

A black grand piano and a black stool are positioned on a vibrant green lawn. In the background, a large, multi-story stone castle with numerous windows and towers stands under a clear blue sky. The piano is a Yamaha model, with the brand name visible on the fallboard. The stool is a simple, dark-colored wooden stool with a tufted top. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day. A large, stylized white 'X' is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL'.

**KILKENNY
ARTS
FESTIVAL**

kilkennyarts.ie

PHOTO MARK STEDMAN

For 47 years our funders and partners have played an invaluable role in helping Kilkenny Arts Festival to flourish. We greatly appreciate their continuing support!

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PREMIERE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ROUGH MAGIC
IN ASSOCIATION WITH WATERGATE THEATRE

Solar Bones

by Mike McCormack
in an adaptation by Michael West

hauntingly sad, but also
frequently very funny
LITERARY REVIEW ON SOLAR BONES

Director Lynne Parker
Cast Stanley Townsend
Set & Lighting Design Zia Bergin-Holly
Sound Design Denis Clohessy
Costume Design Kathy Strachan

Marcus Conway has come home to his kitchen in Louisburgh, Co. Mayo. Everything seems normal, yet he is haunted by the feeling that nothing is quite right...

Solar Bones is a stunning new adaptation of Mike McCormack's multi-award-winning novel, an elegy to the merits of an ordinary life, spoken from an intermediate state between memory and nothingness.

Duration 90 mins approx.

WATERGATE THEATRE
PREVIEWS TUE 11 & WED 12 AUGUST 7:30PM, €15
THUR 13, FRI 14, SAT 15 AUGUST 7:30PM, €25
SUN 16 AUGUST 2:30PM, €25



PHOTO: PETER SEARLE



PHOTO: HOPE YOUNGBLOOD

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BUTLER GALLERY

Luke Murphy *Clouds and Boulders: Mapping Terrain*

Luke Murphy takes up a three-day residency at the Butler Gallery to present an installation performance, mapping, examining and rediscovering the material for *Clouds and Boulders*, his ambitious, large-scale, concert-inspired work, which was cancelled due to COVID-19. *Mapping Terrain* offers audiences a window into the process of conceiving, developing and dismantling a project. When the pieces are torn apart what remains? What lingers? And how do you respond?

DIGITAL GALLERY @ BUTLER GALLERY, EVANS' HOME
FRI 7 – SUN 9 AUGUST 1PM-5PM
FREE BUT TICKETED. BOOK VIA BUTLERGALLERY.IE



PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
CRASH ENSEMBLE AND THE IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Encounters

Musicians from two of Ireland's most celebrated ensembles – Crash Ensemble and the Irish Chamber Orchestra – embed themselves in locations around the city, offering bespoke, intimate concerts for individuals and small family units. Audiences won't know who they'll meet; a wonderful chance to rediscover the power of live music. Places are extremely limited.

Duration 20 mins approx.

VARIOUS LOCATIONS
SAT 15 & SUN 16 AUGUST
FREE / APPLY FOR TICKETS VIA KILKENNYARTS.IE



PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Eight Seasons

Irish Chamber Orchestra
Katherine Hunka director

On what would have been the final night of this year's Festival, the strings of the Irish Chamber Orchestra come together to present two performances celebrating the changing seasons, beginning with the thrilling, tango-flavoured compositions of the great Argentinian composer Ástor Piazzolla, and closing with Vivaldi's masterpiece. Taking place in St Canice's, scene of so many memorable Festival performances, these concerts will be magical and moving experiences.

PROGRAMME I
Astor Piazzolla:
The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires
Duration: 45 mins approx.

PROGRAMME II
Antonio Vivaldi:
The Four Seasons
Duration: 45 mins approx.

ST CANICE'S CATHEDRAL
SUN 16 AUGUST
PROGRAMME I: 6:30PM, €15
PROGRAMME II: 8PM, €15



PHOTO: ROB SUSTIGAN

BUTLER GALLERY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

Amelia Stein *The Bloods*



Working with members of the Defence Forces from the 3 Inf Bn, based in James Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny, the photographer Amelia Stein has produced a body of work that is both a visual inventory in the medium of traditional black and white photography, and a portrait in time that seeks to represent the diversity of those men and women who are currently serving or have served within the walls of the Barracks.

