOUR COMPLEX; SITTING WITH TROUBLE;
TRUST; TRANSPARENCY; REPORTAGE; INTERVIEW;
TRAUMA; MEANINGFUL CONSENT; SAFE SPACES;
STORYTELLING; MEDIA; HOME...

SUMMER SCHOOL 2023



IBRAHEEM RAMADAN

SCHEDULE 12 - 17 JUNE

DAY 1 - MONDAY 12 JUNE

4 PM

Arrive at Killary Lodge; get settled + tea & scones

Time to get a sense of the place and to unwind before we get started

6 - 8 PM **BLOCK A: Áine O'Brien and Áine Crowley**

Welcome and overview of Programme: who is in the room and why?

Sharing of select images and what people are working through at this moment in their practice - what are the challenges and areas of focus?
What are you energized by or unsettled and currently grappling with?

8:30 - 10:30 PM

Dinner

SUMMER SCHOOL 2023



KATE STANWORTH

DAY 2 - TUESDAY 13 JUNE

10 - 10:30 AM

Provocations - the floor is yours.

Short and snappy 7 min interventions of any kind, picking up on the conversations and actions in the room. A bit like speakers' corner, it's a space to talk out loud in whatever performative format you choose.

10:30 - 12:30 PM **BLOCK B: Dana Olărescu**

Co-Operation in an Age of So-Called Crises

Drawing on examples of her own practice, Dana will reflect on the role socially engaged artists play in countering current systemic, intersectional issues that are polarising communities.

Circulation of **MÁK Challenge**. The MÁK Challenge is the collaborative exercise which underpins the school, enabling small group conversations, co-devising and co-production of ideas and testing of methods. We will explain the 2023 MÁK Challenge in detail and allocate working groups.

School facilitators will move in and between the various MÁK Challenge working groups throughout the week.

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 - 2 PM

Break

2 - 4:30 PM **BLOCK C: Ismail Einashe**

Ethical strategies for socially-engaged artists working with traumatised migrants and refugees

Ismail will walk us through a trauma-informed approach to storytelling and collaborative production. How to ethically report on stories of displacement, violence, and migration while creating a safe environment and involving the people you work with in your socially-engaged art practice? How to use techniques such as giving control, establishing safety, obtaining meaningful consent, employing trauma-informed interview methods, and understanding the media's role in migration coverage.

4:30 - 5 PM

Break

5 - 7:30 PM **MÁK Group Challenge**

7:30 - 8 PM

Break

8 - 9:30 PM

Dinner

SUMMER SCHOOL 2023



ANNA BANOUT أنا بنوت

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE

10 - 10:30 AM

Provocations - the floor is yours.

Short and snappy 7 min interventions of any kind, picking up on the conversations and actions in the room. A bit like speakers' corner, it's a space to talk out loud in whatever performative format you choose.

10:30 - 12:30 PM **BLOCK D: Abdullah Alkafri**

What does it mean to be an 'Arab' artist today?

What is the meaning and value of the artistic production that comes from the Arab world today? What are its characteristics and relationship with Arabic societies and communities? What are its ideas? What is it trying to present as content and what is its place in the narratives of international justice? How can it engage with issues and challenge national boundaries?

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 - 2 PM

Break

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE

2 - 3:30 PM BLOCK E: Ismail Einashe

Investigative Aesthetics, Social Practice and Migration Narratives

Exploring the power and potential of art and culture as potent tools for conveying the complex stories of migration. How can the fusion of investigative journalism and socially-engaged artistic practices breathe life into migration narratives, enabling a deeper and more profound understanding of this global phenomenon?

3:30 - 4 PM

Break

4 - 6 PM MÁK Challenge Working Group

6 - 6:30 PM

Break

6:30 - 7:30 PM

Investigative Storytelling Meets Socially Engaged Practice

Panel Discussion with Abdullah, Dana and Ismail - (Recorded for a Summer School Podcast)

7:30 - 8 PM

Break

8 - 9:30 PM

Dinner

SUMMER SCHOOL 2023



KATE O'SHEA

DAY 4 - THURSDAY 15 JUNE

10 - 10:30 AM

Provocations - the floor is yours.

Short and snappy 7 min interventions of any kind, picking up on the conversations and actions in the room. A bit like speakers' corner, it's a space to talk out loud in whatever performative format you choose.

