

# Tar Isteach Roundtable

## Towards Hospitable Creative Practice

**Hosted by: Bealtaine At Home / Age & Opportunity**

**Co-Hosted by:** Commission Partners, Clare County Council, Galway City Council & Roscommon County Council, Arts Services.

**Webinar Manager:** Monica Flynn, Visual Art Curator, Bealtaine Festival

**FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

**TIME: 10:00 – 12.30 GMT**

10.00 EVENT INTRODUCTION

10.10 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

10.30 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

10.50 BREAK

11.00 CHAIR & CONTRIBUTOR INTRODUCTIONS

11.15 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

11.45 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE THROUGH CHAIR

12.15 CLOSING NOTES

## BIOGRAPHIES

### ROUNDTABLE CHAIR

**Ronit Lentin**, (retired) associate professor of sociology, Trinity College, Dublin, was born in Haifa prior to the establishment of the State of Israel and has lived in Ireland since 1969. She is a political sociologist and a writer of fiction and non-fiction books. Ronit was head of Department (2009-12) and director of the MPhil in Race, Ethnicity, Conflict (1997-2012), Department of Sociology, and co-founder of the Trinity Immigration Initiative, Trinity College, Dublin. Ronit was chairperson of Academics for Palestine (2016-2019) and is a member of the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign. Ronit has published extensively on racism in Ireland, Israel and Palestine, gender and genocide, and gender and the Holocaust. (<https://ronitlentin.net/about/>)

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Tania Cañas** is an artist researcher based on unceded Kulin Territory. She is the Arts Director at RISE Refugee, Australia's first refugee and asylum seeker organization to be run, governed and controlled by the community. Her focus on self-determination through socially engaged practice methodologies is a means of creating sites of resistance, with a focus on theatre and performance. Tania Coordinates the Art and Community Practice Honours program at the VCA, University of Melbourne; and is the Co-Coordinator at Cohealth Arts Generator. She currently sits on the editorial board at the International Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Academic Journal/ PTO Inc. Tania has published widely including through Currency Press Australia, Intellect Books, Melbourne University Publishing, Arts Hub and e-flux as well as various international academic journals and magazines. She has presented at

conferences as well as facilitated community theatre workshops locally and internationally. (<http://www.taniacanas.com/>)

### TAR ISTEACH PROJECT ARTISTS

**Ground Up Artist's Collective** is a support and resource organisation for a range of individual artistic practices, some of which operate autonomously while others engage in collaborative productions. Some of the most important issues of our time are being played out in rural areas. The artists of the Ground Up Artists' Collective recognise this, and through our individual practices we address some of these complex matters.

**Monica de Bath** is an award winning artist whose practice incorporates research, walks, drawing, painting, seminars. She completed an MA in visual arts practices with IADT and previously studied Painting at NCAD. As an arts educator, she facilitates residencies & workshops in communities & schools. 'Fold and Rise' is the collaborative research practice of artists **Maeve Collins** and **Julie Griffiths**. It is a travelling participatory workshop which takes breadmaking as a motif for the traditional work of women, utilizing it as both metaphor and methodology in a playful exploration of culture, identity, time and labour. The project conscientiously collaborates with a wide and varied participation, in a continuing process of bringing the outsides in. We look for the folds and rises in individual lives and in collective experiences.

### ROUNDTABLE GUESTS

#### Commission Partners

**Tara Byrne** is Manager of Arts & Culture and Artistic Director, Bealtaine Festival, Age & Opportunity. She has built a strong reputation over the past twenty years as an arts manager and curator, working as Director of the National Sculpture Factory in Cork from 2002 - 2008. She has also worked with the Arts Council of Ireland from 1996 – 2002, the Irish Museum of

Modern Art, the National College of Art and Design, and many other arts organisations. Tara holds a Doctorate in Cultural Policy from the Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media, Dublin Institute of Technology (2013), she has acted as an independent arts and cultural researcher, policy consultant, teacher and advocate, for both the arts, public service and university sectors. In addition to her doctorate, Tara holds an Arts BA from Trinity College Dublin and a Higher Diploma in Arts Administration from UCD.

