August 2026

SMASHING TIMES NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly newsletter

SMASHINGTIMES
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
THE ARTS & EQUALITY

#STNewsletter

www.smashingtimes.ie

Ag ceangal saoránach leis na healaíona, cearta daonna, ceartas aeráide, agus comhionannas inscne



Connecting citizens to the arts, human rights, climate justice, and gender equality

RÉAMHRÁ ÓN EAGARTHÓIR

INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITOR



Féilim James,
Smashing Times Newsletter and Tintreach Editor

A chairde,

Hello and welcome to the **August 2026** edition of the **Smashing Times Newsletter**. Our theme this month is **Cultural Heritage**. This theme informs our **Quotes** and **10 We Admire** sections.

This past Sunday 9 August was the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Interestingly, the spotlight this year was on 'Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-Being.' As the United Nations explain, 'Honouring Indigenous midwives is an opportunity to recognize their role as knowledge holders and caregivers, reaffirm the enduring value of Indigenous knowledge systems in safeguarding life, and advance culturally appropriate approaches to well-being for future generations.'

This is just one element of cultural heritage. UNESCO defines cultural heritage as 'the legacy of physical artifacts, traditions, and practices that are passed down through generations within a community.' This includes 'both tangible elements, such as monuments and artworks, and intangible aspects like folklore and rituals.' The rich variety of cultures around the globe is a testament to the creativity and uniqueness of humankind and its peoples. It is the colourful counterpoint to the black-and-white digital age, to the post-truth Orwell–

ianism that sucks the oxygen out of so many spaces these days.

Value systems are passed down through culture. The protection of human rights is a recent but hugely welcome addition to the culture of nation states and international cooperation. The arts, too, are a crucial component of culture. Cultural heritage, like the arts, should empower, not limit. True cultural pride respects the culture of the other. If you put down another culture to build up your own, you are indulging in a solipsistic fantasy. If your way is the *only* way, simply because it is what you have been born into and immersed in and therefore deem correct, what is to stop others from doing the same? (This is how wars start.) Why would anyone respect your culture if you don't respect theirs?

Also included in this newsletter is **Spotsolas: Smashing Times News**, which includes information on our recently held, inaugural Kerry Arts and Human Rights Festival. Also covered is the publication of Edition VII of *Tintreach: The Smashing Times Arts and Literary Journal*, themed 'Muintearas: Macallaí Uíbh Ráthaigh/Belonging: Echoes of Iveragh' (**purchase here**). Following this are **News From the Network** and **Grants and Opportunities**.

Bainigí sult as an eagrán,

Féilim James
Smashing Times Newsletter and Tintreach Editor

Sleachta

QUOTES



Photo credit: Museum of Native American History

‘Every step I take forward is on a path paved by strong Indian women before me.’

Wilma Mankiller (1945–2010)
Native American activist and the first woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation



Photo credit: v2osk

‘We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children.’

Anonymous



Female Yoruba Head, 19th century AD. Photo credit: Barakat Gallery

‘Odò tó bá gbàgbé orísun rẹ̀, gbígbẹ ló máa gbẹ (Any river that forgets its source will soon dry up).’

Yoruba Proverb
The Yoruba people are a West African ethnic group who inhabit parts of Nigeria, Benin, and Togo.

Ag léamh na nuachtlitreach seo tríd an nasc inroinnte? Cláraigh anseo chun eagráin amach anseo dár nuachtlitir a fháil díreach i do bhosca isteach.

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SPOTSOLAS: SMASHING TIMES NEWS

Every month, in addition to bringing you the latest updates from Smashing Times, we also highlight a specific element of our work. This month, our Spotsolas item covers covers the newly released Edition VII of ***Tintreach: The Smashing Times Arts and Literary Journal***.



Cover artwork: Detail from Fast-Moving Clouds *by Dominika Piekarska*

Out Now: Edition VII of Tintreach: The Smashing Times Arts and Literary Journal

Muintearas: Macallaí Uíbh Ráthaigh/Belonging: Echoes of Iveragh

Edition VII of *Tintreach: The Smashing Times Arts and Literary Journal* was published on Saturday, 18 July 2026, as part of Smashing Times' inaugural Kerry Arts and Human Rights Festival. This is a special bilingual edition themed **'Muintearas:**

Macallaí Uíbh Ráthaigh/Belonging: Echoes of Iveragh', incorporating both Irish and English, and publishing six artists with a connection to Uíbh Ráthach/Iveragh in County Kerry.