10:30 - 12:30 PM BLOCK F: Sam McHugh

Workshop: from podcasting to print to publishing – social practice and independent public platforms

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 - 2 PM

Break

2 - 4 PM BLOCK G: Kate O'Shea

Workshop: from podcasting to print to publishing – social practice and independent public platforms

DAY 4 - THURSDAY 15 JUNE

4:30 - 6 PM BLOCK H: Dana Olărescu

A social engagement 'how to' session

Have you been caught in a difficult conversation and wondered how to facilitate without causing more harm? Have you ever had to make snap decisions but felt you were lacking adequate training? Are you planning to work with communities but fear you are lacking tools and methodologies to kickstart the process? This session will be an opportunity for an informal and honest group discussion on challenges in the sector, building solidarity, and looking after one another.

6:30 - 7:30 PM MÁK Challenge Working Group

8 - 9:30 PM

Dinner

SUMMER SCHOOL 2023



KATE STANWORTH

DAY 5 - FRIDAY 16 JUNE

10 - 10:30 AM

Provocations - the floor is yours.

Short and snappy 7 min interventions of any kind, picking up on the conversations and actions in the room. A bit like speakers' corner, it's a space to talk out loud in whatever performative format you choose.

10:30 - 12 PM **BLOCK I: Abdullah Alkafri**

Reinventing the Margin

How can theatre and dramaturgy recover/reimagine public spaces for dialogue despite persistent local/global division and fragmentation? How can live performance realise radically new meanings for the word 'margin' in relation to society, culture and everything else?

12 - 12:30 PM

Break

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Lunch

DAY 5 - FRIDAY 16 JUNE

1:30 - 5 PM

MÁK Challenge Group Work

5 - 5:30 PM

Tea / Coffee Break

5:30 - 7:30 PM

BILOCK J: MÁK Group Presentations

On the final night the Working Groups will present their MÁK Challenge projects with 30 mins allocated to each group. The style and form of these presentations can be decided by you and like any 'pitch', the challenge will be around time constraints.

8 - 9:30 PM

Final Summer School Dinner

What if we took
democratic
action
collectively to
make our
voices loud

What if we
could take
who live on
the?
Do you know
Bob? He's a
very nice
Hello Bob

DAY 6 - SATURDAY 17 JUNE

10 - 10:30 AM

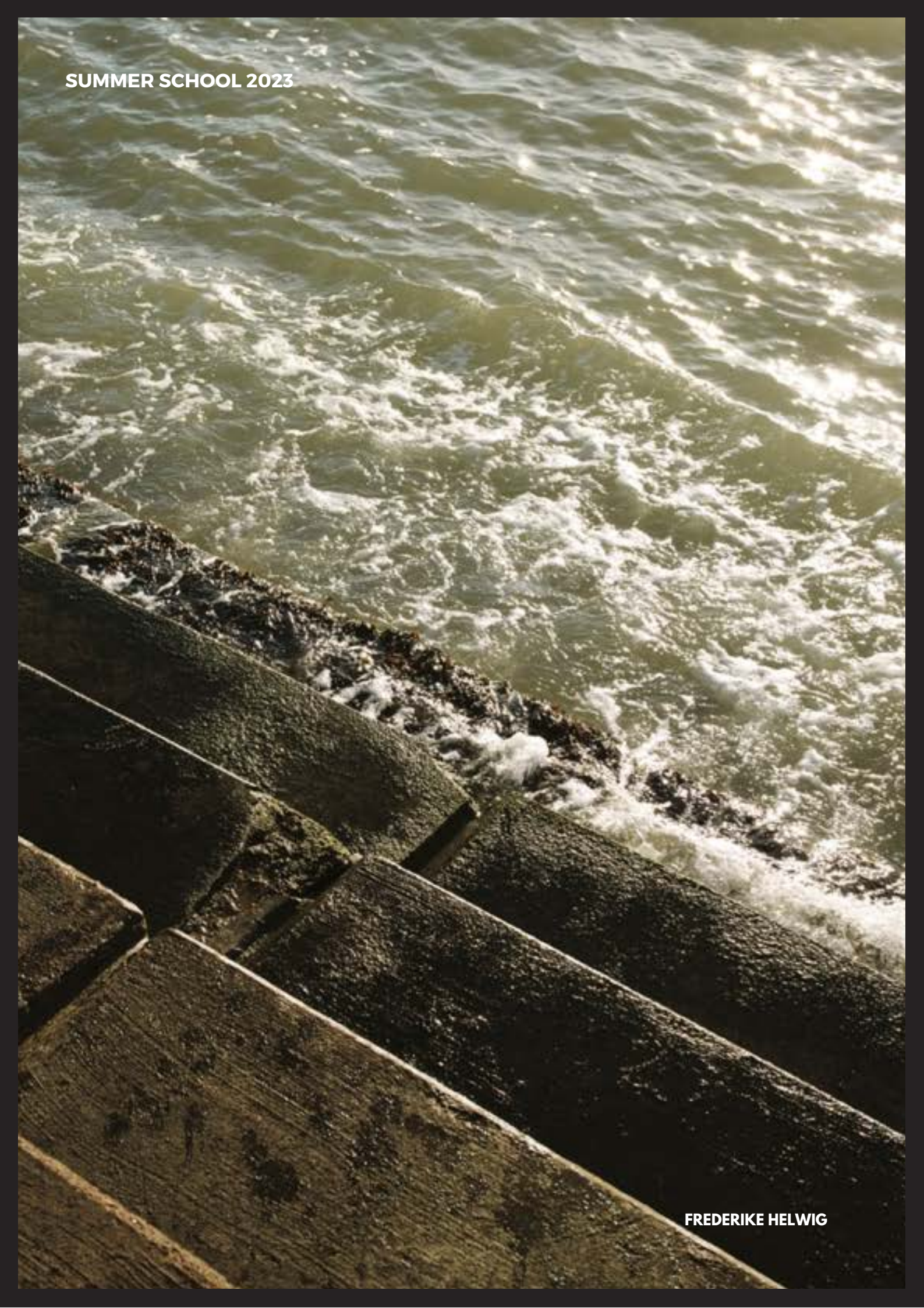
Provocations – the floor is yours.

