

Chelsea Canavan

Artist and Designer, Creative Facilitator/Producer, Educator, Researcher

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Chelsea Canavan is a multi-disciplinary artist, designer, and creative producer interested in exploring acts of agency, inclusivity, and interactions of intervention. Their practice is underpinned by a strong process-led and collaborative approach. Methodologies involve research and active learning, observation, documentation and collaboration, reflection and (co)production. Projects are reflective of and shaped by research, group interaction, and encountered spaces. Artwork(s) is equally informed by Chelsea's own response to participants, encounters, and reflection on the creative process itself.

Chelsea is also an Artist in Hospitals, since 2019, for Helium, a national children's charity working with children and youths with life-limiting health conditions.

Selected Socially Engaged Projects and Creative Programmes

2024-2025 [EVA: Better Words](#) - commissioned to work with schools on the latest iteration of Better Words, EVA 2025, Limerick, second edition RISO Print published in October 2025
[School for Generational Storytelling](#): an Arts Council Participation Award in collaboration with artist Eamon O'Kane and The Model, Sligo

2024 Headlines for the Future - A collaborative project with Helium Arts, FutureLimerick Festival and The BellTable, Limerick, Ireland
No Place, like This Place – a series of site specific interventions/installations responding to space.
[A River Runs Through It](#) - an artist book made collaboratively with IndieLimerick music blog writer, exploring and celebrating Limerick's vibrant music scene, both past and present.

2023 [Process- our way of collaboration](#): A ten-month long pilot project engaging youths from Limerick and Clare in a creative project exploring individual and group identity.
[The Laboratory of Land Flags - Kinship Project, Cork](#) - A socially engaged visual arts project of research and investigation into the co-creation of Flags and their rituals responding to space and its inhabitants.
[Sights, Sounds, Stories, Tipperary](#) - A residency with Bealtaine 2023 and Newport Day Centre, in collaboration with sound artist and producer Andy Spearpoint.

2022 [Grounds for Change - Decarbonising Together 2022, Limerick](#) - A collaborative project as developing a creative response to circular food economies and collaborative farming.
[Objects of Wonder, Limerick](#) - An exhibition in collaboration with Helium Arts participants that took part in a 6-week workshops series resulting in an exhibition in The Hub, Limerick City Gallery
[The MayFly, The Flag Project 2022](#) - in partnership with UN Centre for Climate Decline and the Climate Museum, Rockefeller Centre, New York, USA

2021 [Signal from a River](#) - a community project resulting in the creation of semaphore flags displayed on Nicholas street, Limerick City
[Water Paths](#) – the Ecology of a Community, Eco Showboat Project with Cleary/Connolly, Ireland
[Folding Worlds – Experiments in the Ecology of Stories, Limerick-Cork-Galway](#) – A remote creative engagement intervention for hospital settings developed through a series of creative exchanges between the artist Chelsea Canavan and Artist Eamon O'Kane for Helium Arts.
[Our World in a Window](#) – a travelling a custom-made platform to publicly showcase children's artwork, created by artist Chelsea Canavan and engineer Gerry Byrnes, produced by Helium Arts.

2020 – 21 [Community and Cargo](#) – The Ilen Project, Limerick, IRL
[Rhizome Project](#) – a series of performances, installations, and engagements, including many site specific interventions and installations creating further conversations around community ecology
[Space Between Us](#), a creative collaboration w/ Helium Arts & WiredFM to create a youth-led podcast and audio/sound project during Covid19.

2019 29 Planks, interactive site-specific live one-time performance, O'Connell Street Limerick
X's & O's, interactive site-specific live one-time performance, Merriman House, Limerick, Ireland
Silent Sea, The project explored the links between Limerick's seafaring past and its links with Madeira, specifically engaged with sailing and boatbuilding, i-Portunus Travel and Research Awardee, Limerick Ireland and Madeira, Portugal

2018 [The Salmon's Wake](#). A multi-disciplinary heritage and cultural project that connected and creatively exchanged present day and historical links between, Limerick and Nuuk
[Dancing with Immortality](#) – a project with TYs, DanceLimerick, LightMoves Festival and Hunt Museum

