

Winter 2015, Volume 3

SPECIAL ISSUE: *Mapping an Altered Landscape: Cultural Policy and Management in Ireland*

Conference Programme

The *Mapping an Altered Landscape: Cultural Policy and Management in Ireland* conference took place on Wednesday 25th June 2014, 9-6pm, in the Fitzgerald Debating Chamber, University College, Dublin. The conference was designed as a series of short speaker presentations with significant time allocated for discussion and audience participation. There were 4 plenary sessions during the day that addressed issues of policy, structure and management practices and processes across the cultural field in Ireland, followed by a film screening. See also: www.culturalpolicyconference2014.ie. For further information or any of the transcripts detailed here, please contact: kerry.mccall@iadt.ie or pat.cooke@ucd.ie.

Plenary Session 1: Mapping an altered landscape: accounting for changes in Irish cultural policies and practices through the years of recession

In the first of our 4 plenary sessions, panellists identified key changes that have taken place in policies, structures and management practices across the cultural field since 2008. Which changes have been for the good; which for the bad; and what's been working well?

Ruairi Quinn T.D., Minister For Education And Skills

Gerry Godley, Artistic Director, Improvised Music Company

Aidan Pender, Director, Strategic Development & Secretariat, Fáilte Ireland

Clare Duignan, Independent Director And Business Advisor

Moderator: Mary Wilson, RTÉ

Plenary Session 2: Structural issues: identifying challenges and difficulties

Plenary 2 examines the fitness for purpose of current cultural structures and their responsiveness to change: asking is the full range of cultural expression and production adequately captured by current policies and institutional structures?

Sarah Glennie, Director, Irish Museum Of Modern Art, Deputy Chair, Council Of National Cultural Institutions

Peter Hynes, Chief Executive, Mayo County Council

Christine Sisk, Acting Director, Culture Ireland, Dept Of Arts Heritage And The Gaeltácht

Alan Counihan, Artist

Michelle Carew, Director, National Association For Youth Drama

Moderator: Dr. Emily Mark-FitzGerald, University College Dublin

Plenary Session 3: Process issues: identifying and embracing change

This conversation identifies the ways in which culture is produced and consumed under the processes of rapid economic and technological change. New forms of cultural practice and mediation have emerged that have implications for the way public policies and institutions understand and engage with change.

Trevor White, Director, The Little Museum Of Dublin

Mary Carty, Entrepreneur, Arts Consultant, Author

Gavin Dunne, Music Producer And Songwriter, The Man Behind Miracle Of Sound

Grace Dyas, Founder Of Theatreclub, An Activist, Theatre Director, Writer, Producer

Monika Sapielak, Director, Centre For Creative Practices; Director, Artpolonia: Lab For Intercultural Cooperation & Exchange

Moderator: Andrew Hetherington, Business To Arts

Plenary Session 4: What should be done?

Reflecting on the issues prompted by the preceding plenaries, session 4 panel members endeavour to lead a way forward by identifying what needs to change in policy, practice, structures and thinking.

Mary McCarthy, Director, National Sculpture Factory

Sheila Pratschke, Chair, Arts Council

Conor Newman, Chair, Heritage Council

Willie White, Artistic Director And Chief Executive, Dublin Theatre Festival

Moderator: Sean Rocks, RTÉ

Screening: *Skin in the Game*, dir. Donald Taylor Black. Cinema, Student Centre, UCD
Award winning feature documentary on the recession in Ireland, considered through the work of a number of artists who are using it as subject matter.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Dr. Niamh NicGhabhann, Course Director of the MA Festive Arts Programme in University of Limerick, for her meticulous work in curating the conference contributions and putting shape on the capture of a day full of ideas and stimulating presentations. Thanks also to Susan Kennelly, transcriber, who spent many hours working on the speakers' presentations with Niamh.

We would also like to thank a number of others who helped us in shaping the programme for the conference. For their advice on the design of the conference we would like to thank Michael Starrett and Beatrice Kelly of the Heritage Council of Ireland, Val Ballance and John O'Kane of the Arts Council of Ireland, Sen. Fiach MacConghail of The Abbey Theatre, Stuart McLoughlin, Rowena Neville, and Andrew Hetherington from Business to Arts, Paraic McQuaid and Jenny Haughton of IADT, and from South Dublin County Council, Tony Fegan and Victoria Durrer.

For their assistance in organising and delivering the conference on the day we would like to thank, Jenny Haughton, Dara Lynne Lenihan, Shauna Blanchfield, Jan Schneider and Joe O'Sullivan. Grateful thanks to Donald Taylor Black (IADT) for allowing us to screen *Skin in the Game*, a documentary film on Irish artists & the recession.

Finally, the invaluable support of Dr. Emily Mark-FitzGerald (UCD), and Prof. Peter Robertson (IADT) deserves a special mention. With sincere thanks to you both for your support and guidance in the process of developing and delivering this conference.

Pat Cooke & Kerry McCall
December 2015