BUTLER GALLERY, EVANS' HOME
+353 56 776 1106, BUTLERGALLERY.IE
FRI 7 AUGUST – SUN 11 OCTOBER, FREE
OPENING HOURS: MON CLOSED
TUE – SAT 10AM-5PM (last admission 4:30PM)
THUR LATE NIGHT 10AM-8PM (last admission 7:30PM)

Amelia Stein, 'Soldier', Camogie Player, Private Ciara Nevin, 2019. © The Artist, courtesy Butler Gallery



Secret Music Series

The ever-popular Secret Garden Music series returns in a new guise, with leading Irish musicians performing short concerts in some of Kilkenny's loveliest rooms and gardens. This year performances will be recorded and released online, day by day across the dates of the original Festival. Be sure to check the website every day from 7 to 16 August for new films, including a very special performance from St Canice's Cathedral featuring Malcolm Proud, the acclaimed organist who has performed at every Festival for 47 years.

Performers include
Siobhan Armstrong
Sharon Carty
Dominic Dudley
David Keenan
Mick McAuley
Laoise O'Brien
David Power
Malcolm Proud

FRI 7 – SUN 16 AUGUST, FREE
2PM ONLINE VIA KILKENNYARTS.IE



PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
CRASH ENSEMBLE

Grey Area



Sam Perkin is one of the most exciting young composers at work in Ireland today. He also happens to be a skateboarder, and this unique project fuses these two passions into a mesmerising new film. Shot and edited by skate photographer and videographers Niall O'Byrne and Sam Curtin, *Grey Area* follows a skateboarder's nocturnal journey through an urban landscape while Festival stalwarts Crash Ensemble perform Perkins' original score. The result is a hypnotic blend of music and movement that captures the rhythms and colours of skateboarding and its unique perspective on the city.

DIGITAL GALLERY @ BUTLER GALLERY, EVANS' HOME
WED 12 – SUN 16 AUGUST
OPENING HOURS: DAILY 10AM-5PM (THUR 10AM-8PM)
FREE BUT TICKETED. BOOK VIA BUTLERGALLERY.IE



PHOTO: NIBB

DESIGN & CRAFTS COUNCIL IRELAND
AND PARTNERS IN ASSOCIATION WITH
KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

CONNECTED

CONNECTED is a unique outdoor exhibition experience and sculpture trail. Beginning at the National Design & Craft Gallery, the trail leads you through the city's key cultural and historic sites along Kilkenny's medieval mile. A range of self-directed activities are planned, including behind-the-scenes chats with makers. Whether you choose to meander through the city or actively engage, *CONNECTED* demonstrates the power and beauty of artistic expression while revealing the extent of our interdependency and connection.

NATIONAL DESIGN & CRAFT GALLERY, CASTLE YARD & CITYWIDE
+353 56 779 6147, NDCG.IE
THUR 30 JULY – TUE 20 OCTOBER, FREE
OPENING TIMES: TUE – SAT 10AM-5:30PM, SUN 11AM-5:30PM



PHOTO WILLIAM MURPHY



Helen Comerford Covid-19 April Diary

COVID-19 April Diary is an exhibition of new paintings by Helen Comerford, developed in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Each day, as the crisis unfolded, Comerford began a new canvas, drawing on the day's statistics and using a grid system that reflected the sense of confinement, but also protection, that came from cocooning. Viewed as a whole, the work charts the progress of the virus as it made its way into Ireland, the havoc it wrought at its height, and the slow restoration of order. The result is a deeply moving exhibition that expresses both the suffering caused by the pandemic and the powerful sense of hope and unity that emerged during lockdown.

WATERGATE THEATRE GALLERY
FRI 7 – SAT 15 AUGUST
TUE – FRI 11AM-5PM, SAT 2PM-6PM, FREE



DESIGN & CRAFTS COUNCIL IRELAND AND PARTNERS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

Generation

Generation is an intriguing exhibition of objects and textiles designed and created using inherited traditions of creativity and innovation. It invites us to consider the unique perspective of eight Irish-based designer-makers who are custodians of craft traditions, continuing and/or reinventing the work begun by previous generations of their family. The exhibition can also be accessed virtually from the comfort of homes across the world.