The edition's themes include belonging, identity, art, place, community, the Irish language, and nature, and, like all iterations of *Tintreach*, it contains a variety of artforms. The contributing artists are **Paddy Bushe (poet)** and **Dominika Piekarska (visual artist)**, who are Featured Artists for this edition, as well as **June O'Sullivan (novelist)**, **John Goode (poet)**, **Marie O'Shea (writer)**, and **Ita Ryan (writer)**.

Also included is some work by **Bonus Artists**, which includes an excerpt from one of the region's – and indeed Ireland's – most famous poems: 'Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoghaire' by **Eibhlín Dubh Ní Chonaill**. This section also contains two poems by **Mary Moynihan**, a writer, poet, and creator of art and photography, and Artistic Director of Smashing Times, who has been visiting Valentia Island for nearly two decades. Furthermore, this edition holds an **Arts in the Community Profile and Interview** with the eco-social artist, researcher, and educator **Dr Anita McKeown**.

Edition VII was launched by Councillor Teddy O'Sullivan Casey in The Barracks Heritage Centre, Cahersiveen, Kerry on Saturday 18 July 2026. We were thrilled to have a sizeable turnout, with fantastic audience engagement, for which we are very grateful. A huge debt of gratitude also goes to our funders: Cumas Ceantar Uíbh Ráthaigh, Kerry County Council, and Fáilte Ireland.

Click here to purchase the edition.

Creative Places Cumas Ceantar
the arts council an chomhairle ealaíon
Creative Places Uíbh Ráthaigh is part of the national Creative Places programme developed and funded by the Arts Council.
Comhairle Contae Chiarraí Kerry County Council
KERRY www.discoverkerry.com
Fáilte Ireland
WILD ATLANTIC WAY SLÍ FHIÁIN AN ATLANTAIGH

Ar Fáil Anois: Eagrán VII de Tintreach: The Smashing Times Arts and Literary Journal

Muintearas: Macallaí Uíbh Ráthaigh/Belonging: Echoes of Iveragh

Foilsíodh Eagrán VII de *Tintreach: The Smashing Times Arts and Literary Journal* ar an Satharn 18 Iúil 2026, mar chuid den chéad Kerry Arts and Human Rights Festival de chuid Smashing Times. Is eagrán speisialta dátheangach é seo faoin téama **'Muintearas: Macallaí Uíbh Ráthaigh/Belonging: Echoes of Iveragh'**, a chuimsíonn an Ghaeilge agus an Béarla araon, agus a fhoilsíonn saothar le seisear ealaíontóirí a bhfuil ceangal acu le hUíbh Ráthach i gCondae Chiarraí.

I measc théamaí an eagráin ná muintearas, féiniúlacht, ealaín, áit, pobal, an Ghaeilge, agus an dúlra, agus, cosúil le gach leagan de *Tintreach*, tá réimse foirmeacha ealaíne ann. Is iad **Paddy Bushe (file)** agus **Dominika Piekarska (amharc-ealaíontóir)** na hEalaíontóirí sa Spotsolas don eagrán seo. San áireamh chomh maith ná **June O'Sullivan (úrscéalaí)**, **John Goode (file)**, **Ita Ryan (scríbhneoir)**, agus **Marie O'Shea (scríbhneoir)**.

Tá saothar san áireamh againn freisin ó **Ealaíontóirí Breise**, lena n-áirítear sliocht as ceann de na dánta is cáiliúla sa réigiún, agus go deimhin in Éirinn: 'Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoghaire' le h**Eibhlín Dubh Ní Chonaill**. Tá dhá dhán sa rannán seo chomh maith le **Mary Moynihan**, scríbhneoir, file, agus cruthaitheoir ealaíne agus grianghrafadóireachta, atá ina Stiúrthóir Ealaíne ar Smashing Times, agus a bhíonn ag tabhairt cuairte ar Dhairbhre le beagnach scór bliain anuas. Ina theannta sin, tá **Próifíl agus Agallamh Ealaín sa Phobal** san eagrán seo leis an ealaíontóir éiceasóisialta, taighdeoir, agus oideoir, **Dr Anita McKeown**.

