



Cúirt

International
Festival of Literature

Féile Idirnáisiúnta Litríochta

23-28 April 2024

Funding Partners



Programme Partners



Welcome to Cúirt International Festival of Literature 2024

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 39th Cúirt International Festival of Literature. This year's festival offers an exciting programme that will present new ideas, offer inspiration, and allow for conversation and reflection.

Cúirt celebrates stories and ideas, with readings, discussions, workshops, and performances that bring writers and readers together. As ever, we're thrilled to host a wide selection of world-class authors who are at the pinnacle of their writing careers, as well as introducing you to compelling new voices and debut authors.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this festival happen: our festival team and volunteers, the Galway Arts Centre, our funders, sponsors and partners, our venues and venue staff, our booksellers, everyone who has offered help and advice, and above all, to our wonderful authors, artists, and audience. We're looking forward to celebrating 40 years of Cúirt with you in 2025.

Manuela Moser
Director

Cúirt Team 2024

Director

Manuela Moser

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Tara O'Connor

Galway Youth Theatre Director

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CE Supervisor

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John Caulfield (Chairperson),
Mike O'Halloran, Alannah Robins,
Mark Elliot, Sarah Lynch,
Sarah Searson, Eithne Verling,
Gavin Murphy

Booking Information

How to book

Book tickets online at cúirt.ie or tht.ie

Tickets can also be purchased from

Town Hall Box Office, 1 Courthouse Square, Galway

Tel: +353 (0)91 569 777

Fees and Concessions

Cúirt strives to be an accessible and enjoyable festival for everyone. We offer concession prices to senior citizens, full-time students (with appropriate ID), the unwaged, under 18s, people with disabilities and additional needs.

There is a booking fee of €1 per ticket, capped at €5 per transaction in the case of multiple ticket purchases.

Complimentary Tickets

In the event that you can't afford a ticket, we hold a number of complimentary tickets. Please email info@cúirt.ie with 'complimentary ticket' in the subject line for more information. These tickets are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. We hope it gives more people the opportunity to enjoy the festival, and is designed to help audiences with limited means. If you can afford our standard ticket price,

we ask that you opt to pay it. This means we can continue to offer these benefits to those who need it most.

Groups

We also offer discounts for groups of 10 or more. To find out more contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office.

Stay in Touch

cúirt.ie

#cúirt2024

CÚIRT FESTIVAL PLANNER 2024

Time	Event	Venue	Cost	Pg
TUESDAY 23 APRIL				
13:00	Poems for Patience Launch	Galway University Hospital	FREE	6
14:30	Alice Kinsella	O'Donoghue Theatre	€5	6
17:30	New Writing Showcase	The Mick Lally Theatre	FREE	6
19:30	Nuala O'Connor Book Launch	The Mick Lally Theatre	FREE	7
21:00	Jo Burns and Emily Cooper Book Launch	The Hardiman Hotel	FREE	7
WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL				
10:30	Frames of Refrence: Literary Journals	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	8
13:00	Clemens Meyer and Katy Derbyshire	Bank of Ireland Theatre	FREE	9
13:30	Jan Carson and Patrick deWitt	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	8
16:00	A Deep Well of Want – Book Launch	University of Galway Library	FREE	9
17:00	Poetry Reading	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	9
20:00	Colin Barrett, Lucy Caldwell, Glenn Patterson	The Mick Lally Theatre	€10/12	10
21:00	Simon Costello and Miriam Gamble	The Hardiman Hotel	FREE	10
THURSDAY 25 APRIL				
10:30	Frames of Reference: Translation	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	11
13:00	Róise Ní Bhaoill	An Taibhdhearc	€8/10	11
14:00	Balsam Karam and Noel O'Regan	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	12
14:00	Masters in Creative Writing Showcase	The Hardiman Hotel	FREE	13
17:30	Molly Hennigan and Clair Wills	An Taibhdhearc	€10/12	12
18:30	Cinema Book Club X Cúirt	Pálás	€10/12.50	13
18:30	Elaine Feeney Book Launch	The Mick Lally Theatre	€16/20	14
19:00	Open Mic	The Hardiman Hotel	FREE	13
20:30	Annie MacManus	An Taibhdhearc	€14/16	14
FRIDAY 26 APRIL				
10:30	Frames of Reference: Editing Fiction	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	15
13:00	Máiría Cahill and Martin Doyle	Town Hall Theatre	€10/12	15
13:00	Ferdia Lennon and Colin Walsh	An Taibhdhearc	€8/10	16
16:00	Dinnseachas: The Lore of Places – Kerry	An Taibhdhearc	€10/12	16
16:00	Poetry Reading	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	17

Time	Event	Venue	Cost	Pg
17:30	Una Mannion and Paul Murray	Town Hall Theatre	€16/20	18
18:00	ROPES Launch	The Hardiman Hotel	FREE	19
19:00	Jackie Uí Chionna	An Taibhdhearc	€14/16	19
19:00	Bryan Washington	The Mick Lally Theatre	€10/12	20
20:30	Lemn Sissay	Town Hall Theatre	€16/20	21
SATURDAY 27 APRIL				
10:00	The Slug & the Snail – Children's Event	An Taibhdhearc	€6/8/20	22
10:30	Frames of Reference: Poetry	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	22
11:00	Kid's Storytime	Charlie Byrne's	FREE	23
12:00	Young Writer Delegates Showcase	The Hardiman Hotel	FREE	23
13:00	Rafeef Ziadah	An Taibhdhearc	€14/16	23
13:30	Omnivore: Food, Writing and Art	The Mick Lally Theatre	€10/12	24
14:30	Black & Irish	Town Hall Theatre	€10/12	24
16:00	Susannah Dickey and Mark O'Connell	An Taibhdhearc	€10/12	25
17:30	Katherine O'Donnell	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	25
17:30	Paul Lynch	Town Hall Theatre	€16/20	26
19:00	Sinéad Gleeson	An Taibhdhearc	€14/16	27
20:30	John Banville and Mike McCormack	Town Hall Theatre	€16/20	28
21:00	Poetry Reading	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	27
SUNDAY 28 APRIL				
11:00	N.S. Nuseibeh and Rafeef Ziadah	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	29
11:30	Oein DeBharduin and Richard O'Leary	An Taibhdhearc	€10/12	30
12:00	Kid's Storytime	Charlie Byrne's	FREE	23
13:00	The Stinging Fly Podcast – Caoilinn Hughes	Town Hall Theatre	€10/12	31
14:00	Into the Witchwood – Children's Event	The Mick Lally Theatre	FREE	31
14:30	Mary Costello and Thomas Morris	An Taibhdhearc	€8/10	32
16:00	Edel Coffey	Town Hall Theatre	€14/16	32
17:00	Nicola Dinan and K Patrick	The Mick Lally Theatre	€8/10	33
18:00	Katriona O'Sullivan and Kieran Yates	An Taibhdhearc	€10/12	33
19:30	Poetry Reading – 2024 Finale	Town Hall Theatre	€16/20	34



Poems for Patience Launch

Join us for the exhibition launch of this year's Poems for Patience, selected and introduced by Victoria Kennefick. Saolta Arts hopes that the poetry will give people pause for reflection and space for hope.

