

Press Release

Longford Writers and Artists Combine Once Again to Create an Explosion of Creativity

Following the success of last year's creative writing/visual arts collaborative project – **Respond**– Longford Arts Office is repeating the experience by arranging a creative writing/digital arts collaborative project entitled - **Respond 2**

This week Longford County Arts Office launched, 'Respond 2' in the Ardagh Creativity Centre. According to County Arts Officer Fergus Kennedy; “artists and art lovers know that the visual arts and film are both capable of creating an energy and atmosphere unique to the arts. However when you combine the two different forms of creative expression you can create a wonderful frisson of imaginative energy and excitement.”

Longford has more creative writers per head of population than anywhere in Ireland. In addition there has been a huge resurgence in the digital arts and film making in particular in the county in recent years.

The Respond 2 Project is an effort to harness and combine these two art forms to create an exciting and imaginative project that is unique to Longford. Ten local film makers were shown a piece of poetry or prose on a theme of – Longford - written by ten local writers and used it as a setting-off point to explore ideas of place, locality and pride in ones locality.

The film makers/digital artists were: Shelley Corcoran, Gordon Farrell, Seamus Clarke, Eddy Bisi-adepoju, Michael Croghan, Deirdre O'Byrne, Brendan Keogh, Patrick Baxter, Evelyn Kelly

Among the responding writers and poets were: Margaret Nohilly, Edward Denniston, Eileen Moynihan, Mary Melvin Geoghegan, Ann Gerety Smyth, Ciaran Furey, Pauline Flood, Kathleen Dowd, Rose Moran and Emma Donohoe.

The project will culminate with a showing of the digital work and a reading by the responding writers in the Atrium Gallery, Backstage Theatre, Longford on Wednesday 9th December. The work will also be on display on Longford County Arts Office websites www.virtualwriter.ie and www.longforddigitalarts.ie .

Ends

06/10/15