Sheol Comhairleoir Teddy O'Sullivan Casey Eagrán VII sa Barracks Heritage Centre, Cathair Saidhbhín, Condae Chiarraí, ar an Satharn 18 Iúil 2026. Bhí ríméad orainn go raibh líon mór daoine i láthair agus go raibh rannpháirtíocht iontach ag an lucht féachana, rud a bhfuilimid fíorbhuíoch as. Táimid thar a bheith buíoch freisin dár maonaitheoirí: Cumas Ceantar Uíbh Ráthaigh, Comhairle Contae Chiarraí, agus Fáilte Ireland.

Cliceáil anseo chun an t-eagrán a cheannach.

SPOTSOLAS: SMASHING TIMES NEWS



WE AREurope Project Podcast: Episode One

Smashing Times are delighted to partner with Théâtre & Réconciliation, Brussels, Belgium, to deliver the **Women Empowering, Allying, and Reinventing Europe on Stage project (WE AREurope)**, funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. This project brings together migrant women and European citizens in theatre workshops to foster the inclusion and integration of refugees and migrants, the diversity of identities, and adherence to European values. As part of the project, a podcast is being developed which features interviews with the women involved in the project. Episode One, titled 'European Identity,' is out now. It explores what it means to be a woman in Europe and how we experience national borders, as female participants from diverse backgrounds share their reflections on these questions. **Click here to listen to this episode**.



2026 Kerry Arts and Human Rights Festival

We recently held the inaugural Kerry Arts and Human Rights Festival on 18 and 19 July 2026, in Cahersiveen and Valentia Island, Kerry. The festival was a huge success, and we are grateful to everyone who attended. The festival, which was launched by Michael Cahill TD and Councillor Norma Moriarty, promotes unique creative spaces in Kerry for the arts, storytelling, and human rights. Presented by Smashing Times and The Barracks Heritage Centre, the festival celebrates stories of changemakers from Kerry and the wider Munster region who have championed peaceful human rights. Among the festival's exhibitions, guided storytelling walks, poetry readings, and more was the launch of Edition VII of *Tintreach: The Smashing Times Arts and Literary Journal*, which celebrates local creative voices (**purchase the edition here**). Many thanks to the supporters of our events: Cumas Ceantar Creative Places Uíbh Ráthaigh, Ciste Beag Ealaíon (Micro Arts Fund) 2026, Kerry County Council, Fáilte Ireland, and Wild Atlantic Way.

SPOTSOLAS: SMASHING TIMES NEWS



Smashing Times Arts and Human Rights Radio Show: 22 & 29 July

This edition of the Smashing Times Arts and Human Rights Radio Show, broadcast on 22 and 29 July 2026, looks back at the inaugural Kerry Arts and Human Rights Festival, which took place on 18 and 19 July 2026 in Cahersiveen and Valentia Island on Kerry's beautiful Iveragh Peninsula. The episode also includes an interview with three of the contributing artists to Edition VII of *Tintreach: The Smashing Times Arts and Literary Journal*, a special bilingual edition themed 'Muintearas: Macallaí Uíbh Ráthaigh/Belonging: Echoes of Iveragh'. Joining us are visual artist Dominika Piekarska, and novelists June O'Sullivan and Ita Ryan, as we explore their work, creative practices, and the inspiration they find in Iveragh as a place. **Edition VII of Tintreach is available to purchase here**. **Click here to listen to this episode**.

Smashing Times Arts and Human Rights Radio Show: 5 & 12 August

The episode of the Smashing Times Arts and Human Rights Radio Show broadcast on 5 and 12 August 2026 features an interview with Barry Ward TD, an Irish Fine Gael politician who has served as Teachta Dála (TD) for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown since 2024 and has a long record of defending human rights. Barry was elected to Dáil Éireann in November 2024, having previously served as a Senator and Seanad spokesperson on Justice. Also on the show are reflections by Mary Moynihan on Viktor Frankl's book *Man's Search for Meaning*, a call for global peace, and a reading of Mary's poem 'Sun to My Moon'. **Click here to listen to the episode**. The Smashing Times Arts and Human Rights Radio Show is broadcast **every Wednesday 6–7pm on Dublin South FM**, with each episode also available as a podcast. Tune in to Dublin South FM 93.9 or listen online at **www.dublinsouthfm.ie**. **All past episodes can be listened to here**.