In association with Saolta Arts

Alice Kinsella: The Fragmentary Self: On Form and Identity

This lecture sketches Alice Kinsella's journey from writing poetry to her first book of prose, *Milk: On Motherhood and Madness* (2023). Curated by the Irish Writers Centre, this talk is the first in a series of IWC National Mentoring Programme alumni events.

*In association with the Irish Writers Centre.
With thanks to Arts in Action*

New Writing Showcase

Emerging writers selected from the Over the Edge Literary Series and Skylight 47/Open Window will share their new work, alongside the 2024 winners of the annual Cúirt New Writing Prize.

In association with Over the Edge and Skylight 47

Galway University
Hospital

Tues 23 Apr 13:00

FREE 60 mins

O'Donoghue Theatre

Tues 23 Apr 14:30

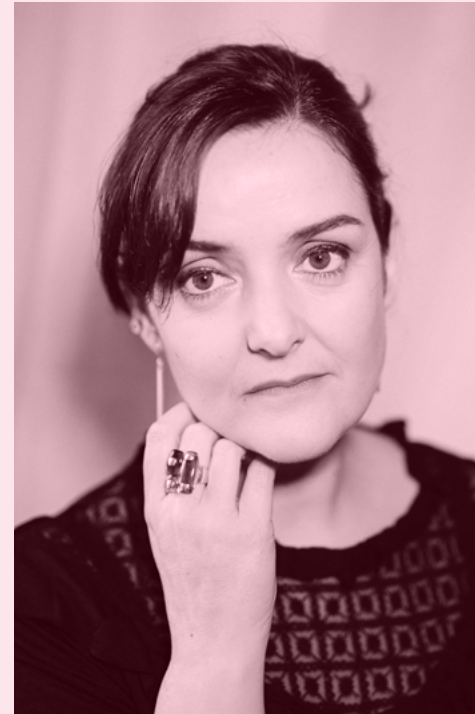
€5 60 mins

The Mick Lally Theatre

Tues 23 Apr 17:30

FREE TICKETED

60 mins



Nuala O'Connor: Seaborne Book Launch

Join us at the Mick Lally Theatre as we officially open Cúirt 2024 with the launch of the highly-anticipated new novel by Nuala O'Connor.

Seaborne, published by New Island Press, is about a novelty-seeking, contrary, stubborn and bisexual woman called Anne Bonny. Anne is neurodivergent, brave, capable of deep and enduring love and hell-bent on a voyage of self-realisation.

The Mick Lally Theatre

Tues 23 Apr 19:30

FREE TICKETED 120 mins



Jo Burns and Emily Cooper: The Conversation Launch

Doire Press launch a new collaborative poetry collection by Jo Burns and Emily Cooper.

The Conversation is an invented dialogue between three of Picasso's lovers and subjects: Marie-Thérèse Walter, Dora Maar and Françoise Gilot. Unmasking the women behind the paintings, Jo and Emily explore what it means to be an artist, a muse, and a woman, within the intimate secrets and confessions of the page.



MacNeill's Pub, The Hardiman Hotel

Tues 23 Apr 21:00 FREE 60 mins



Frames of Reference: Literary Journals

Irish literary journals are the bedrock of our literary culture, presenting exciting work, discovering new voices and publishing them alongside many of our greatest writers.

Join Lisa McNerny, from *The Stinging Fly*, and Emily Cooper and Dean Fee, from *The Pig's Back*, as they discuss the culture of journals, the joys and challenges of editing fiction and non-fiction, and answer your questions on publishing.

The Mick Lally Theatre

Wed 24 Apr 10:30 €8/10 60 mins

Compassionate Fiction: Jan Carson and Patrick deWitt

In Jan Carson's new short story collection, *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses*, she explores the thrill of growing up, love, parenthood and loss - with her trademark profound compassion and warm wit.

The Librarianist, by Man Booker shortlisted Patrick deWitt, is a melancholy reflection on love and loneliness that sparkles with keen observations of human nature.

Join Jan Carson and Patrick deWitt in conversation with Jessica Traynor to discuss their new work.

The Mick Lally Theatre

Wed 24 Apr 13:30 €8/10 60 mins

Clemens Meyer: While We Were Dreaming

Join German novelist Clemens Meyer and his translator, Katy Derbyshire, in conversation with Lorna Shaughnessy. They will explore their work together, including *While We Were Dreaming*, longlisted for the 2023 International Booker Prize.

In association with Arts in Action

A Deep Well of Want: Photographs and Archives of McGahern Country

Paul Butler launches his book of photography in the James Hardiman Library, University of Galway, which presents a visual and documentary journey through McGahern Country. Accompanied by an exhibition, more details on page 35.



Poetry Reading: Nick Laird, Brenda Shaughnessy and Miriam Gamble

We are delighted to welcome three brilliant poets to the stage. These are poets who write with passion and intellect, playfully exploring the emotional depths of poetry. Nick Laird's most recent collection, *Up Late*, was published in 2023, and the book's title poem was the winner of the 2022 Forward Prize for Best Single Poem. Miriam Gamble's most recent collection *What Planet* was the winner of the Pigott Poetry Prize. She is launching a new collection of essays *Little Acts of Vigilance* this month. Brenda Shaughnessy's work is wry and witty, and her most recent collection *Tanya*, is published by Bloodaxe.

BOI Theatre
University of Galway

Wed 24 Apr 13:00

FREE TICKETED 60 mins

University of Galway

Wed 24 Apr 16:00

FREE 60 mins

The Mick Lally Theatre

Wed 24 Apr 17:00

€8/10 60 mins



An Evening with Colin Barrett, Lucy Caldwell and Glenn Patterson

Glenn Patterson, Lucy Caldwell and Colin Barrett are compassionate, playful and stylish writers.

In Colin Barrett's *Wild Houses*, a simmering feud between a small-time drug dealer, Cillian English, and County Mayo's enforcers, Gabe and Sketch Ferdia, spills over into violence and an ugly ultimatum. Lucy Caldwell's latest collection of short stories *Openings* explores themes of motherhood and marriage, love and longing. Glenn Patterson's *Two Summers* is a pair of novellas, exploring themes of self-discovery, resilience and nostalgia. With the first set in Belfast and the second in New York we find young men on the cusp of adulthood, wearing Donkey Jackets and listening to The Shangri-Las.

The Mick Lally Theatre Wed 24 Apr 20:00 €10/12 60 mins

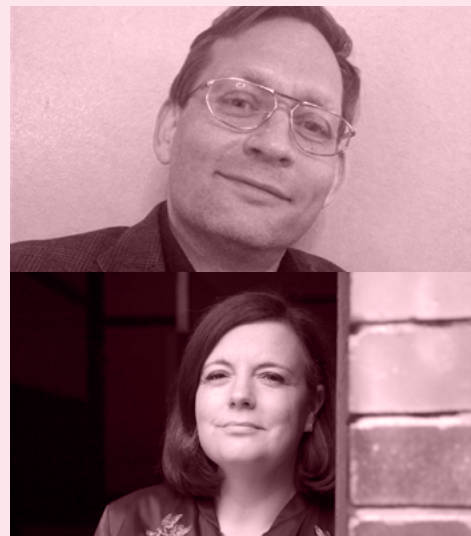


Simon Costello and Miriam Gamble Book Launch

Beginning as a series of poetry readings on a Dutch barge moored in Belfast, The Lifeboat Press has been publishing poetry in small pamphlets for almost a decade. They will be launching two new publications by poets Miriam Gamble and Simon Costello, accompanied by short readings from their new work.