2017 Teen Take Over: A collaboration with with TY Students, Bank of Ireland and artist Rita Duffy exploring her artwork commissioned by the Hunt Museum, Education Coordinator, Limerick, IRL
Ronnie Hughes – Children's Interpretation Project, commissioned to create an interactive guide for children and young audiences by the Artist, The Model, RHA, and LCG, IRL
The Artful Toddler, a weekly visual arts creative engagement with young audiences and the History of Play exhibition in The Model, Sligo, IRL

2016 –2017 PUNC 1x1, Assistant Artist Coordinator, The Model, Sligo, IRL
Family Days in the Model, Facilitating Artist, The Model, Sligo, IRL
Children's Book Festival, Programme Coordinator, The Model, Sligo, IRL

Solo Shows

2023 The Laboratory of Land Flags - KinShip, Cork City Council
2021 Transference, site specific installation and performance, Corbally Baths, Limerick, Ireland
2020 Films for Plants - The Dirty Dozen, a series of site specific film installations, Limerick Ireland
Ark 2.0: Experiments in the Rhizome, site specific performances and installations, Limerick
The Scream, performance, LSAD, Limerick
2010 There's no place, like no place (1), The Pike Room, Pontiac, Michigan, USA

Group Shows

2024 Headlines for the Future - The BellTable, Limerick, Ireland
2023 Show and Sell - Celebrating 10 years of Manorhamilton Print Group
The Laboratory of Land Flags - open call, Douglass Library, Co Cork
2022 Objects of Wonder, Limerick City Gallery - Learning Hub, Limerick
MayFly - Rockefeller Centre, New York, New York
River Signals, Medieval Quarter, Nicholas St, Limerick
WaterPaths Archive, The Hunt Museum, Limerick
2019 Incognito, Jack and Jill Foundation, Dublin, Ireland
Square Sail of Salmon's Wake, St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, Ireland
Signal Flags, Limerick County Council Offices
2018 The Gathering, Watch House Cross Library, Limerick
Limerick Figure Drawing Society Annual Show, Limerick, Ireland
2016 LSC/Print Symposium, Leitrim Sculpture Centre, Manorhamilton, Ireland
Hares on the March, Jack and Jill Foundation, Dublin, Ireland
Leitrim Sculpture Centre Annual Juried Show, New Line, Manorhamilton
2015 The Model Winter Gala Exhibition, The Model, Sligo Ireland
Leitrim Sculpture Centre Christmas Juried Show-New Line Rd, Manorhamilton, Leitrim, Ireland
1ft. Sq.-Higher Bridges Gallery -Clinton Centre, Bedmore Stree, Fermanagh, Northern Ireland
New Voices of Ireland: Series 3-Kildare Street, Dublin Ireland
The Hive Emerging-MOTLEY -Waterford, Waterford Ireland
Open Art Expo, Five Glens Art Festival, Manorhamilton, Sligo
The Loveliest Tree, Juried Show, Winner of People's Choice Award –Manorhamilton, Leitrim, Ireland
2014 Leitrim Sculpture Centre Christmas Juried Show-New Line Rd, Manorhamilton, Leitrim, Ireland
1ft. Sq.-Higher Bridges Gallery -Clinton Centre, Bedmore Street, Fermanagh, Northern Ireland
2012 Samsung Outdoor Printmaking, Seoul River, Seoul, South Korea
2011 Island Regional Art Expo and Performances, Gwang-nam, South Korea 시야 , Crow's Nest Gallery Spaces, Seoul
2010 *Flair*, Oakland University Art Gallery, Rochester Hills, MI, USA
2009 *Pike*, a multi-media installation, Pontiac, MI
2008 *Art Ex-Libris*, Juried Exhibition (Finalist), Kresge Library, Rochester Hills, MI

Collections

The Model; home of the Niland Collection, Permanent Collection - The School of Generational Storytelling, 2024
KinShip Project Cork - The Tramore Flag - The Laboratory of Land Flags
EcoShowboat - The MayFly 2021, Ireland
Karmanos Cancer Institute Detroit/Farmington Hills/Monroe, MI, USA
Kresge Library, Oakland University, Rochester Hills MI OUAG: Oakland University Art Gallery, Rochester Hills, MI
Pluto Studios Birmingham, MI
Private Collections: USA, S. Korea, Ireland, India