<https://www.ndcg.ie/learn/virtual-visits>

Supported by RTÉ Supporting the Arts and Pembroke Kilkenny

NATIONAL DESIGN & CRAFT GALLERY, CASTLE YARD
+353 56 779 6147, NDCG.IE
WED 22 JULY – SUN 25 OCTOBER, FREE
OPENING TIMES: TUE – SAT 10AM-5:30PM
SUN 11AM-5:30PM



Blaise Smith Village People

Follow Blaise Smith as he embarks on an ambitious new project to paint the portraits of the people of his home village: Dungarvan in Co. Kilkenny. Taking place live on social media, *Village People* offers viewers a chance to witness a celebrated portrait artist capturing the changing faces of Ireland in real time.

STREAMING VIA FACEBOOK.COM/KILKENNYARTS
MON 10 – SAT 15 AUGUST, 3PM-8PM, FREE



THE HUBERT BUTLER LECTURE SERIES:
GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

Samantha Power

in conversation with Olivia O'Leary

13 years after she delivered the very first Hubert Butler Lecture, the Festival is thrilled to welcome back Samantha Power, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Harvard academic and former US Ambassador to the UN, to talk about her best-selling memoir *The Education of an Idealist* in the company of Olivia O'Leary.

Duration 45 mins approx.

AVAILABLE FREE TO WATCH ONLINE FROM 8PM
WED 12 AUGUST VIA KILKENNYARTS.IE

a must-read for anyone
who cares about our role
in a changing world
BARACK OBAMA ON THE EDUCATION
OF AN IDEALIST



PHOTO STEPHEN KELLEGRAM



a *Ulysses* to remember
★★★★★
FINANCIAL TIMES

OPERA COLLECTIVE IRELAND AND KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL PRESENT

The Return of Ulysses

by Claudio Monteverdi

The Festival is delighted to present online one of our most acclaimed shows of recent years: Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses*.

Directed by Tony Award-winner Patrick Mason, conducted by Christian Curnyn and featuring one of the world's most acclaimed early music ensembles, the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, this production was the first ever staging in Ireland of Monteverdi's magnificent opera, based on Homer's epic tale.

This filmed version is a unique opportunity to experience – or relive – that memorable performance, free to stream for a limited period from the Festival website. Duration 3 hrs 30 mins approx.

AVAILABLE FREE TO WATCH ONLINE FROM
FRI 7 TO SUN 16 AUGUST VIA KILKENNYARTS.IE



PHOTO MARIL LIGHT STUDIO

THE HUBERT BUTLER LECTURE SERIES:
GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

Masha Gessen

in conversation with Fintan O'Toole

In 2016, Masha Gessen – one of the most respected and incisive analysts of modern Russia – wrote an article in *The New York Review of Books* predicting that Trump would attempt to turn America into a Putin-style autocracy. Four years later the president has come closer than many people imagined he could. For this special event, taking place in lieu of this year's Hubert Butler Lecture, Gessen joins Fintan O'Toole to talk about *Surviving Autocracy*, Gessen's acclaimed new account of Trump's administration, and to take America's pulse as the nation considers whether to give its president a second term.

Duration 45 mins approx.

AVAILABLE FREE TO WATCH ONLINE FROM 8PM
THUR 13 AUGUST VIA KILKENNYARTS.IE

when Gessen speaks about autocracy,
you listen
THE NEW YORK TIMES



Mick O'Dea

A Festival Portrait

Over three years, artist-in-residence Mick O'Dea captured the spirit of Kilkenny Arts Festival, creating portraits of leading performers and sketching live events. This beautiful new website captures the process of creating each portrait from first brushstrokes to finished artwork. Featuring stunning high-quality images of the finished portraits, together with behind-the-scenes footage and reflections from the painter and his subjects, *A Festival Portrait* offers a fascinating glimpse of one of Ireland's leading artists at work.