MacNeill's Pub, The Hardiman Hotel

Wed 24 Apr 21:00 FREE 60 mins



Frames of Reference: Translation

Literary translation is a powerful and increasingly necessary tool to bring new work to new readers.

Clemens Meyer, Katy Derbyshire, and Jacques Testard join the director of Literature Ireland Sinéad Mac Aodha, to discuss the craft, creation and industry inherent to translation.

The Mick Lally Theatre

Thurs 25 Apr 10:30 €8/10 60 mins

Róise Ní Bhaoill: Imram

Cnuasacht gearrscéalta le Róise Ní Bhaoill, An Post Leabhar Ficsin Gaeilge na Bliana 2023.

Tugtar ar thurais muid sna scéalta seo, turais intinne, turais go críocha aduaine, turais go tíortha atá stollta ag an choimhlint agus ag an athrach; ach is turais go croí na daonnachta iad go léir, le daoine atá ag cuartú saol dóchasach úr nó le daoine a bhfuil orthu gníomhú in aghaidh a dtola.

Róise Ní Bhaoill's collection of short stories *Imran and other stories*, winner of the An Post Foras na Gaeilge Irish Language Fiction Book of the Year Award of 2023, takes the reader on many journeys.

Tacaithe ag Foras na Gaeilge

An Taibhdhearc

Thurs 25 Apr 13:00 €8/10 60 mins



Carrying Grief: Balsam Karam and Noel O'Regan

The Singularity, Balsam Karam's second novel, and *Though the Bodies Fall*, Noel O'Regan's debut, both grapple with the idea of loss and the internal struggles of their characters as they come to terms with what they have witnessed.

Though the Bodies Fall follows one man's journey through depression, trauma and absence. *The Singularity* is an astounding study of grief, migration and motherhood.

The Mick Lally Theatre

Thurs 25 Apr 14:00 €8/10 60 mins

Lineage of Secrets: Molly Hennigan and Clair Wills

Join Clair Wills and Molly Hennigan for a discussion of their newest works, both of which consider the legacies of the past, and the long shadows cast by personal and geographical histories.

Wills' new work, *Missing Persons*, or *My Grandmother's Secret*, is a chronicle of the unknown, as the author decodes stories, secrets, and silences. Hennigan's *The Celestial Realm* is an exploration of generational trauma and the seismic impact of mental illness.

An Taibhdhearc

Thurs 25 Apr 17:30 €10/12 60 mins

University of Galway: Masters in Creative Writing Showcase

This promises to be an engaging, dynamic showcase of some of the most exciting new voices in literature. Students will each read from works-in-progress across fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The session will be introduced by Elaine Feeney, Lecturer in Creative Writing, University of Galway.



MacNeill's Pub
The Hardiman Hotel

Thurs 25 Apr 14:00

FREE TICKETED 60 mins

Cinema Book Club X Cúirt: The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie

Glenn Patterson will introduce one of his favourite book-to-film adaptations, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, in a special edition of the Cinema Book Club. Come watch the film, and join us for a discussion in the Pálás bar afterwards; everyone is welcome, even if you haven't read the book!

Pálás

Thurs 25 Apr 18:30

€10/12.50

1h56m plus discussion

Open Mic

Come and share your work with an enthusiastic audience at our Open Mic night. Test out a new idea, or share something that's been waiting to see the light of day. Sign up on the door, places are limited.

In association with Galway County Council and Three Rings Tuam

MacNeill's Pub
The Hardiman Hotel

Thurs 25 Apr 19:00

FREE 90 mins



Elaine Feeney: All Good Things You Deserve Launch

Join Elaine Feeney in conversation with Susannah Dickey to celebrate the launch of her new collection of poetry *All Good Things You Deserve*.

From the aftershocks of a sexual assault to poems of love, place and new beginnings, Feeney's voice is strong and clear, challenging and confessional, while speaking to and with women everywhere. This is poetry about women's lives, bodies, battles, and triumphs. It is fierce, personal, and powerful.

The Mick Lally Theatre

Thurs 25 Apr 18:30 €16/20 60 mins



Annie MacManus: The Mess We're In

Annie Macmanus' evocative and lyrical coming-of-age story, *The Mess We're In*, tells the story of young Dubliner Orla Quinn, who moves to London at the turn of the millennium with nothing but her CD collection, demo tape and dreams of making it as a singer-songwriter. The squalid flat in Kilburn and the relationships formed within it soon become equally messy. MacManus' second novel is tender, hilarious and ultimately hopeful. Join Annie in conversation with Aoife Barry.

Supported by CityLink

An Taibhdhearc

Thurs 25 Apr 20:30 €14/16 60 mins



Frames of Reference: Editing Non-Fiction

Transforming a first draft into a manuscript that's ready to be published takes time, energy, and dedication.

Join Jacques Testard and Polly Barton in conversation with Michael Magee to explore the unique relationship that forms between writers and their editors. They'll discuss the intricacies of editing, and their experience publishing Barton's books, from her two books of non-fiction *Fifty Sounds* and *Porn: An Oral History* to Barton's translated works.


The Mick Lally Theatre

Fri 26 Apr 10:30 €8/10 60 mins



Growing up in the Troubles: Máiría Cahill and Martin Doyle

Seamus Heaney wrote that 'smoke-signals are loud-mouthed compared with us', referring to the taciturn nature of northern society in the midst of tribal conflict. *Dirty Linen* and *Rough Beast* upend this characterisation: they are two expansive books where lesser-told personal stories play out against the backdrop of a society in turmoil. Join Martin and Máiría in conversation with Glenn Patterson, as they discuss how books bear witness to the toll that conflict can take on a person, or a community.

Town Hall Theatre 

Fri 26 Apr 13:00 €10/12 60 mins



Debut Novels: Ferdia Lennon and Colin Walsh

Colin Walsh's *Kala* is an atmospheric, dark coming-of-age mystery. A group of estranged friends reunite in their Irish hometown, plagued by the tragedy that changed their lives 15 years earlier. Ferdia Lennon's *Glorious Exploits* is an exhilarating story of brotherhood, war and art. Set in 412 BC, Sicily, thousands of captive Athenian soldiers begin to recite lines from the plays of Euripides, and the line between enemy and friend begins to blur.

An Taibhdhearc

Fri 26 Apr 13:00 €8/10 60 mins

Dinnseachas: The Lore of Places – Kerry

Dinnseanchas – seo tionscadal ar cuireadh tús leis dornán blianta ó shin le nasc a chruthú idir scríbhneoirí Gaeilge Gaeltachta as Éirinn agus scríbhneoirí Māori na Nua-Shéalainne chun iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar an dinnseanchas: miotais, an tírdhreach, an béaloideas agus an stair choilíneach atá coitianta inár gcultúir éagsúla agus mar a thagann na gnéithe sin chun cinn ina saothar cruthaitheach scríbhneoireachta. Cuireadh tús leis in 2021, agus tá seisear scríbhneoir coimisiúnaithe go dtí seo ag an tionscadal seo chun a gcleachtas a roinnt agus saothar nua a fhorbairt. Is é seo an tríú céim den tionscadal, agus beidh saothar cruthaithe ag Mícheál O Ruairc agus Bríd Ní Mhorain mar chuid de.