Publications

2025 BetterWords, EVA - 2025
A River Runs Through it, Second Edition, 2025
Arts and Health Ireland - Case Study
VAI - July/August Issue 4
2024 A River Runs Through It, Second Edition, 2025
2023 Grounds for Change - Decarbonising Together 2022 - CanavanPower
2022 FoodPrint: A creative exploration of the carbon footprint of the food we eat
2020 Across Borders- Across the Board: Volume 3, Creative Europe

Awards/ Commissions/ Funding/ Engagement Panels

2024 The Model - School for Generational Storytelling, Care Home Residencies - Engagement Artist
Artist in Schools - BLAST, TAP, Creative Schools - Education Residencies

2023 Kinship - Artist in Residence
Bealtaine - Artist in the Community
TAP Residency - Limerick Education Centre Teacher Artist Partnership
Creative Schools and Creative Associate Projects
BLAST Residency - Bringing Live Art to Students and Teachers

2022 Creative Schools - Limerick Educate Together and Limerick School Project
BLAST - Arts in Education Portal Documentation Award for a Creative Cluster Schools Project

2021 Arts Council of Ireland - Agility Award - Round 3
Made in Limerick
Artist in Schools Residency, Limerick Educate Together, Limerick-City
Artist in Schools Panel, County Clare

2019 i-Portunus Mobility Award, Creative Europe

2019 Made in Limerick

2019 Community Water Development Fund, Salmon's Wake

2018 Helium Arts – Artist Panel

2018 Crinnu na nOg – Animation in the Hunt Museum

2017 – Hunt Museum, Creative Facilitation and Visual Artist Panel

2017 – 2020 Social Innovation Fund: Education, The Ilen Project

Residencies

2024 NYCI - Youth Workers Engagement Training and Exploration Summer Camp - Artist Facilitator
The Model - School for Generational Storytelling, Care Home Residencies
Artist in Schools - BLAST, TAP, Creative Schools residencies

2023 The Laboratory of Land Flags - Kinship, Cork, Creative Schools-Artist in Residence-Limerick Educate Together and Limerick Project School, Bealtaine-Artist in the community-Newport Day Centre

2022 Grounds for Change - Decarbonising Together - Artist in the Community, Limerick, Ireland
Creative Schools - Artist in Residence - Limerick Educate Together, Limerick Project School, and Ahane NS, Limerick, Ireland, Artist in Schools
BLAST Residencies - Educate Together, Scoil Ide, and St.Patrick's Girls School

- 2021 Artist in Schools - TAP Residencies- St. Mary's NS, Educate Together, Nenagh Jr Boys
- 2020 Artist in Schools - BLAST Residencies - Cappagh NS, Nicker NS
- 2019 i-Portunus, Madeira, Portugal
Artist in Schools - TAP Residencies - St. Patricks Girls School, Castleconnell NS
Greenland – voyage onboard The Ilen wooden sailing ship, Nuuk, Greenland
Cill Rialaig Artists Residency, Cill Rialaig Arts Centre, Kerry, Ireland

Other Relevant Training and Qualifications

2020	Creative Habits of Mind	Creativity, Culture and Education Training around the 5 Creative Habits
2020	Disability and Inclusion	Training on Disability and Inclusion in Hospital and Community Settings
2017-2025	TUSLA/HSE Child Protection	Child Protection Training (non-DLP)
2023	Lámh	Introduction, Lvl 1 Course
2023	Professional Development for Artists	Monthly sessions for the year with Donna O'Keeney Inclusion Trainer with other artists practicing and upskilling disability and inclusion training for working with community groups
2023	Creative Associate	Creative Associate with the Arts Council training programme
2024	Climate Action Training	Climate Action Training from the Arts Council
2024	HSE Inclusion Training	UHL online training programme
2024	Narrative4 Facilitator Training	Story-sharing and empathy building facilitation training
2024	Introduction to Intercultural Competency	Safe to Create
2024	Child and Youth Participation	TUSLA, Lundy Model
2024	Disability and Awareness	HSE and Safe to Create in public settings
2025	GORM: Trauma Informed Practice	Training in Trauma Informed Practice
2026	Hub na nOg	Youth Voice and Participation Framework Training

Referees

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