



**Kiera O'Toole**

**Artist Researcher**

**Bio, Statment, CV**

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# KIERA O'TOOLE

## Biography

Kiera O'Toole is an independent neurodivergent (disability) visual artist and a doctoral researcher (PT) at Loughborough University UK with a studio in The Model for past seven years. Her drawing outputs include conferences, residencies, publications, and exhibitions within gallery and non-gallery spaces. Recent exhibitions include 'Felt Map: Manorhamilton', Leitrim Sculpture Centre ; 'Felt Map: Derry-Londonderry', CCA Derry- Londonderry, 'Felt map: Caves of Kesh', Tread Softly Arts Festival, 'ARTWORKS', VISUAL Carlow, Carlow Arts Festival, Highlanes Gallery, 'Beyond Drawing' curated by Arno Kramer, Ballina Arts Centre. Upcoming exhibitions in 2022: Kanu Nayak Art Foundation, Mumbai and Uillinn, West Cork Arts Centre and an artist exhibition residency at Leitrim Sculpture Centre.

O'Toole also publishes including contributing book chapters; 2021; 'Project Anywhere Biennial IV', published by University of Melbourne and Parsons, School of Art, NY and in 2020: 'Drawing from the Non-Place' published by Cambridge Scholars.

O'Toole is a co-founder of Drawing deCentered which is professional artist-led collective that explores contemporary drawing practice and a member of Co founder of N I N E-artist collective who explore materiality and visual art processes formed in 2020 in the immaterial world of online connectivity.

Recent recipient of the Agility Award by the Arts Council of Ireland, 2021

## Artist Statement

"The question for me, is not how a space feels to me but how it feels though me. In other words, it's not how I perceive a space but how a space is perceived through me.

I make work that materialises the non-human aspects of our world by mapping and exploring the 'emotional vibrations' of spaces and the affect on our everyday experiences, which we may or may not be conscious of. I consider myself a 'patheur'; someone who follows their intuitive impulses, and I make drawings that must be felt rather than only cognitively understood. I combine fieldwork, studio, material and phenomenological research to enquire the ways in which atmospheric spaces are active agents in the drawings.

My practice is explored through two bodies of work that are interrelated: 'Office of Public Wonder' and 'Felt Maps'. The latter is a new concept that extends the former to investigate into the process of drawing in-situ as a means of revealing one's felt and intuitive sense of space and place.

My aim is to create a 'holding-space' that is sensed within our felt bodies which is in dialogue with wider forces at play including social, environmental and cultural contexts.

# KIERA O'TOOLE

## CV

### Education

#### **Currently part-time PhD Doctoral Researcher, Creative Arts, Loughborough University (UK)**

Research question: Felt Mapping: A practice-led investigation into the process of drawing in-situ as a means of revealing one's felt sense

#### **2013 Masters of Philosophy, Fine Art, Newcastle University, (AUS)**

This practice-led research project titled Beyond the Pale: Australia examined the disjunctive experience of being an Irish migrant in Australia and the cultural and political landscape of Irish national identity politics.

#### **2000 Bachelor of Fine Art, Honours, Dublin Institute of Technology (IRE)**

Thesis topic: Environmental Ethics and Land Art. Exhibition and exegesis

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 CCA Derry. Commission for site-specific drawing, Derry. NL
- 2020 Drawing Wonder, Project Anywhere Global Exhibition, Uni. of Melbourne and Parsons School of Art(USA)
- 2019 Quietus, Commissioned by Sligo Arts Service
- 2019 Warning, curated by Rosie Naylor, Edinburgh. SCO.
- 2016 Betwixt and Between, Tinahely Courthouse Arts Centre, Wicklow
- 2014 Lines of Negotiation III, Centre for Creative Practices, Dublin
- 2013 Romantic Ireland Dead and Gone', Mount-Kuring Regional Gallery, AUS
- 2013 Romantic Ireland's Dead and Gone, Gosford Regional Gallery. AUS
- 2012 Beyond the Pale: Australia, The University Gallery Newcastle. AUS

### Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2019 Someone who was standing apart from me, (Greig Burgoyne, UK), MART. Commissioned by Livestock\_ Site Responsive Drawing
- 2017 Artist Select, Arno Kramer, The Model Home of the Niland Collection
- 2017 Sonic Drawing, in collaboration with Donna Legault, Leitrim Sculpture Centre
- 2014 Lines of Inquiry (two-person), Art Studios Cooperative, AUS
- 2013 Marian Thread, Institute of Global Irish Studies, University of NSW, AUS

### Recent Group Exhibitions

- 2021 Walking Keshcorran', A collaborative project and exhibition with Tommy Weir, Christine Mackey, Ruth Le Gear, Sarah-Ellen Lundy, and Julianna Holland.
- 2021 LEER: Landscape, Ecology & Environment, residency and exhibition curated by Sean O' Reilly, Leitrim Sculpture Centre
- 2021 N I N E | Matters', Hyde Bridge Gallery, Sligo
- 2021 Wonder Stones, public art, Caidre Arts festival,
- 2021 Drawing Wonder, Platform Arts Belfast
- 2020 Highlanes Gallery Open Submission
- 2020 Beyond Drawing, curated by Arno Kramer, Ballina Arts Centre,
- 2020 Drawing deCentered, The Courthouse Gallery
- 2020 The Drawing Box, International touring exhibition: Ireland, UK, Australia IN
- 2019 Reimanging the Canon, curated by Annemarie Murland, University Gallery AUS
- 2019 'Drawing as Interruption', Independent Studios Dublin, The Model Studios
- 2018 (tele)consequences, drawing performance', University of Brighton, UK
- 2018 The Embodied Experience of Drawing, Ocean Studios, Royal William Yard, UK
- 2018 Coolaney Drawing Project, Sligo, A public participative drawing project
- 2017 'Testing', Catalyst Arts 2017 (NL)
- 2017 'HOMELAND', Damer House Gallery
- 2017 'Drawing Conversations', Centre for Creative Practices, Dublin
- 2017 Cairde Arts Festival, The Model, Sligo
- 2017 'Insider/Outsider', Caidre Arts Festival, The Model, Sligo
- 2016 'Lines of Negotiation: Mapping the Land', Municipal Gallery, dlr Lexicon, Dublin
- 2016 Enniskillen Visual Visual Arts Open (NL)
- 2016 'Drawn Conversations', Coventry University, (UK)
- 2016 Leitrim Sculpture Centre Open Art exhibition, Leitrim
- 2016 Remote Drawing, A series of Site-specific Drawings, Ox Mountains
- 2014 Lines of Negotiation II, Irish Museum of Contemporary Art, Dublin, Ireland
- 2014 'My last begging, Ha!! Ha!! the piano has been drinking', Maitland Gallery, AUS
- 2013 'My last begging, Ha!! Ha!! the piano has been drinking', Maitland.Gallery AUS
- 2013 'Impressability', a six-month residency, RYSS, (AUS)
- 2013 Opening the Box, 4 Point Gallery, Newcastle (AUS)
- 2011 Not just Ned: the true history of Australia, National Museum of Australia AUS
- 2010 Gosford Regional Gallery Open Call (AUS)

## Awards/ Residencies

- 2021 Agility Award, Arts Council  
2021 Video Practice Opportunity Award. Funded by Creative Ireland  
2020 Finalist Project Anywhere; global peer-reviewed exhibition and conference University of Melbourne and Parsons School of Art, NY. (USA)  
2020 Primary Colours Artists Bursary Award, Sligo Arts Service  
2019 The Travel and Training Award, Culture Ireland  
2017 'Sonic Drawing', Residency, Leitrim Sculpture Centre  
2015 Wicklow County Council's New Strategic Project Award  
2015 'Betwixt and Between', 1YR Residency, Tinahely Courthouse Arts Centre,  
2013 RTS Funding Grants (Newcastle University, NSW, Australia)  
2013 'Impressability'. Six month residency at Regional Youth Support Services. Funded by ARTS NSW, (AUS). In collaboration with National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association.  
I  
2011 'HOMEward Bound', 2yr residency, RYSS. Funded Gosford Council. AUS  
2011 Wyong Youth Mural public art project, Regional Youth Service, AUS  
2005 Public Art Project . Blanchardstown Youthreach, Fingal Co Council