Deichniúr Thar Barr

10 WE ADMIRE

Cultural heritage, as the legacy of a group or society that is inherited from past generations, impacts our sense of identity, our thought processes, the choices we make, and the actions we take. Whether this influence is subliminal or not, its presence resides in our core and is inherent to the art we create. In line with our theme of **Cultural Heritage**, this month's **10 We Admire** section profiles ten artists and arts organisations whose work reflects on and explores how cultural heritage is intertwined with art and existence itself. Across various artforms, these practitioners investigate their own cultural backgrounds through a plethora of lenses, such as the reclamation of culture, self-discovery, and education on history and social issues. Together, they form a symphony of voices that resist silence and erasure, and celebrate the beauty and wonder of cultural heritage.



Photo credit: Rose Connolly

RÓIS (Rose Connolly)

RÓIS (Rose Connolly) is a young, upcoming voice in Irish music. Born in Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, her practice is rooted in the reclamation of Irish language and tradition. RÓIS combines the traditions of Irish music with modern tastes, blending elements of folk, sean-nós, electronics, and jazz harmony. Her second EP, 2024's *Mo Léan* ('My Anguish/Sorrow'), reimagines the tradition of keening in Ireland, a practice where, during a wake, women would wail their laments beside the coffin. In her own words, 'The Irish Wake is not just a cultural tradition but a powerful celebration of life that deserves to be revived... We need to relinquish our fear of dying to fully thrive in life and within our sexual environment. The Irish

Wake, in its essence, is a declaration of life in its rawest, most honest form.' RÓIS has also spoken of the inspiration she found in learning Irish later in life, which spurred her to perform in the native language. Moreover, she often speaks of the social issues that stem from a divided country and how such issues affect personal connections to culture.

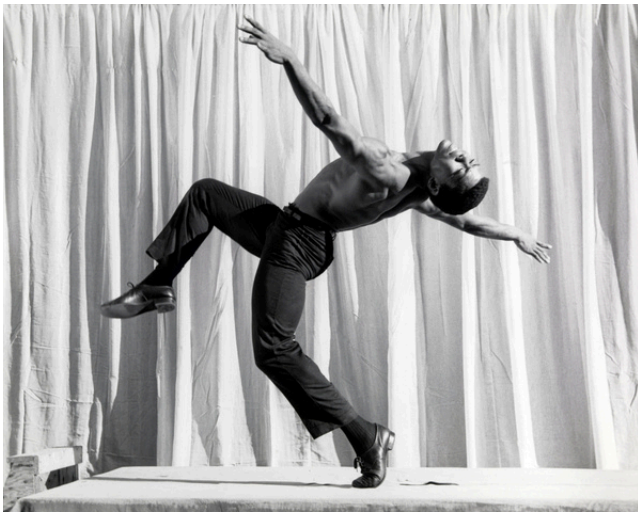


Photo credit: John Lindquist

Alvin Ailey

Alvin Ailey (1931–1989) was an American dancer, director, choreographer, and activist who created a lasting legacy through dance and activism. As a queer, African American man, Ailey employed art to speak to his experiences during the Great Depression, segregation, and the American Civil Rights Movement. In 1958, Ailey founded The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre (and the affiliated Ailey School), which would become the largest modern dance company in the United States. The theatre enabled Ailey to foster and share African American heritage and experiences, and provide space to Black choreographers and dancers who at the time lacked opportunities in a white-centred society. Ailey's work fused theatre, modern dance, ballet, and jazz with Black vernacular, producing hopeful choreography that is credited with spreading global awareness of Black life in America. Through visionary works such as *Revelations* (1960) – recognised as one of the most popular and most performed ballets in the world – Ailey placed an important spotlight on Black American experiences and heritage, and left a profound impact on the culture of dance.



Photo credit: Hassan Al Jaber

Bouthayna Al Muftah

Bouthayna Al Muftah (born 1987) is a Qatari printmaker, painter, and multidisciplinary artist. Al Muftah's work is characterised by a juxtaposition of simple black-and-white colourisation and captivating imagery and patterns. Her evolving practice has produced immersive installations and dynamic performance pieces anchored in a profound connection to Qatar's cultural heritage. This heritage, woven from oral history and folklore, becomes a canvas for reinterpretation, reflecting her bond with her homeland's past and its revival. Al Muftah invites her viewers to contemplate the notion of memory, where she explores time and the perception of it, along with our characteristics as a collective society – questioning whether heritage and its memories carry the same symbolism over time. Her oeuvre is distinguished by its palette and signature typography. Al Mufta's work has been exhibited internationally and regionally, including her solo show at Doha's M7 (2022) and Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2020). Her work can also be seen in the permanent collection of the National Museum of Qatar (2019).