Short and snappy 7 min interventions of any kind, picking up on the conversations and actions in the room. A bit like speakers' corner, it's a space to talk out loud in whatever performative format you choose.

10:30 - 11:30 AM

MÁK Challenge Conversation and Feedback:

Summer School 2023 Wrap-Up/Goodbyes.



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FREDRIKE HELWIG

"Summer School was a unique experience. Made a lot of friends. Connected with people. Learned a lot.

It was like meeting my tribe: transnational, transcultural tribe, the in-between people. During those days realised why I feel distant from my own community in Ireland (from Kerala, India) and still couldn't feel at home with many aspects of the western/Irish culture either.

It is not like 'have left but never reached'. No, definitely not. It is like 'have reached equilibrium at last, in the middle'. Summer School helped me realise that my truth is hybrid, I am at home in the liminal spaces."

JJO SEBASTIAN, 2022

SUMMER SCHOOL 2023



FARHAD BERAHMAN

READING LIST

SELECTIVE READING AND MEDIA LIST

None of the texts and media below are intended to be prescriptive nor definitive, rather shared prompts and provocations for dialogue and debate.

Please do come with a collective commitment to tackling critical concepts and ideas, sharing creative and practical challenges, working together to imagine new ways of making sense through and beyond what (at times) might seem insurmountable.

DIGITAL RESOURCE

[#CovidCreativesToolkit](#) created by Kit Braybrooke - packed list of free and open source tools for use across a range of creative projects and community-building platforms.

MEDIA

[Saskia Sassen: What is behind the new Migrations: A Massive Loss of Habitat](#)

[Amin Husain and Nitasha Dhillon on Working to Decolonize the Art World](#)

[Syria: Rojava, the Revolution by Women, 25 mins](#)

[James Baldwin debates the 'American dream', 2:59 mins](#)

[To change the system we need systemic alternatives, 2:09 mins](#)

[In the Shadow of the Midnight Sun \(DelGado\)](#)

[Knock Down The House, full feature, 1:26:39](#)

[Nae Pasaran \(2018\) trailer, 2:02 mins](#)

[International Rights of Nature Tribunal Paris Introduction, 6:22 mins](#)

[Decolonising the Camera in Racial Time \(Sealy\)](#)

[Racial contract Charles W. Mills](#)

[10 steps to non optical allyship](#)

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SELECTIVE READING AND MEDIA LIST

Palette Cleansing Thinking, Dana Olărescu

Acting Today for a Better Tomorrow

Beyond the Frame, Ismail Einashe

One Year On, What Were the Cultural Responses to the Tragedy of Grenfell Tower?, Ismail Einashe

