

Statement of Methodology

The Silent Sea collective has identified four main strands for their overall working methodology.

1 - Methods of Engagement through a Social Practice

Silent Sea enacts a socially engaged practice, also referred to as social practice or socially engaged art. Our outcomes can include any artform which involves people and communities in conversation, collaboration or social interaction. Our gatherings, meet-ups and workshops are often organized as the result of a shared interest and connected network with the engaged community group. The participatory element of our socially engaged practice is key, with the artworks created often holding equal or less importance to the collaborative act of creating them. Silent Sea continually adheres to the fact that our interactions, communications and relationships building within this social practice is 'art that's socially engaged, where the social interaction is at some level the art.'

2 - Creative and Visual Methodologies

To elucidate our broader artistic collaboration, we have included our collective statement and both of our artist statements following these short bullet points aimed specifically at the development of this CWDF project.

- The data, collected through journals and communication with catchment area citizens in line with Covid HSE and Government Guidelines and restrictions being adhered to, will be used alongside their stories and mythological representations of the current ecological and historical state of the river to develop patterns, iconography and semaphore around the flag set.
- The flags will be created by hand by the artists as they continue communication with their catchment areas. The flags, created to communicate and motivate people to act on behalf of the environment, are made to encourage them to reconnect on a visual level with their immediate surroundings. Collectively our social practice does this through taking note of the ordinary, everyday actions and stories our communities of interest are forming every day. At a time when scientists are calling on artists to take up the mantle for climate change, these flags can be a call to action through visual communication.
- The flag set is aimed at representing the common language used between community groups and local citizens for understanding the impact of collected scientific data.
- The icons are created and spoken about in a collaborative manner with community groups. This could take the form of (but is not limited to) outdoor workshops, discussions (zoom or in person), and creative community pin boards (virtual or real).
- Continuous updates and communication with communities partaking is key to the development of the project and has been ongoing in compliance with Covid restrictions. These will continue through the year and inform any changes or shifts the project will need to take.
- Once several flags are completed, they will be visually communicated to the broader community in occurrences (these could be public displays, events, or recorded performances) referencing maritime signal flags and semaphore, as well as taking in the traditional celebratory and mythological aspects of the river and catchment areas.

Silent Sea Collaborative Statement

Silent Sea is an artist collaboration with a socially engaged practice that focuses on developing relations with communities of interest in exploring shared narratives around our rivers and seas. The resulting projects explore maritime culture, celebrating life around traditional boat building, framed within sustainable and traditional ecosystems.

Deirdre Power Artist Statement

Socially engaged and lens-based practice, framed by a pedagogical approach to develop a sustained discourse with communities of interest on the aspirations that form the basis of community life. Projects initiated enable positivity in promoting change at local level by re-imagining spaces within the city environs. A 'sense of place' pervades my practice embodied in socially and visual communication.

Chelsea Canavan Artist Statement

A multidisciplinary artist. Operating in many fields including social practice and engagement, cultural production, education and research. Through my practice I explore ideas around belonging and the varied definitions of (social)-ecology and (bio)-diversity, and the forms of social processes of (re)-belonging, and the occurring paralleled relationships experienced between these systems and place.

3 - Documentation Methodology

Silent Sea uses a very rigorous documentation methodology, please find aspects of it bullet pointed below:

- Process documentation - all elements of the process and relationship building are part of the documentation process and part of the artistic practice.
- Event Documentation - events are documented based on funding and availability, this allows us to professionally document and record an event for project reporting purposes and public dissemination through appropriate avenues.
- Outcomes Documentation - each artistic outcome is fully documented to a high standard allowing for reproduction in publication or online dissemination.

4 - Dissemination Methodology

Silent Sea is linked into online social platforms, has a website representing the collective (www.silentsea.org), and is affiliated with agencies such as Limerick City Department of Environment, EVA International, Open House, Civic Trust, Livable Limerick, Smart Cities, Curraghour Boat Club, Shannon Dragons Limerick Narwhals, Ilen Project and the many communities that inform the collective's projects. All of these have proven to be successful modes of disseminating information and imagery in relation to the projects within Limerick-city.

As an artist collective we are also aware of the power of printed material for those in communities who are not linked into technology, and therefore make every effort with available funds to disseminate printed material to a very high standard. We therefore have developed relationships with Alphaset Printers in Limerick for much of our printed work.