Photo credit: Ameen Saeb

El-Funoun Palestinian Dance Troupe

Established in 1979, El-Funoun Palestinian Dance Troupe works to revive and pass down Palestinian folklore and culture through dance. They are currently based in Ramallah, Palestine, and have a direct mission to 'resist the genocide of their people

and culture.' Their members are both Muslim and Christian, as they are non-sectarian and pluralistic. El-Funoun translates to 'the arts.' The troupe performs both in Palestine and internationally, and has made a commitment to refuse funding from companies who do not call for a ceasefire in Gaza. Through their art and initiatives, El-Funoun works to resist the oppression that their culture has faced and bring awareness to their cultural artform. Their practice encourages collective memory for all members through the inspiration that is drawn from traditional folklore and art. They work to make their practices accessible to children in schools and people using community centres. El-Funoun has performed and hosted workshops abroad, in places like Ireland, Malta, and the United Kingdom. They have toured in the United States twice, in 2006 and in 2016.



Photo credit: Writers Project of Ghana

Henneh Kyereh Kwaku

Born in Gonasua/Drobo, Ghana, Henneh Kyereh Kwaku is a poet, educator, and public health scholar. He applies his background in public health and health communication to his endeavours in creative writing and art-based approaches to addressing and researching public health concerns. Henneh's work addresses health disparities that people of colour face due to colonial influence. In his debut poetry collection, *Revolution of the Scavengers* (2020), he reflects on the joys of growing up and living in Ghana, as well as the country's many social issues. His poetry encourages cultural preservation through references to mythology, language, and nature-based imagery. Henneh received the J. Howard and Barbara M.J. Wood Prize from the *Poetry* magazine (Poetry

Foundation) in 2024, and he was awarded the Samira Bawumia Literary Prize for Nonfiction (2022) and Poetry (2020), making him the only person to have won in multiple award categories. Henneh's works invoke a sense of collective memory, resilience, and hope for a world impacted heavily by colonialism.



Photo credit: Bebhinn Eilish

Bebhinn Eilish

Based in Wicklow, Ireland, Bebhinn Eilish (born 1997) is a visual artist who creates jewellery, prints, and projects which she describes as 'distinctly Irish.' She is largely inspired by mythology, history, and politics, incorporating these elements into her prints and jewellery. Many of her prints reflect a tarot style with Celtic imagery that focuses on feminist issues. She speaks on the importance of the revival of Irish mythology and folklore, which she embeds in her art through modernising it and applying political themes to the imagery. In relation to folklore revival, she says that, despite the written accounts of mythical figures, there is a lack of established imagery. Eilish utilises the history and stories which were passed down by her mother and family in order to convey and modernise Irish history through art. Bebhinn's artistic process serves as a conduit through which universal cultural taboos about grief and the female body can be played with.



Photo credit: Aloha Unani

Tahiti Mana Troupe

Founded in 2011 by husband-and-wife duo Manarii and Nalini Gauthier,

Tahiti Mana Troupe and School offer a connection to Tahitian traditions in the form of dance. Through their professional troupe, Tahiti Mana brings their art to several communities across the world. Previously, they have travelled to New Zealand to connect with Māori communities, who are considered their cultural cousins. In both cultures, the freedom to practise the tradition was suppressed in post-colonial societies, until their revival in the 1970s. To promote and educate on a once-banned tradition, Tahiti Mana Troupe also engages in community initiatives to bring this tradition to younger generations. The company offers classes out of O'ahu, Hawaii, where they operate, as well as online, making access to learning the art more accessible to a wide range of audiences. One highlight of Tahiti Mana's work was when they performed at Pasifika Festival in Auckland, New Zealand in 2023, where various islands of the Pacific have 'villages' where culture is shared via music, dance, arts, crafts, food, and more.