Dinnseanchas is a project inspired by the lore of places, bringing together writers from Ireland and New Zealand to delve into powerful connections between our cultures, landscapes, mythologies and colonial histories. Beginning in 2021, this project has so far commissioned six writers to share their practice and develop new work. This is the third phase of the project, and will feature work created by Mícheál O Ruairc and Bríd Ní Mhorain. *In partnership with Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Cló Iar-chonnacht and WORD Christchurch.*

An Taibhdhearc Fri 26 Apr 16:00 €10/12 60 mins



Poetry Reading: Leontia Flynn, Erika Meitner and Scott McKendry

We are delighted to welcome three brilliant poets to the stage.

Leontia Flynn's fifth collection, *Taking Liberties*, takes perfectly pitched swings at the idea of 'the poem' itself, erupting and reassembling ideas of voice, subject, and creative license. These poems are necessary, they are brave, bleak, funny and fiercely intelligent.

Scott McKendry's debut, *Gub*, is noisy, dark and witty. Rooted in the language of working-class Belfast, and slipping between eras and time zones, these poems examine generational trauma, social decay and the rituals of a place with a fraught history and an uncertain future.

Erika Meitner's sixth collection, *Useful Junk*, is part travelogue, part dream journal and part epistle. Exploring memory and desire, these poems affirm that we are made of every intimate moment we have ever had, and that our desire is what keeps us alive.

The Mick Lally Theatre

Fri 26 Apr 16:00

€8/10 60 mins




Family Affair: Una Mannion and Paul Murray

Paul Murray and Una Mannion delve into their ambitious and expansive novels in conversation with Sinéad Gleeson.

The Bee Sting (2023 An Post Irish Book of the Year, Novel of the Year, and shortlisted for the Booker Prize) is a story of one family desperately clinging on as their world falls apart. Can a single moment of bad luck change the direction of a life? Where did it all go wrong? A patch of ice on the tarmac? A bee caught beneath a bridal veil?

In *Tell Me What I Am* two women are wrenched apart by a terrible crime and must find a way back to each other. When Deena Garvey disappears in 2004, she leaves behind a daughter and a sister. Over fourteen years and four hundred miles apart, these two women unearth the secrets and lies at the heart of their family.

Supported by the British Library

Town Hall Theatre 

Fri 26 Apr 17:30

€16/20 60 mins



ROPES Launch

University of Galway's Masters of Literature and Publishing class is delighted to launch the 32nd edition of ROPES Literary Journal at Cúirt, featuring both established names and emerging talents. All proceeds from the 2024 edition will go to Galway Simon Community. Find out more at ropesliteraryjournal.com.

Jackie Uí Chionna: Queen of Codes

When Dr Jackie Uí Chionna began researching Emily Anderson's life and work, she uncovered a great secret. For three decades, Galway-born Emily had been a leading member of British intelligence, and among the top three female codebreakers in the world, playing a key role in both World Wars, working in Bletchley Park and the Middle East. Join Jackie in conversation with Vinny Brown, as they delve further into the fascinating life of Emily Anderson in Jackie's book *Queen of Codes: The Secret Life of Emily Anderson, Britain's Greatest Female Codebreaker*.

Oyster Bar
The Hardiman Hotel

Fri 26 Apr 18:00

FREE 60 mins

An Taibhdhearc

Fri 26 Apr 19:00

€14/16 60 mins



Bryan Washington: Family Meal

Bryan Washington's *Family Meal* is a tender story about three young queer men: Cam, TJ and Kai. Cam and TJ are childhood friends from Houston, Texas, who haven't spoken in years. As Cam struggles to deal with the death of his boyfriend Kai, he reconnects with TJ and they find their way back to friendship, working together at TJ's family bakery. When secrets and wounds become so insurmountable that they devour us from within, hope, sustenance and friendship can come from the most unlikely source. Spanning Los Angeles, Houston, and Osaka, *Family Meal* is a story about how the people who know us the longest can hurt us the most, but how they also set the standard for love. From the bestselling, award-winning author of *Memorial* and *Lot*, this is an irresistible, intimate novel that negotiates themes of food, sex, love, addiction, and grief.

Join Bryan in conversation with Michael Magee.

The Mick Lally Theatre

Fri 26 Apr 19:00

€10/12 60 mins



Lemn Sissay: Let the Light Pour In

We are delighted to welcome Lemn Sissay to Cúirt to perform from his latest collection *Let the Light Pour In*. For the past decade, Lemn Sissay has composed a short poem as dawn breaks each morning. Life-affirming, witty and full of wonder, these poems chronicle his own battle with the darkness and are fuelled by resilience and defiant joy. *Let the Light Pour In* is a collection of the best of these poems, and a book celebrating this morning practice.

BAFTA-nominated, award-winning writer and broadcaster, Lemn Sissay OBE has authored many collections of poetry and plays and his memoir *My Name Is Why* was a number one Sunday Times bestseller. Come, listen, and be inspired.

'How do you do it?' said night
'How do you wake up and shine?'
'I keep it simple,' said light
'One day at a time'

Town Hall Theatre 

Fri 26 Apr 20:30

€16/20 60 mins



The Slug & the Snail An Drúchtín agus an Seilide

Children's Bilingual Event

A gently lyrical children's book based on the storytelling tradition of the Irish Traveller community, DeBhairduin's tale is about identity, self-acceptance and different ways of seeing the world. Scéal réidh liriciúil do pháistí bunaithe ar thraidisiún scéalaíochta phobal an Lucht Siúil in Éirinn, is scéal faoi fhéiniúlacht, féinghlactha agus bealaí éagsúla chun an domhan a fheiceáil atá i scéal DeBhairduin.

*2 adults, 2 children

An Taibhdhearc

Sat 27 Apr 10:00 60 mins

€6 child / €8 adult / €20 (family)*

Frames of Reference: Poetry

Poetry takes many forms, from the lyric to the concrete, the epic to free verse, and poets often explore the marginalia in between.

Poets Brenda Shaughnessy, Erika Meitner and Nithy Kasa will be in conversation with Pádraig Regan to discuss the ways in which they approach writing poems, from research to rhyme, from inspiration to finishing the final draft, and discovering what a poem can become when recontextualised.

The Mick Lally Theatre

Sat 27 Apr 10:30 €8/10 60 mins



Kid's Storytime

Hang on to your hats, Storytime has been Cúirt-ified! Come along and be part of the fun at Charlie Byrne's weekly story time session, with author and bookseller Méabh McDonnell. These special Storytime sessions will feature the best in Irish authors and illustrators. Open to all ages.

Young Writer Delegates Showcase

Now in its seventh year, the Irish Writers Centre Young Writer Delegates Programme has partnered once again with Cúirt. At this showcase, the IWC/Cúirt Young Writer Delegates will share some of the creative work developed during the festival with their mentor, Alan McMonagle.