Reading the 'Black Mediterranean' through Europe's Migrant Crisis, Ismail Einashe

Dart Center – Tips: Involving Children and Families in your Reporting

Dart Center: How to Respect Children's Identities when Reporting on Migration

Dart Center Style Guide for Trauma-Informed Journalism

Come Join Us, Ismail Einashe

Challenges Facing Syrian Cultural Work in Diaspora, Milena Dragičević Šešić

Bottom-up cultural policy reforms in times of oppression? Philipp Dietachmair

Palestine as a "Profession": Syria also? Fatin Farhat

Decolonization (Frieze Anthology)

What it Means to be Displaced (Mohamed/Hermon)

'Thrown togetherness: the politics of the event of place' (Massey)

Participatory Art (Finklepearl)

Art as Social Transformation (El Hussein)

READING LIST

SELECTIVE READING AND MEDIA LIST

Three stages in the art of public participation: The relational, social and durational (O'Neill)

Palestine as a Profession (Farhat)

Decolonising Knowledge and the Question of the Archive (Mbembe)

An Interview with Tania Bruguera

White Fragility (DiAngelo)

Against the Anthropocene (Demos)

The 1619 Project

Together we dance alone: Building a toolkit for creatives in a pandemic (Braybrooke)

Placeless making? Reframing the power-geometries of digital platforms in China through tactical co-creation (Braybrooke)

David Olusoga Mc Taggart Lecture

The Chaotic Energy of Nairobi's Artworld

Nairobi - the centre of East Africa's thriving arts scene

Letter from Africa: How the Nairobi Expressway is changing Kenya's capital

How Kenya's Malindi morphed into 'Little Italy'

READING LIST

SELECTIVE READING AND MEDIA LIST

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. Notes on Grief. London, 4th Estate, 2021

Baldwin, James. Another Country. London, Penguin Books, 1990.

Beatrice von & Meyer-Krahmer, Benjamin (eds.). Hospitality: hosting relations in exhibitions, Sternberg Press, Berlin, 2016 (Introduction)

Boomgaard, Jeroen, and Rogier Brom (eds.). Being Public: How Art Creates the Public. Amsterdam, Valiz, 2017.

Bloom, Brett and Sacramento, Nuno. Deep Mapping. Break Down Press, 2018.

Charnley, Kim. Sociopolitical Aesthetics: Art, Crisis, Neoliberalism. London, Bloomsbury, 2020.

Czajka, Agnes & O'Brien, Áine (eds.). Art, Migration And The Production Of Radical Democratic Citizenship. London, Rowman & Littlefield. 2022

DeBhairduin, Oein. Why the Moon Travels. Dublin, Skein Press, 2020.

Ghosh, Amitav. The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable. London, University of Chicago Press, 2016.

Jenssens, Joris. (Re)framing the International: On new ways of working internationally in the arts. Brussels, Flanders Arts Institute, 2018.

Luiselli, Valería. Lost Children Archive. London, 4th Estate, 2019.

Malm, Magdalena (ed.). Curating Context – Beyond the Gallery and into Other Fields. Art And Theory Publishing, 2017.

McCann, Colum. Apeirogon, A Novel. London, Bloomsbury, 2020.

McDonagh, Rosaleen. Unsettled. Dublin, Skein Press, 2021

Okorie, Melatu-Uche. This Hostel Life. Dublin, Skein Press, 2018.

Reilly, Maura. Curatorial Activism: Towards an Ethics of Curating. London, Thames & Hudson, 2018.

Warsza, Joanna and Reed, Patricia (eds.). A City Curating Reader: Performative Art in the City. Munich, Motto Books, 2018.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

SCHOOL VALUES

RESPECT
CONFIDENTIALITY
GENEROSITY
SOLIDARITY
CREATIVITY
COMMUNICATION
LEARNING
HONESTY
LISTENING
PATIENCE

SUMMER SCHOOL WORK AGREEMENT

How can we Work, Learn and
Collaborate Together

CODE OF CONDUCT

+ Be respectful + **Listen actively** + Be aware of language diversity + Be honest and act in good faith + Be collaborative + **Be generous** + Respect privacy + Ask permission to share info, record or videotape beforehand + **Handle disagreement constructively** + Everyone has a chance to contribute + Don't interrupt other people, **be patient** and wait your turn + In break-out sessions, volunteer or nominate someone to moderate conversations.

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