Photo credit: Bloomberg/Getty Images

Rama Duwaji

Rama Duwaji (born 1997) is a Syrian American animator, illustrator, and ceramicist. She has worked with The *New Yorker* and *The Washington Post* to illustrate the stories of Reem Ahmed and other displaced Palestinians in Gaza. Duwaji's work has also been featured in Tate Modern, the BBC, and *Vogue*, where she illustrated a feature covering the garment workers of New York City. Her artistic style reflects the rich imagery of her Syrian heritage, and her work covers topics such as feminism, displacement, and the lived experiences of Middle Eastern women. Her work creates a sense of collective memory for storytellers from Egypt, Syria, and Yemen. Married to Mayor Zohran Mamdani, Duwaji

serves as the first lady of New York City while remaining deeply committed to her primary identity as an artist and storyteller. Since 2023, she has created numerous works addressing the Gaza genocide and the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, alongside artwork supporting victims of the Sudanese civil war and genocide.

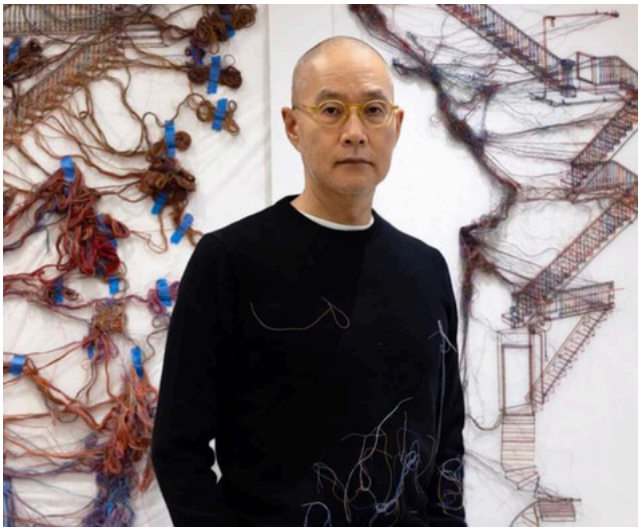


Photo credit: Tate Modern

Do Ho Suh

Do Ho Suh (born 1962) is a South Korean sculptor who is renowned for his installations made of silk which represent his childhood homes, a theme central to his major exhibition *Walk the House*. Through these translucent structures, Suh explores the complexities of defining a sense of belonging and identity in oneself and one's experiences. Having been born in Korea, Suh explores how the culture of his homeland remained with him while living in places such as Berlin, London, and New York. His work also questions how collective memory and tradition could live on in a world which values western practices. Memory is a central theme in Suh's work, inspiring audiences to reflect on the elements that reside in your soul as you age and develop. Moreover, his blurring of the line between sculpture and architecture often renders architectural structures portable through material change, as exemplified by one of his most famous works *Seoul Home…* (1999). In 2017, Suh was the recipient of the Ho-Am Prize in the Arts.



Photo: National Museum of Australia

Emily Kame Kngwarreye

Emily Kame Kngwarreye (c. 1910–1996) was an Aboriginal Australian

painter and artist. She was born and lived in Utopia, an Aboriginal Australian homeland area. Her work focuses on traditional beliefs and practices, which are rooted in caring for nature and indigenous traditions. She began creating art later in life, and did so on her own, as well as with community groups which she helped to develop. Kngwarreye began her practice using the batik technique, which involved painting on cotton or silk, before she painted on her first canvas around the age of 80. She served as a custodian of Utopia's women's Dreaming sites, which informed much of her practice. ('The Dreaming' represents Aboriginal concepts of 'Everywhen', during which the land was inhabited and created by ancestral figures, often of heroic proportions or with supernatural abilities. The meaning and significance of specific places and creatures are wedded to their origin in the Dreaming, and certain locations have a distinct potency.) Kngwarreye's art is derived from her cultural responsibilities as an Elder and the traditional storytelling practices of her culture, in addition to the land on which she lived and the nature of Australia. Hugely prominent in the Aboriginal artistic revolution in Australia, Kngwarreye's prolific artistic output includes works such as *Earth's Creation* (1994).

Nuacht Ón nGréasán

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK



Alex Hijmans, Tuairisc.ie: Ba Í m'Aintín Janie a Spreag Mo Dhúil sa Litríocht agus Beidh Mé Buíoch Di go Deo

Alex Hijmans, Tuairisc.ie: My Aunt Janie Sparked My Love of Literature, and I Will Be Forever Grateful to Her

Spreagadh scríbhneoireachta nua gach seachtain ó Alex Hijmans. Uimhir 4: An raibh duine nó áit faoi leith i do shaol a spreag do spéis sa litríocht? **Cliceáil anseo chun an t-alt iomlán a léamh i d*Tuairisc.ie***.