Charlie Byrne's
Bookshop

Sat 27 11:00/Sun 28 12:00

FREE 45 mins

MacNeill's Pub
The Hardiman Hotel

Sat 27 Apr 12:00

FREE 45 mins



Let it Be a Tale: Rafeef Ziadah

A spoken word performance by Palestinian poet and spoken word artist Rafeef Ziadah, with live music by Phil Monsour, in memory of Palestinian poet and educator Refaat Alareer.

Rafeef Ziadah brings her powerful catalogue of poetry to the stage featuring selections from her albums *Three Generations* and *We Teach Life*. With original musical compositions by Phil Monsour, this sequence of interconnected poems serves as a poignant and personal tribute to Palestine, chronicling Al-Nakba, exile, defiance, and survival. *Let it Be a Tale* is a dedicated ode to Palestinian youth who still fly kites in the face of F16 bombers, who still remember the names of their villages in Palestine and still hear the sound of doves over Gaza.

An Taibhdhearc

Sat 27 Apr 13:00 €14/16 60 mins



Omnivore: Food, Writing and Art

Gather round the metaphorical dinner table with Bryan Washington, Jess Murphy, Jennie Moran and Louise Kennedy.

Discussing their shared passion for making, sharing, writing about, and eating food, this conversation will cater to all tastes. From writing recipes and restaurant reviews, to exploring food in fiction and art-writing, this panel will have you reaching for the fork, or the pen.


The Mick Lally Theatre

Sat 27 Apr 13:30 €10/12 60 mins



Black & Irish: Legends, Trailblazers & Everyday Heroes

Black & Irish: Legends, Trailblazers & Everyday Heroes is a landmark publication in Irish history. It's a celebration of Black Irish identity, taking a look at the inspirational careers, dreams and achievements of Black Irish public figures from the worlds of pop culture, politics, sport, business and the arts. Join Leon Diop and Briana Fitzsimmons as they discuss the book, and the Black & Irish organisation, which was founded to advocate for the Black community in Ireland.

Town Hall Theatre 

Sat 27 Apr 14:30 €10/12 60 mins



Obsessions with Violence: Susannah Dickey and Mark O'Connell

Susannah Dickey and Mark O'Connell will discuss our cultural obsession with the true crime genre and its ethical implications, with Sinéad Gleeson. Susannah Dickey's debut poetry collection *ISDAL* focuses on the case of the 'Isdal Woman', posing an inquiry into society's fascination with female victims. In *A Thread of Violence* Mark O'Connell interrogates the nature of crime writing as he investigates one of the most notorious cases in Irish history.

An Taibhdhearc

Sat 27 Apr 16:00 €10/12 60 mins



Katherine O'Donnell: Slant

Slant is the debut novel from activist, academic and writer Katherine O'Donnell. A ground-breaking Irish lesbian love story, it follows Ro as an undocumented Cork woman witnessing the 1980s AIDS crisis in America to the 2015 marriage referendum in Ireland.

Join Katherine in conversation with Paul Maddern, who spent the 80s in the Castro District in San Francisco.

The Mick Lally Theatre


Sat 27 Apr 17:30 €8/10 60 mins



Paul Lynch: Prophet Song

In November 2023, Paul Lynch became the sixth Irish writer to win the Booker Prize for his outstanding novel *Prophet Song*. Set in an imagined Ireland that is descending into tyranny, this novel is an exhilarating, propulsive and confrontational portrait of a country – and a family – on the brink of catastrophe. On a dark, wet evening in Dublin, scientist and mother-of-four Eilish Stack answers her front door to find the GNSB on her doorstep. Two officers from Ireland's newly formed secret police want to speak with her husband, a trade unionist.

This is a work of breathtaking originality, described as a 'soul-shattering and true' novel that offers a devastating vision of societal collapse, political anxieties and a deeply human portrait of a woman's fight to hold her family together. Join Paul in conversation with Paula Shields from Arena, RTÉ R1.

Town Hall Theatre 

Sat 27 Apr 17:30

€16/20 60 mins

*Supported by
Dubray*



Sinéad Gleeson: Hagstone

Beautifully written and eerily haunting, Sinéad Gleeson's fiction debut, *Hagstone*, takes in the darker side of human nature and the mysteries of the natural world.

On a wild and rugged island, artist Nell lives alongside a mysterious commune of women known as the Inions who have travelled there from all over the world. The island is a place of refuge and safety where these women find solace in nature, and where Nell will create artwork that challenges everything she thought she knew.

An Taibhdhearc

Sat 27 Apr 19:00 €14/16 60 mins



Poetry Reading: Joey Connolly, Abigail Parry and K Patrick

Experience work by three of the UK's most exciting contemporary poets, all approaching questions of identity from different vantage points – language, ecology, and queer eroticism. These award-winning writers perform distinct and subversive poetic manoeuvres, in order to broach pertinent questions about the failure of language, the impact of environmental collapse upon intimacy, and the fluidity of the lived self, as an inhabitant of the body.



The Mick Lally Theatre

Sat 27 Apr 21:00 €8/10 60 mins




An Evening with John Banville and Mike McCormack

Booker Prize winner John Banville and Mike McCormack join Edel Coffey to discuss their latest novels *The Lock Up* and *This Plague of Souls*.

In *The Lock Up* Detective Inspector Stafford and pathologist Dr Quirke return to face their most troubling case yet, as they investigate the apparent suicide of history scholar Rosa Jacobs in 1950s Dublin.

In Mike McCormack's *This Plague of Souls*, Nealon, just released from jail, returns to his family home in the West of Ireland. He finds an empty house. It seems the world has forgotten that he even existed. Poignant and exciting, this is a portrayal of a man and his place in society – a metaphysical thriller.

Town Hall Theatre 

Sat 27 Apr 20:30

€16/20 60 mins



Palestinian Voices with Rafeef Ziadah and Amanie Issa

Rafeef Ziadah is a Palestinian spoken word artist and human rights activist based in London. She has released three albums of spoken word poems and music, *Hadeel*, *We Teach Life*, and most recently, *Three Generations*. She has performed her poetry in many countries.

Amanie Issa, born and raised in Bethlehem, Palestine, is a first year PhD scholar at the Irish Centre for Human rights at the University of Galway. Amanie previously worked with the World Bank as a legal consultant focusing on the socio-economic inclusion of women with disabilities, and currently researching on women and girls with disabilities in Palestine.

Join Rafeef and Amanie in conversation with Sarah Clancy.

The Mick Lally Theatre

Sun 28 Apr 11:00

€8/10 60 mins



Story Tellers: Oein DeBhairduin and Richard O'Leary

Come along for this bilingual storytelling event with Oein DeBhairduin and Richard O'Leary.

Oein DeBhairduin is a writer, activist and educator with a passion for preserving the beauty of Traveller tales, sayings, retellings and historic exchanges. His works include *Twiggy Woman* and *Why The Moon Travels*, which are rooted in the oral tradition of the Irish Traveller community.