## Publications

- 2021 **Book Chapter:** Anywhere IV, Project Anywhere. [www.projectanywhere.net](http://www.projectanywhere.net)  
**Article:** NINE, The Visual Arts Newsletter, Visual Arts Ireland;  
<https://visualartists.ie/out-now-january-february-issue-of-the-visual-artists-news-sheet/>,  
2020 **Book Chapter:** "Drawing Conversations 2: Body, Space Place 2' Ed by Jill Journeaux, Helen Gorill and Sara Reed, Published by Cambridge Scholars, Jan  
2019 **Article:** Drawing deCentered, Visual Artist Ireland News Sheet, [https://issuu.com/visualartistsireland/docs/van\\_ma\\_2019\\_full](https://issuu.com/visualartistsireland/docs/van_ma_2019_full), March-April 2019  
**Article:** Drawing deCentered, Visual Artist Ireland News Sheet, [https://issuu.com/visualartistsireland/docs/van\\_nd\\_2019\\_\\_print\\_](https://issuu.com/visualartistsireland/docs/van_nd_2019__print_), Nov-Dec  
2017 **Academic Journal:** TRACEY: Drawing and Presence, peer reviewed journal for Contemporary Drawing. Loughborough University, UK.  
2013 **Book:** Greetings from the Irish in Australia, Edited by Kiera O'Toole and Dr Annemarie Murland with a forward by Noel White, Ambassador of Ireland Canberra, Australia,

## Bibliography

- 2021 **Profile:** Irish Arts Review, Summer Edition, 'Public Wonders'. June-July  
2020 **Profile;** Visual Arts Ireland Cafe' 16th June  
**Profile:** Inside the Studio, Videography by Felliipe Lopes. Supported by Artist Network Sligo with funding from the Creative Ireland Programme (Sligo) Oct  
2020 **Review:** Not Beyond Reach, Visual Arts Ireland News Sheet, July-August. [https://issuu.com/visualartistsireland/docs/van\\_ja\\_2020\\_\\_print\\_](https://issuu.com/visualartistsireland/docs/van_ja_2020__print_)  
2020 **Profile:** CYBER CRAIC - A DIGITAL IRISH ARTS FESTIVAL. cyber-craic-a-digital-irish-arts-festival-2020/#Visual-Arts, March  
**Profile:** Inside Make shift Studio during Covid19 crisis. The Drawing Box <https://www.facebook.com/groups/449614368434500/>, May  
2019 **Catalogue:** Re-Imaging the Canon, Group Exhibition, Essay by Maura Reilly  
2018 **Profile:** 'Warning', Visual Arts Ireland News Sheet, [https://issuu.com/visualartistsireland/docs/van\\_nd\\_2019\\_\\_print\\_](https://issuu.com/visualartistsireland/docs/van_nd_2019__print_),  
**Profile:** SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF IRELAND TODAY, <https://www.solasnua.org/cyber-craic-a-digital-irish-arts-festival-2020/> #Visual-ArtsMarch 16th to May 5th,  
2018. **Radio:** Arts House, June 29th, <https://www.oceanfm.ie/2018/06/29/sunday-24th-june-arts-house-podcast>  
2016 **Profile:** Betwixt and Between, Visual Arts News sheet: Catalogue; Jan-Feb, p26  
**Catalogue:** Betwixt and Between, Essay by Brian Fay, Nov  
**Catalogue:** Drawing Conversation, Centre for Creative Practices,  
2014 **Radio:** Kiera O'Toole & Annemarie Murland, ABC Central Coast, Australia, 92.5 FM, Lines of Inquiry, Coast Arts, February  
**Catalogue:** My last begging, Ha!! Ha!! the piano has been drinking, Maitland Gallery, Australia  
**TV:** Nationwide, RTE, Centre for Creative Practices, Dublin  
2013 **Review:** The Star' newspaper, Newcastle, Australia, Pandora goes Postmodern, Dec  
**Review:** Central Coast Express Advocate. June, 34  
2012 **Review:** Newcastle Herald Newspaper. Beyond the Pale: Australia, Dec  
**Catalogue:** Homeward Bound, RYSS, NSW, Australia, October 2012  
**Catalogue:** Impressability, RYSS, NSW, Australia June 2011  
**Catalogue:** Not just Ned: the true history of Irish in Australia, National Museum of Australia, July, <https://www.nma.gov.au/audio/not-just-ned-irish-in-australia-series>, 2nd1