A new writing prompt every week from Alex Hijmans. Number 4: Was there a particular person or place in your life that prompted your interest in literature? Click here to read the full article on Tuairisc.ie. **Click here to read the full article (through Irish) in *Tuairisc.ie***.



Bridget Bhreathnach, Tuairisc.ie: An Greann, an Mhistéir, is an Béaloideas sna Scannáin Ghaeilge ag Fleadh Scannán na Gaillimhe

Bridget Bhreathnach, Tuairisc.ie: Humour, Mystery, and Folklore in Irish-Language Films at Galway Film Fleadh

'Bhí rogha dheas scannán Gaeilge le feiceáil ag Fleadh Scannán na Gaillimhe i mbliana,' a scríobhann Bridget Bhreathnach. 'Ina measc bhí an scannán faisnéise *Cill Stuifín*, agus beart gearrscannán ó na scéimeanna Tús agus Céim Eile.' **Cliceáil anseo chun an t-alt iomlán a léamh i d*Tuairisc.ie***.

'There was a fine selection of Irish-language films to be seen at the Galway Film Fleadh this year,' writes Bridget Bhreathnach. 'Among them was the documentary *Cill Stuifín* and a collection of short films from the Tús and Céim Eile schemes.' **Click here to read the full article (through Irish) in *Tuairisc.ie***.

Nuacht Ón nGréasán

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK



Kilkenny Arts Festival 2026

For the 53rd time, the Marble City is taken over by creators, performers, and participants who thrill, excite, and provoke. This year's Kilkenny Arts Festival brings major new projects, including the world premiere of *The Curing Line* and a new operatic take on Beckett in *The Last Tape*. Expect everything from Renaissance masters to groundbreaking new music, with resident artists Kate Ellis and Francesco Turrisi alongside Crash Ensemble, Chamber Choir Ireland, and the Irish Chamber Orchestra. Add writers and thinkers, late-night fun, spooky premieres, films, talks, pop-up concerts, and a gorgeous suite of children's plays, and you have eleven days of artistic adventures. The festival runs until Sunday 16 August, so you have a few days left to enjoy! **Click here for the full programme**.

IHREC: Criminal Legal Aid Disruption Affects Access to Justice for the Vulnerable

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) has raised major concerns about the impact of the current disruption to the criminal legal aid system on people's access to justice, particularly those in situations of vulnerability and disadvantage. At its recent plenary meeting, the Commission considered the human rights and equality implications of the situation and emphasised that access to legal representation is not simply an administrative matter. It is fundamental to the right to a fair trial and to ensuring that people can participate meaningfully in legal proceedings that may profoundly affect their liberty, family life, and future. **Click here to learn more**.

Deontais agus Deiseanna

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Children's Books Ireland: Irish Language Officer

Deadline: 4pm Friday 14 August 2026

Children's Books Ireland is committed to inclusion of all readers in our work, with a strategic commitment to including children, young people, and families who read in Irish. We are seeking an Irish Language Officer to work two days per week, promoting the Irish language internally and overseeing the provision of the organisation's services through the medium of Irish. The successful candidate will have an interest in and knowledge of children's literature. They will inform the ongoing development and implementation of the organisation's Irish Language Strategy and make strategic connections within the sector. **Apply via our Grants and Opportunities page**.



Anthology Short Story Competition

Deadline: Thursday 20 August 2026

Established to recognise and encourage creative writing and provide a platform for publication, the Anthology Short Story Competition is open to original and previously unpublished short stories in the English language by a writer of any nationality, living anywhere in the world. There is no restriction on theme or style. Stories submitted must not exceed the maximum of 1,500 words. The winner of the Anthology Short Story will receive €1,000 and the winning story will be published in a future issue of *Anthology*. **Apply via our Grants and Opportunities page**.

Deontais agus Deiseanna

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Coimisiún na Meán: Community Media Scheme

Deadline: Thursday 20 August 2026

The Community Media Scheme (CMS) provides funding to strengthen the social benefit contribution of the community media sector. The key objective of this scheme is to support a sustainable, inclusive, and participative community media sector that delivers social benefit and fosters active citizenship. The aims of this scheme are informed by the Community Media Policy, with the purpose of supporting the development of community broadcasting. The scheme aims to offer community broadcasters the opportunity to build capacity to further fulfil their social benefit remit as set out in their Programme Policy Statements and Service Descriptions. **Apply via our Grants and Opportunities page**.