Richard O'Leary is the homoseanchaí, featured in the 'The Druthaib's Ball' by Turner Prize winners Array Collective. 'Teenage Rebel in the GPO 1983' is a tale of vast sums of money, paper trails and telephone calls. An incredible story, like an Irish fairy tale, but true. Told in Irish with some English. Éist le Risteard Ó Laoghaire agus é ag caint faoin éirí amach in Ard-Oifig an Phoist i 1983. Scéal faoi shuimeanna móra airgid, rianta páipéir agus ghlaonna gutháin. Scéal na rún oifigiúil agus faoin ngrá faoi cheilt. Scéal dochreidte, cosúil le síscéal Éireannach, ach is fíorscéal atá ann. Is homoseanchaí é Risteard Ó Laoghaire a bhí le feiceáil sa 'Druthaib's Ball' leis an Array Collective a bhuaigh Duais Turner i 2021. I nGaeilge le roinnt Béarla.

An Taibhdhearc Sun 28 Apr 11:30 €10/12 60 mins



The Stinging Fly Podcast with Caoilinn Hughes

Caoilinn Hughes joins Nicole Flattery for a special live edition of The Stinging Fly podcast, to discuss her new novel *The Alternatives*. The story of four brilliant Irish sisters, orphaned in childhood, who scramble to reconnect when the oldest disappears into the Irish countryside.

Warm, fiercely witty, and unexpectedly hopeful, this novel is an unforgettable portrait of a family perched on our collective precipice.

Town Hall Theatre

Sun 28 Apr 13:00 €10/12 60 mins



Into the Witchwood Children's Event

Growing up in Loughrea, County Galway, Méabh McDonnell has always loved nature and folklore and the mysterious ways they intertwine. During lockdown her daily walks through Kylebrack Forest got her wondering if anyone or anything was watching her – perhaps a Witch? And so *Into the Witchwood* was born. Join Méabh for this interactive event.

Supported by The Community Foundation

The Mick Lally Theatre

Sun 28 Apr 14:00 FREE TICKETED
45 mins



The Short Story: Mary Costello and Tom Morris

Join us for a conversation between two of the most celebrated short story writers in Ireland today. In *Barcelona*, Mary Costello, offers glimpses of characters as they approach moments of desperation – or revelation – that change and reshape fate.

Open Up, by Thomas Morris, a Granta Best Young Novelist 2023, is bursting with emotional depth as the stories seek to find grace, hope and benevolence in the churning tumult of self-discovery.

An Taibhdhearc

Sun 28 Apr 14:30 €8/10 60 mins



Edel Coffey: In Her Place

Edel Coffey's latest novel, *In Her Place*, is a captivating thriller. After devoting years to her mother's care and in a bid to escape her grief, Ann finds herself in a bar upstate, wanting to find some fun. Justin, grieving for his wife who is in a coma, is looking for some fun as well.

This novel gets right to the heart of relationships, and what we might do to keep them.

Join Edel in conversation with Ali Waktins.

Town Hall Theatre CC

Sun 28 Apr 16:00 €14/16 60 mins



Debut Novels: Nicola Dinan and K Patrick

K Patrick's *Mrs S* is a sensual tale of queer love that paints a revelatory portrait of the butch experience – exploring the contested terrain of our bodies, our desires and the constraints society places around both.

Nicola Dinan's *Bellies* is a thoughtful and deeply moving portrayal of queer love. From London, to Kuala Lumpur, New York to Cologne, we follow Tom and Ming as they face shifts in their relationship as Ming transitions.

The Mick Lally Theatre

Sun 28 Apr 17:00 €8/10 60 mins



Homeplace: Katriona O'Sullivan and Kieran Yates

The notion of 'home' is at the very heart of the Irish psyche. How do we meet this current moment of crisis with compassion, practicality, and resources? Join Kieran Yates, author of *All the Houses I've Ever Lived In*, and Katriona O'Sullivan, author of *Poor*, (Biography of the Year and Listeners Choice Award, Irish Book Awards) as they discuss, with Sarah Clancy, what home means to them, how they approach writing social commentary, memoir, journalism and stories, and what they've learned along the way.

An Taibhdhearc

Sun 28 Apr 18:00 €10/12 60 mins




Poetry Reading: Susannah Dickey, Elaine Feeney, Rita Ann Higgins and Jackie Kay

We are delighted to welcome four brilliant poets to the stage for the final event of Cúirt 2024. These are poets with artistic vision, humour, warmth and tremendous imaginative range, who each treat poetry as a space of social commentary, and as a deeply personal, profound celebration of the self.

Rita Ann Higgins and Elaine Feeney's poetry is rooted on the west coast of Ireland – two of Galway's most celebrated poets, their work demonstrates the strong, wry and confessional tradition at play here.

Susannah Dickey's *ISDAL*, shortlisted for the Forward Prize for First Collection, is witty and formally ingenious, marking the arrival of a thrilling talent in contemporary poetry. *May Day* is the long-awaited new collection from Scottish poet, and former Maker, Jackie Kay. It casts an eye over decades of political activism with poems of grief and profound change, light of love and celebration.

Town Hall Theatre 

Sun 28 Apr 19:30

€16/20 60 mins

Presented in association with Poetry Ireland

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

The Whole Wild World Bus Tour: Laureate na nÓg and Friends

Laureate na nÓg Patricia Forde is bringing a bus full of children's writers and illustrators from Malin Head to Mizen Head, working with young readers to imagine new worlds in words and pictures. Be a part of the adventure and join them for this interactive storytelling event.

An Taibhdhearc

Sat 20 Apr 14:00

FREE TICKETED

60–90 mins

#ProperBook: Making It Up as We Go Along

Have you ever dreamed of writing or illustrating for children? This event is for you! Curated by Sarah Webb, this is a practical, informative event for children's authors and illustrators at every stage of their career. Booking through childrenslaureate.ie

An Taibhdhearc

Sat 20 Apr 18:30

€20/25 120 mins

Exhibition: 'A Deep Well of Want': Photographs and Archives of McGahern Country

This exhibition presents a visual and documentary journey through John McGahern Country – to the sites, places, and lives that formed a wellspring for the literary imagination of John McGahern. Featuring photographs by Paul Butler and archival material from the John McGahern Archive, held at University of Galway Library, curated by Dr. Barry Houlihan.

Hardiman Building
University of Galway

24 Apr – 17 May

9am – 8pm Mon – Fri

9am – 5pm Sat & Sun

Cúirt Book Club Online

Join Cúirt online with Tara McEvoy to celebrate two recent short story collections published by two of our most celebrated Irish independent presses. On Tuesday Mary O'Donoghue will discuss her book *The Hour After Happy Hour*, published by The Stinging Fly. And on Wednesday Maggie Armstrong will discuss her book *Old Romantics*, published by Tramp Press.

ONLINE

Tue 23 / Wed 24 18:30

FREE TICKETED 60 mins



Cúirt is delighted to bring Faber Academy to Galway for the first time in 2024 to offer you a full programme of workshops throughout the festival week.

Faber Academy provides writing courses (in London, Newcastle and online), manuscript assessments and mentoring programmes across a wide range of disciplines including fiction, poetry and memoir. They ran their first course in 2008, and since then have gone on to see their alumni secure major publication deals, win awards and begin their writing careers. Their tutors, mentors and manuscript readers are celebrated, professional authors and editors, and their courses are designed with the help of pedagogical experts – but first and foremost, Faber Academy is a place for people who are passionate about writing to work together.

