Visualising Ireland: Homage to otherness

Abstract
Visualising contemporary Ireland’s capacity to reimagine itself ‘Beyond the Pale’ of a textual, literary perspective is how we, as a collaborative, propose to address the thematic of this conference. As a collaborative, the Ends of Ireland reflect a personal sense of Irishness that has been shaped by a shared experience of migration and the diaspora associated with moving between space and place.

Within a visual, cultural framework the traditional paper presentation is reframed through two strands of artistic research. The first strand is the staging of a pop-up exhibition titled the Marian Thread during the conference (in the Central Lecture Block foyer). This exhibition is contextually underpinned by the role of the feminine in the Roman Catholic Church and how this experience translates into visual literacy. The accompanying presentation will locate the exhibition as research by leading the audience through the coded language embedded in the materiality of the art objects. These artworks are theorised with embodied knowledge that is fused with history, culture and a personal experience of Ireland near and far. Through the exhibition and visual presentation we will demonstrate the visual as an alternate form of discourse. The value of which is measured, not through the traditional spheres of knowledge production but in the binary that exists between art and language.

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Kiera O'Toole studied Fine Art at the Dublin Institute of Technology graduating in 2000 and went on to complete a Masters of Philosophy in Fine Art in Newcastle University, Australia in 2013. O'Toole has exhibited widely in group and solo exhibitions in Ireland, Finland and Australia including the National Museum of Australia in 2011. O'Toole has an extensive experience in teaching Fine Art as a casual academic, TAFE teacher, Community College