Launching September 2020
FestivalPortrait.ie



PHOTO JOHN O'KELLY



**KILKENNY
ARTS
FESTIVAL**

Hello, and welcome to Kilkenny Arts Festival X

In these most strange and challenging times for us all it's difficult to know what is ahead and how we chart pathways forward. This is as true of how we experience the arts as all other aspects of our lives: how we work, how we socialise, how we learn, how we travel, how we experience the world around us. In this crisis, we all remain most urgently concerned with looking after the health and well-being of our families, our friends and our communities.

Since we cancelled the original Festival we've set about making a programme available in a way that would allow you to engage, or re-engage, with the arts and creative world in as many different and safe ways as possible. As we adjust to new daily realities and change our behaviours and habits to keep each other safe, together with artists and our partners we offer you a programme to enjoy online, in exhibitions and installations across the city, and at live performances. These performances have been made carefully within all public health guidelines. Those who choose to attend these live performances will go through a new process of booking, contact tracing, understanding and agreeing to all measures in place such as wearing face masks throughout and adhering to physical distancing measures. So, while we'll still be apart, we'll also be together with artists and transported by their work. We know that our audience will work with us and play their part in keeping everyone safe.

In this most unique of years, we want to thank the people and organisations that have helped us to make Kilkenny Arts Festival X possible: Maureen Kennelly,

Liz Meaney, Karl Wallace, the Festivals team and all at the Arts Council; Colette Byrne, Mary Mulholland, Mary Butler and all at Kilkenny County Council; Gillian Binchy, Colin Hindle and all at Fáilte Ireland; Dean David McDonnell, Liz Keyes, Vivien Thompson and all at St Canice's Cathedral; Mary Heffernan, Anne Teehan, Jacki Jordan, Aisling Doyle and all at the DPW/ Kilkenny Castle; Virginia Teehan, Ger Croke and all at the Heritage Council; Trish Duffe, Mary Pyke and all at Rothe House; Ciarán Conroy and all at Butler House.

More than ever this year we thank our Sponsors, Local Hospitality & Business partners and wonderful Friends of the Festival for supporting us for so many, many years.

Huge thanks to our creative and artistic partners and colleagues in making this programme: Lynne, Selina, Gemma and all at Rough Magic; Gerry, Cathriona, Katherine and all at ICO; Kate, Neva and all at Crash Ensemble; Luke and Gwen; Mick, Sarah, Amelia and Pat Moore, RIP; Anna, Ailis, Rebecca, Steve and all at the Butler Gallery; Paul, Colette and Suzanne and all at OCl; Susan, Louise and all at DCCI and NDCG; Joanna, Gerry, Cara, Emma and all at the Watergate Theatre; Laoise, Ben, Cormac and Piaras.

We give heartfelt thanks to the artists that were due to perform at Kilkenny Arts Festival 2020 for working with us to reimagine or postpone projects and performances; original programme and new commissions are ongoing and we look forward to bringing that work to audiences in the future.

We especially thank Martin Hayes, co-curator of the Marble City Sessions, for his musicianship and steadfast support.

Our colleagues across the cultural sphere here in Kilkenny and beyond have all supported us in all sorts of ways, and we couldn't be more grateful to them and the work they do: John Cleere, Naoise Nunn, Matt Smyth, Gary Kehoe, Medb Lambert, Donal Gallagher, Conor Langton, John Purcell, Malcolm Noonan TD; Lorraine Maye, Conall Ó Riain; Paul Fahy, John Crumlish, Sinead McPhillips; Jo Mangan; Willie White; Benjamin Perchet; Ruth McGowan, Shannon Lacek; Paul Brown; Francis Humphreys; Julie Kelleher, Majella Hollywood, Eugene Downes, Catriona Crowe, Maura O' Keeffe, Maria Buckley, Angela Rohan and Gary Sheehan.

And finally, we wish to thank and salute everyone at NCFA – the National Campaign for the Arts – led by Angela Dorgan, Liv O' Donoghue, Cian O'Brien, Aileen Galvin, Tom Creed, Eoghan Carrick and Aideen Howard.

We are stronger together.

#SaveTheArts

Olga Barry – Festival Director, Festival Team & Board, Kilkenny Arts Festival

kilkennyarts.ie