Our partnership with Faber Academy will offer a space for writers to explore new ideas, take creative risks, and experiment with genre and style. Engaging with other writers and receiving feedback and encouragement is a key part of creative development, which is why we're excited to offer these workshops as a valuable resource for any writer.

With access to resources, tools, and tips we hope these workshops will help you to navigate the writing and publishing process more effectively.

Places are limited so early booking is advised.



Sacha White: Making Poems from History

Join this workshop with Sacha White to explore the possibilities of combining historical source material with your own writing. Drawing on documents and records, archives and even oral histories, you will experiment with form and voice to create unique poems that simultaneously reach into the past and towards the future.

Wed 24 Apr O'Donoghue Centre 10:00-13:00 FREE TICKETED



Daljit Nagra: Innovating the Lyric

In this fun and friendly session we'll explore some ways that poetry can push at the boundaries of the lyric tradition while remaining immediate. Participants will be inspired to attempt new poems in various styles and there will be opportunity for the whole group and breakout group discussion.

Wed 24 Apr ONLINE -Faber Academy 10:00-13:00 €45



Brenda Shaughnessy: Deflections, Deceptions, and Misunderstandings

Poets create ways to express what's too difficult to say in other words. We'll read poems that make use of inaccuracies, lies, misconceptions, and confusion in order to lay bare what emotional realities those deceptions hide. There will be a short section of in-class generative writing.

Thurs 25 Apr O'Donoghue Centre 11:00-14:00 €65



Rafeef Ziadah: Poetry and Resistance

Join poet Rafeef Ziadah in her spoken word workshop where she delves into the artistry of Palestinian resistance poetry. In this practical workshop, explore storytelling in poems, play with pace and musicality, and boost your stage performance skills. Engage in a dynamic session that brings resistance poetry to life.

Sat 27 Apr O'Donoghue Centre 16:00-18:00 €65

**Una Mannion: Editing Fiction: Improving Your Draft**

This three day workshop will help writers develop a draft, learn to self-edit and provide valuable feedback. Each day we will look at specific techniques and examples, and do in-class exercises, focusing on the scene as a microcosm of the larger work and as a vehicle to explore narrative techniques. Participants will submit work in advance.

25/26/27 Apr O'Donoghue Centre 10:00-13:00 €245

**Lucy Caldwell: Having Fun with Form**

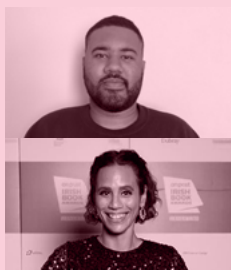
In this high-octane workshop we'll look at how the short story can play with unusual and virtuosic techniques – such as second person or choral narrators, being told backwards or in the future tense – and a host of other exciting forms, to leave you inspired and ready to experiment.

Wed 24 Apr O'Donoghue Centre 14:00-17:00 €65

**Thomas Morris: The Short Story: Editing and Revising Your Own Work**

In this workshop we'll look at how to edit and revise short stories, and think about how to make space to reflect on – and explore – how to take our stories to the next level. With readings and in-class exercises, we'll reframe and rethink what and how we write.

Sat 27 Apr O'Donoghue Centre 14:00-17:00 €65



YOUNG PEOPLE

Leon Diop and Brianna Fitzsimmons: Black & Irish

Leon and Brianna, authors of *Black & Irish* will lead a workshop in which they look at shaping biographies. They will take the group through how to ask questions that will provide an insight into people's stories, how to actively listen, and how to draw out the narrative into sparkling text. *Supported by The Community Foundation*

Sat 27 Apr O'Donoghue Centre 11:00-13:00 FREE TICKETED

**Joey Connolly: Developing as a Writer**

An informal Q&A with Joey Connolly, Director of Faber Academy.

Come along with any questions you have about developing as a writer, writing courses or mentoring, approaching agents or finding a publisher.

Wed 24 Apr O'Donoghue Centre 12:00-13:00 FREE TICKETED

**Richard Skinner: Life-writing Masterclass**

How do we write about a life? From bestsellers by doctors and lawyers to Norwegian experiments in autofiction, the genre of life writing is bigger and broader than ever. Join Richard Skinner to look at the many and diverse ways you can write about your own life or other people's.

Fri 26 Apr ONLINE-Faber Academy 10:00-13:00 €45

**Molly Hennigan: Finding your Voice**

Explore the history of family narratives, national and personal histories, and grapple with your own relationship with writing the self. In this workshop we will interrogate different non-fiction labels, from memoir to biography, life-writing to essays, to find which ones we are more comfortable with and develop writing a personal narrative.

Fri 26 Apr O'Donoghue Centre 11:00-14:00 €65

**Softening Corners, a gathering at Cúirt with curator Cecelia Graham and artist Jennie Moran**

Softening Corners is a gathering that expands on the idea of hospitality within creative practice. Together, we will seek tools that establish shared connections and co-creation, playfully examining the notion of reciprocity, and the risk-taking involved in assuming the role of host.

Sun 28 Apr Engage Studios 14:00-17:00 FREE TICKETED

ACCESS STATEMENTS CÚIRT

Town Hall Theatre

The main auditorium is step free with accessible seating and accessible toilet facilities. Please let the box office know of any requirements so that they can assist with seating. There are two accessible parking spaces on Waterside immediately by the venue and a further two spaces on Corrib Terrace. There is a Loop System in every auditorium. There is a Fresh Air Distribution System. All events at the Town Hall Theatre will be captioned.

The Mick Lally Theatre

The auditorium, bar and foyer are step free with accessible toilet facilities. There is one accessible parking space on Middle Street outside the Cornstore, and three spaces on Saint Augustine Street opposite Galway City Library, five minutes from the venue. There is no Loop system. HEPA filter will be in use.

An Taibhdhearc

The main auditorium is step free, and there are accessible toilet facilities. There are two accessible parking spaces either end of Middle Street and three spaces on Saint Augustine Street opposite. There is a Loop system. HEPA filter will be in use.

O'Donoghue Centre

Step free venue with accessible toilet facilities. Accessible parking is located on campus in front of the Quadrangle Building four minutes from the venue. There is no Loop system. HEPA filter will be in use for workshop spaces.

Galway University Hospital

Step free venue with accessible bathroom available. Accessible parking available on the hospital grounds. There is no Loop system.

Pálás

Step free venue with accessible toilet facilities located at -2 level. Each screen has wheelchair accessible seats, at the back room of each screen. A complimentary carer seat is provided with these seats. Three accessible parking spots on Saint Augustine Street opposite Galway City Library, four minutes from the venue. There is a Loop system in every screen.

University Library

A step free venue with accessible toilet facilities. Accessible parking is located on campus in front of the Quadrangle Building four minutes from the venue. There is no Loop system.

Hardiman Hotel – Oyster Bar and MacNeill's Pub (basement pub)

The ground floor is step free via the main entrance via a ramp and a double door with a small ramp. There are accessible toilet facilities on the ground floor.

The Oyster Bar is step free via a double door with a small ramp. There are accessible toilet facilities on this level.