## Invited Artist Talks

2022 Sculpture Drawing Space  
 2021 The Model, Sligo  
 2020 Visual Arts Ireland- Artist Talk  
 2020 Solas Nua, Irish arts in USA  
 2020 CCA -Derry-Londonderry and IMMA for National Drawing Day  
 2020 The Drawing Box \_Online  
 2020 Drawing deCentered, The Courthouse Gallery  
 2019 Art Walk Party, Edinburgh, (SCT)  
 2018 Drawing as Wonder, The Hunt Museum, Limerick  
 2017 Sonic Drawing, Leitrim Sculpture Centre  
 2017 Artist select from the Model Home of the Niland Collection  
 2015 Visual Arts Ireland, Show & Tell, The Model, Sligo  
 2014 MART Gallery & Visual Arts Ireland, Dublin  
 2014 Gorey School of Art, Wexford  
 2013 Nationwide, RTE, Centre for Creative Practices, Dublin  
 2013 Avondale College, (AUS)  
 2013 Mount-Kuring Regional Gallery, (AUS)  
 '07 - Gosford Regional Gallery (AUS)  
 '10,

## Conferences / Seminars

2021 Invited to consult, Basic Income for the Arts Stakeholder Forum  
 2018 Conference presenter, Arts in Education, Maynooth University  
 2017 Conference presenter, Drawing Conversations II, Coventry University (UK)  
 2017 Panellist, Visual Arts Ireland, Get Together, Creative Ireland, Dublin  
 2017 Panellist, Bart Lodewijks' exhibition Sligo Drawings, The Model  
 2013 Conference presenter, The Institute of Global Irish Studies, University of NSW (AUS)  
 2011 Conference presenter, National Museum of Australia, (AUS)

## Membership of Professional Bodies

Visual Arts Ireland\_Professional  
 DRN: Drawing Research Network\_Academic, Loughborough University  
 DdC\_Drawing deCentered\_ Co-founder of Drawing de-Centered which is an artist-led collective and platform for exploring contemporary drawing since 2016.

## Recent Contract Work

<b>Employer Name</b>	NCAD
<b>Position</b>	Visiting Lecture
<b>Job Description</b>	Social Media (08/02/22)
<b>Employer Name</b>	Self-employed Visual Artist
<b>Position</b>	Professional practicing visual artist for over twenty years.
<b>Job Description</b>	Practice-led research in Drawing research and practice, Site-Specific Art, Installation Art, Art Theory: Phenomenology, Space & Place, Migration & Identity, Contemporary Art 01/08/00 - present
<b>Employer Name</b>	Sligo IT
<b>Position</b>	Guest Lecturer
<b>Job Description</b>	Space, Place and Culture, MA Creative Arts (22/10/2021) / Creative Practice Research Methods (03/12/2021)
<b>Employer Name</b>	Sligo IT
<b>Position</b>	External Examiner_Fine Art
<b>Job Description</b>	External Assessor for 1st & 2nd Year Fine Art Sligo IT 08/05/19 and 18/05/2021
<b>Employer Name</b>	Arts Council of Ireland
<b>Position</b>	Creative Associate
<b>Job Description</b>	Duties include: Develop and sustain the arts and creative practice in schools. Devise a plan that identifies area(s) for development, in partnership with schools and develop a range of high-quality learning programmes for arts in schools. Manage effective partnerships and connection Maintain accurate records and documentation Undertake all relevant administrative tasks 01/09/18- Present
<b>Employer Name</b>	Sligo Arts Service, Sligo County
<b>Position</b>	Council Visual Artist_contracts
<b>Job Description</b>	Duties include: Devise and facilitate arts project for delivery in schools across Sligo Liaise with schools and maintain artist- teacher relationships Document process and progress of the project Responsible for project budget 01/03/17 - 01/12/18