<http://bealtaine.ie>

**Siobhan Mulcahy, Arts Officer, Clare County Council.** As one of the leading local authorities in arts development in Ireland, Clare County Council responds and reacts to changes in the cultural climate in innovative and strategic ways - working with the wealth of artistic talent in all disciplines (painters, musicians, dancers, writers, actors etc.) and communities throughout the county on a variety of programmes and projects.

**Rhona McGrath, Arts Officer, Roscommon County Council.** Roscommon County Council actively encourages and developments a breadth of creative activity in the Roscommon, by providing greater opportunity and access to arts events, workshops, information and expertise, encouraging greater appreciation and participation in the arts generally for people of all ages and backgrounds and promoting the development of practitioners in the county.

**James Harrold, Arts Officer, Galway City Council.** Galway City Council takes responsibility for support and development of contemporary creativity in its operational area. Since 2001 Galway City Arts Office has been a vibrant and essential part of Galway City Council. Established to advise the Council on all aspects of contemporary arts practice, the Arts Service runs its own programme of residencies, events, interventions and strategic partnerships.

*Galway City, Clare and Roscommon County Councils have been a commissioning partners with Age & Opportunity of Tar Isteach.*

**Áine Crowley**, Programme Manager, Arts and Engagement at CREATE. Áine advances Create's work to support artists and communities of interest and/or place to realise high-quality collaborative arts practice, through ongoing professional development support, project opportunities and the development of cross-sectoral alliances and partnerships. Áine coordinates the Artist in the Community Scheme, providing project and proposal advice and support, information and guidance to applicants. Áine holds a BA Fine Art Printmaking from Limerick School of Art and Design. <https://www.create-ireland.ie>

**Ellie Kisyombe**, Our Table was founded by activist Ellie Kisyombe and Michelle Darmody, who met through a shared belief that a conversation needed to be started about Direct Provision, and the idea that food was a good way to get conversation started. Ellie has been a vocal campaigner to end Direct Provision in Ireland as a volunteer with the Irish Refugee Council and spent five years living in Direct Provision.

<http://www.ourtable.ie/who-we-are>

**Salome Mbugua** has been Head of Operations and Strategy with AkiDwA since September 2018. She is a researcher, gender equality activist and human rights advocate with over 20 years' experience of working with under-represented groups. In June 2018 Salome was appointed by the Tánaiste to chair the working group on Ireland's Third National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security. In September 2018 Salome was appointed to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission by the President Michael D Higgins. She is the chairperson of European Network of Migrant Women and she has a seat on the EU Expert group on Economic

Migration. She also sits on the Observatory Experts Group on Violence against Women with European Women Lobby. She is 2015 OHCHR-UN Fellows on People of African Descent and 2010 Eisenhower Fellow on Women Leadership. Salome has a master's degree in Equality Studies from University College Dublin, and she is currently on her final year of undertaking Doctorate research on conflict, peace building and reconciliation at Trinity College Dublin. Her research focuses on integrating women into peacebuilding, a case study on North Kivu, DRC.

[\(https://akidwa.ie/people/salome-mbugua/\)](https://akidwa.ie/people/salome-mbugua/)

**Vukašin Nedeljković**, is a visual artist and Researcher at the Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice at Dublin Institute of Technology. He initiated the multidisciplinary project, Asylum Archive, to collaborate with asylum seekers, artists, academics, civil society activists and immigration lawyers, amongst others, with a view to creating an interactive documentary cross-platform online resource, critically foregrounding accounts of exile, displacement, trauma and memory.

[\(http://www.asylumarchive.com/\)](http://www.asylumarchive.com/)

**Helen O'Donoghue**, Senior Curator, is Head of the Engagement and Learning programme at the Irish Museum of Modern Art and a core philosophy in all her work is to create opportunities for people to access and participate in arts and culture. She is a Fulbright researcher.

[www.imma.ie](http://www.imma.ie)

**Evgeny Shtorn**, Create Cultural Diversity Researcher, is a writer, activist, and researcher from St Petersburg. In 2018, he was forced to leave Russia, and in 2019, was granted international protection in Ireland. Evgeny's writing has been published in academic journals, anthologies and new media outlets in Russia, Spain, Germany, and Ireland. As an activist, he has been involved in human rights and LGBT advocacy for almost two decades.

He is a co-founder of Queer Diaspora Ireland. In 2020, Shtorn was awarded the GALAs Person of the Year by the National LGBT Federation of Ireland (NXF).

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