MacNeill's Pub is step free from the internal entrance. This is accessed from the lobby to the lower floor, through a door, down a ramp and through another door. There are no accessible toilet facilities on this level.

There are four accessible parking spaces on Eyre Square outside the Bank of Ireland, 5 minutes from the venue at the opposite end of Eyre Square. There is no Loop system. HEPA filter will be in use.

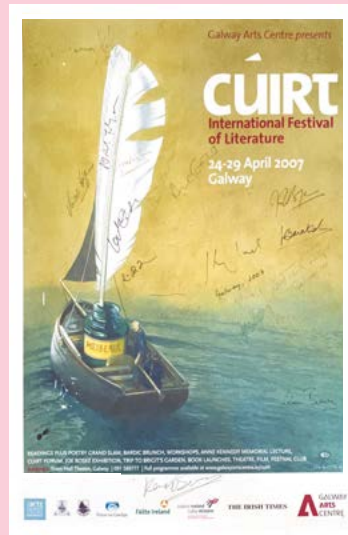
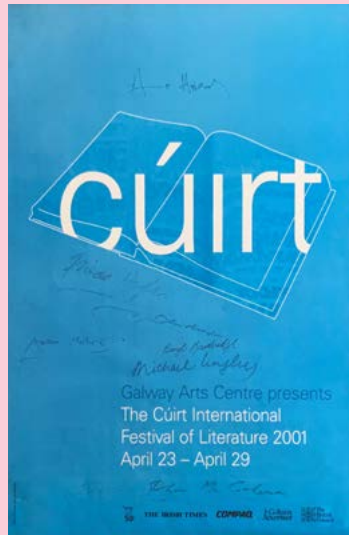
Charlie Byrne's Bookshop

The Cornstore entrances are step free but have limited wheelchair access due to the width of the doors. The venue has internal steps with limited space to navigate with certain mobility aids. The street entrance has a step. There is one accessible parking space on Middle Street immediately outside, and three spaces on Saint Augustine Street. There are no accessible public bathrooms. There is no Loop system.

Engage Studios

The venue is step free, with a ramp at the entrance. The entrance is narrow and would limit access for wheelchairs and some mobility aids. There are no accessible bathroom facilities. There are accessible parking spaces on The Crescent, 7 minutes from the venue. There is no Loop system. HEPA filter will be in use.

If you have any access enquiries about a venue or event please email Aisling at aisling@cuirt.ie or call 091 – 565886 (ask for the Cúirt Office).



The Story of Cúirt

In 1985 Cúirt was founded by Galway Arts Centre as a three-day poetry festival, and has since grown to the week-long festival that it is today, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, events for all ages, and community-focused activities.

As one of Europe's oldest book festivals, Cúirt is a leading voice for literature both internationally and across Ireland. We are committed to creating a space where all audiences are empowered through literature, bringing readers and writers together to tell stories, share new perspectives, and to celebrate writing, books, and reading in all its forms.

In 2025 Cúirt turns 40, and we're planning some exciting events to celebrate. Keep up to date by signing up to our newsletter and following us on our social media platforms.

Our posters have represented many talented and unique artists and illustrators over the years as you can see from the selection above. This year we're delighted to have artwork by Miriam de Búrca. Miriam will have her first Galway solo exhibition in Galway Arts Centre 15 July- 26 August, curated by the centre's director, Megs Morley.

About Miriam de Búrca

Miriam de Búrca studied Fine Art at Glasgow School of Art and the Ulster University, Belfast where she received an Award of Excellence for a practice-based PhD in 2010. She is represented by the Cristea Roberts Gallery, London. She lives and works in Galway, Ireland.

The artwork we have chosen for the 2024 festival is from a series of deBúrca's work titled *Cillíní*. Of this work, Miriam has said: *Cillíní were unofficial burial grounds dotted throughout Ireland, used for interring unbaptised babies and others 'considered unsuitable' for consecrated ground. The physical manifestation of these sites echo the dark recesses of the human psyche; parts of our individual and collective selves which we would prefer to keep out of the light, away from scrutiny. But if you do start to look, you begin to realise that they are everywhere: in the corners of familiar fields, on hilltops, in bogs and forests, on cliff edges, on the outskirts of towns, by the side of the road, under car parks and in suburban gardens.*

The Galway Arts Centre

Founded in 1982, Galway Arts Centre is dedicated to providing year-round access to the arts in an inclusive, welcoming space. Galway Arts Centre is committed to connecting audiences to exceptional artists that inspire new ideas and ways of seeing the world with a contemporary arts programme that reflects the complexity and diversity of Irish society. Cúirt International Festival of Literature is proud to be part of the Galway Arts Centre.

12 April - 24 May features a new solo exhibition *draft fissure* by Martina O'Brien. Highly surveilled and persistently unknowable, extraordinarily biodiverse and increasingly precarious, the deep ocean is a space of paradoxes. Drawing on O'Brien's time on two marine expeditions in the Atlantic Ocean and Galway Bay along with archives of Irish scientific work that has sought to map, understand, and vision these marine ecosystems, *draft fissure* brings together a range of media, including sound and visual installations, to reorient extractive imaginaries of ocean ecosystems, and attune to networked oceanic knowledges and communities – and their unfathomable elements – amongst the unfolding of climatological emergency. For more information, visit galwayartscentre.ie

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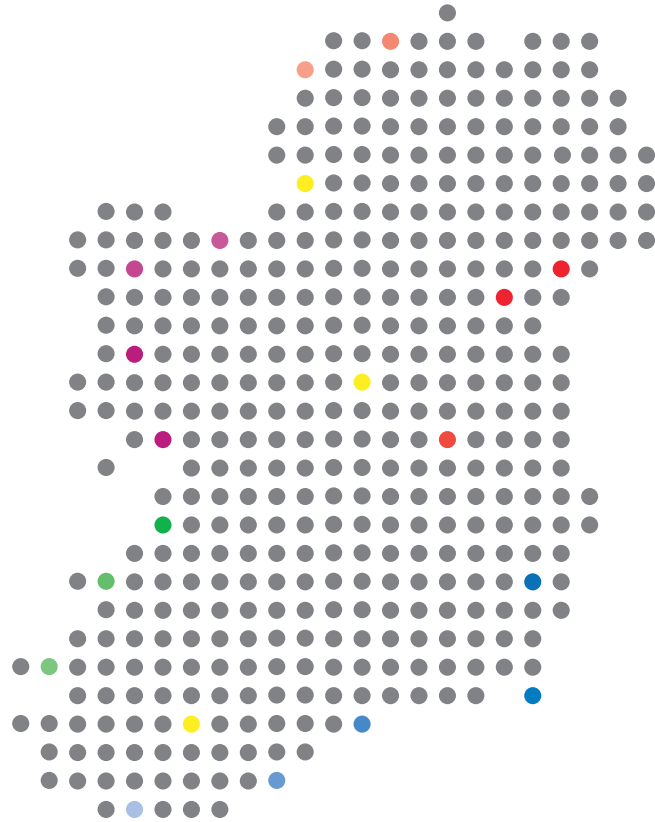
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Cúirt International Festival of Literature
23-28 April 2024

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