Towers and Tales Festival Curator

Deadline: 1pm Friday 21 August 2026

The Towers and Tales Festival Curator is responsible for the curation of the festival, including artistic programme activity, key stakeholder relationships, and marketing overview. Working closely with the Festival Producer, who will implement and coordinate the festival, and further supported on site by the Lismore Estates General Manager, Lismore Castle Arts (LCA), and the Lismore Castle Team, this is a key opportunity to define and steer the Towers and Tales Festival as it enters its 13th year. The role is fixed term/flexible commencing in mid-September/October 2026 and ending in June 2027. **Apply via our Grants and Opportunities page**.

Deontais agus Deiseanna

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



VISUAL Carlow: Chief Executive Officer/Artistic Director

Deadline: 5pm Friday 21 August 2026

Carlow Arts Centre is seeking a Chief Executive Officer/Artistic Director to lead the next phase of development for the VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and George Bernard Shaw Theatre. Based in Carlow Town and reporting to the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer/Artistic Director will shape artistic direction, drive strategic ambition, strengthen organisational performance, and grow VISUAL's profile and audience impact at local, national, and international level. The successful candidate will foster strong, collaborative relationships with key stakeholders in support of VISUAL's artistic vision, long-term sustainability, and civic impact. **Apply via our Grants and Opportunities page**.



ESB Energy for Generations Fund

Deadline: 5pm Monday 24 August 2026

The aim of our fund is to maximise the impact of our social investment in disadvantaged communities, by taking a more strategic approach to effect sustainable change aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our fund also aims to leverage skills and knowledge within the company to bring about viable and positive outcomes. Only project proposals from charities delivering supports and services impacting communities located on the island of Ireland are considered. Charities working in the areas of social inclusion, access to education, access to employment, and homelessness can apply to the fund. **Apply via our Grants and Opportunities page**.

Deontais agus Deiseanna

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

PEACEPLUS Strategic Planning and Engagement

Deadline: 4pm Friday 28 August 2026

PEACEPLUS is a cross-border EU funding programme that supports peacebuilding, social cohesion, and economic development in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. The programme's goal is to build a more prosperous and stable society by strengthening relationships between communities, tackling long-standing social and economic challenges, encouraging cross-border collaboration and mutual understanding, and supporting regional stability and sustainable growth. All projects must have a cross-community and cross-border collaboration element, and they must be able to demonstrate peace impacts. **Apply via our Grants and Opportunities page**.

European Social Fund Plus: Inclusive Incubation and Finance for More Entrepreneurs

Deadline: 4pm Wednesday 2 September 2026

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) aims to support member states and regions to improve employment and education opportunities, to enhance social inclusion, and to tackle poverty. ESF+ is a combination of four funds from the 2014–2020 programming period. In Ireland, ESF+ funding is distributed by the national government and is mostly absorbed by state and semi-state bodies. Occasionally, the Irish managing authority publishes open calls for proposals from civil society organisations on specific employment and social inclusion themes. **Apply via our Grants and Opportunities page**.

Deontais agus Deiseanna

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Arts Council: Strategic Funding 2027

Deadline: 5:30pm Thursday 3 September 2026

The purpose of Strategic Funding is to invest in and support the organisations that are needed to lead, sustain, and develop the arts in Ireland. Strategic Funding supports key arts organisations, ensuring their sustainability and capacity to deliver high-quality arts experiences. It focuses on the delivery of excellent artwork, services, events, and activities that provide more people with the opportunity to enjoy high-quality arts experiences. **Apply via our Grants and Opportunities page**.

Arts Council: Arts Centres Partnership Funding

Deadline: 5:30pm Thursday 10 September 2026

The purpose of Arts Centres Partnership Funding is to invest in and support the infrastructure of arts centres required to sustain and develop the arts in Ireland. Arts centres are defined as full-time, public-facing, professionally managed, building-based arts organisations. They support the creation, presentation, and mediation of the arts across a range of artforms and arts practices. They support professional, collaborative, voluntary, and amateur arts practice. Recipients of Arts Centres Partnership Funding play a critical part in delivering the policy priorities of Making Great Art Work, the Arts Council's ten-year strategy. **Apply via our Grants and Opportunities page**.

Thank you for reading this month's Smashing Times Newsletter. Stay tuned for the **September 2026** edition. Slán go fóill!

Beir bua agus beannacht,

Féilim James, Smashing Times Newsletter and Tintreach Editor

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