



Meanwhile, a public art project by Yvonne Cullivan, was commissioned by Roscommon County Council as part of its Per Cent for Art Programme, funded through the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Per Cent for Art provides the opportunity to conduct once-off arts projects when major public capital works such as housing, water treatment works and roads are being undertaken. By engaging communities in creative partnerships with artists, Per Cent for Art provides innovative art projects to the people of Roscommon which otherwise would be not viable.



Artist's Statement

County Roscommon once had a wide-spread tradition of rambling houses. These local homes were designated gathering points for discussing issues of local and national importance and for entertainment. They acted as key community links within an area. The notable absence of a contemporary collective space in Castlerea, along with an evident decline in economic activity and general bustle within the town, prompted the artist to explore local attitudes toward these losses. *Meanwhile* commenced in July 2010 and was developed over the course of many months.

Through open invitation and suggested lines of enquiry, willing groups and individuals were sought out and engaged in conversation. Echoing the rambling house tradition, recurring visits were paid to places of work or of gathering. These places were often on the margins: at the edge of town or the end of an alley, in a basement, abandoned church or empty factory. Conversations often unfolded over the taking of tea or participation in activities. The visits enabled the artist to weave together a trail of conversation that would otherwise remain hidden or disparate.

Corresponding photographic documentation initially focuses on exterior and interior space, redundant or emptied place, echoing the gradual silencing of rural Irish towns. Yet through a practice of sustained observation and engagement in conversation, the artist's viewpoint becomes increasingly informed and gradually reveals an underlying narrative. The imagery also reflects a process of integration.

The central outcome of this project, a publication entitled *Meanwhile*, is both a response to and a reflection of a moment in the social history of Ireland.

Valuable research for this project was gathered through a preceding public art project entitled "The Estate Agent of Ideas" which took place in late 2009. This short-term project was housed within an unused commercial premises in Castlerea and invited the public to share ideas for potential or imagined reinvention of such unused spaces within their town.

A secondary outcome of this project is the installation of a number of images on the exterior gable walls of buildings within the main streets of Castlerea. These images portray the interior spaces used by or specific activities undertaken by various groups who participated in the project. The images are extracted from venues beyond the margins of the main thoroughfare and, as such, their positioning is in direct juxtaposition to the increasing number of unused commercial premises within the town.

YC 2011

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Castlerea Active Retirement Association	Trinity Arts
Cuan Aire Family Life Centre	William Scahill
Castlerea Neighborhood Youth Project	Sheila Leyland
Roscommon Women's Network	Ignatious Hayden
Benny's Deli	Mickey & Dympna Higgins
Roscommon Integrated Development Board	Anita Kenny
The Brothers of Charity	Caitlin Conneely
The Creativity Mill	
Roscara Active Age Center	The people of Castlerea
St. Michael's Special Needs National School	
Castlerea and Roscommon Library Services	
Castlerea Parish Newsletter	
Roscommon Herald	
Roscommon Champion	
Roscommon People	
South Roscommon Community Forum	

Biographical Notes

Yvonne Cullivan's work emerges from deep observation of personal, cultural, and environmental spheres undergoing transformation. Utilising mixed-media, including photography, interviews, drawing, printmaking, audio and video, she practices a contemplation of transformation. Cullivan often welcomes public participation in her projects to create outcomes communally shaped and collectively responsive. Her work bears witness to the cyclical processes of evolution and acclimatisation and thus becomes a reflection on the nature of time itself.

Cullivan was born in Cavan and has lived and worked in many counties throughout Ireland. She studied at Galway/Mayo Institute of Technology, Crawford College of Art and Dublin City University.

Meanwhile Yvonne Cullivan

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Meanwhile, a 136pp book which is the central outcome of this project is published in an edition of 500 and distributed by Roscommon County Council Arts Office.

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When you see progress,
something has to be lost
in that progress.

It could be a blessing in
disguise in one way, but we
won't realise that for another
couple of years now



You can see it emptying.
You see towns like this all over Roscommon,
Leitrim, rural Galway, Sligo
and it's going to be a struggle



Sweet shop.
River flowing.
And a road to lead to places
where I'll go some other day

That feeling of 'I'll watch out
for you and you watch out
for me and we all look out
for each other'.

That's very simplistic I suppose