

Bealtaine Festival Sligo

1st - 31st May 2025

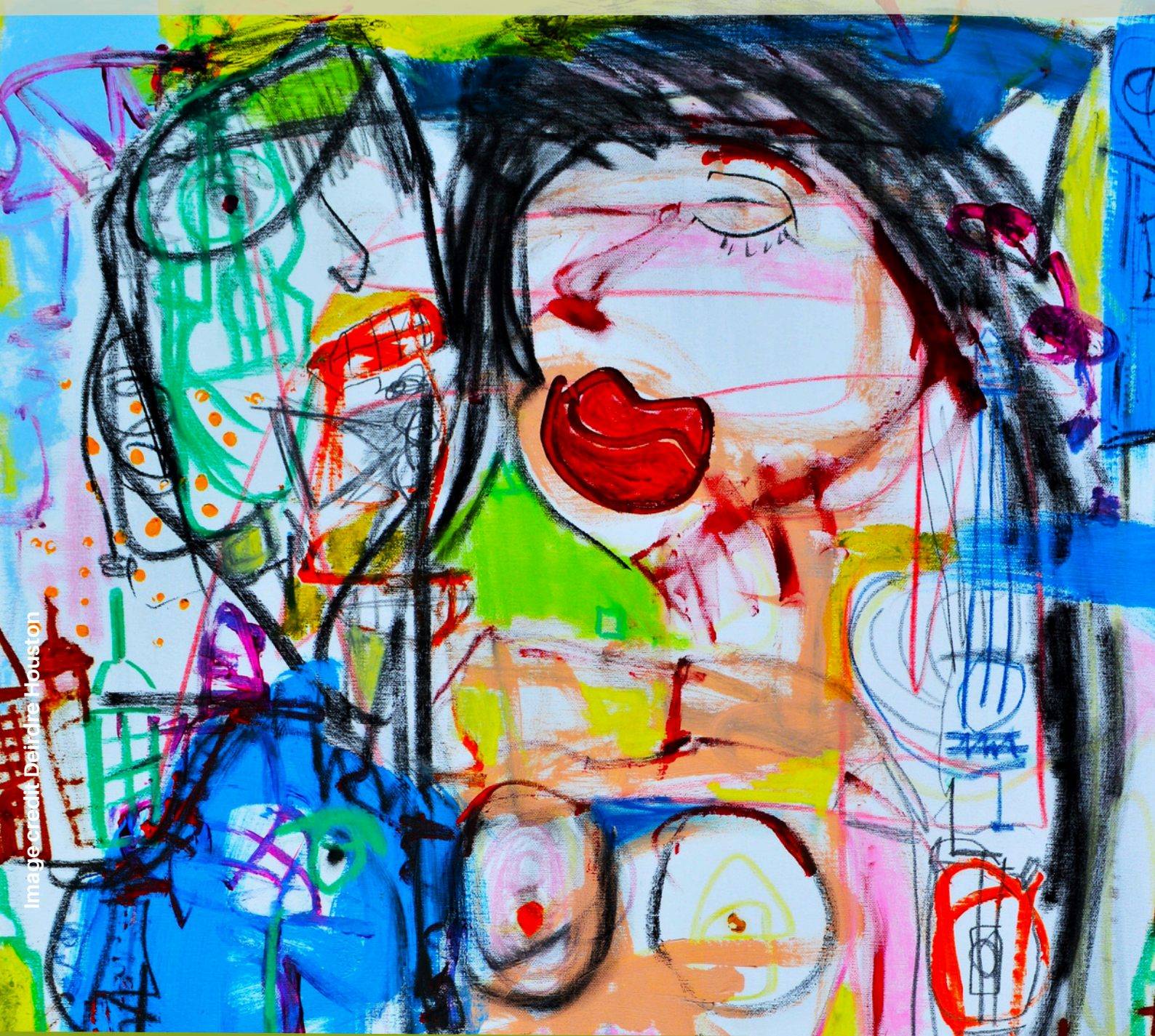


Image credit: Deirdre Houston

CELEBRATING THE ARTS AND CREATIVITY AS WE AGE

www.sligoarts.ie www.facebook.com/bealtainefestivalsligo

The Bealtaine Festival Sligo is funded by
Sligo County Council Arts Service and The Arts Council of Ireland

Bealtaine Festival Sligo 2025

Sligo Arts Service Programme of Events

May Thursday 1st

‘Life’ Photographic Exhibition

Primary Care Unit, Markievicz House, Sligo Town

‘Life’ an exhibition of photographs by photographer Val Robus. The exhibition is inspired by this year’s national Bealtaine Festival theme “Lust for Life”.

May Friday 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

FREE Drama Workshops 11am - 1pm

Avalon Centre, Top floor workshop space

Have you every fancied trying your hand at some acting. This May why no give it a go. It is a perfect opportunity for social interaction, boost confidence and self-esteem all while learning a new skill.

Come along to our Bealtaine drama workshops. The workshops are run by actor Isabel Claffey.

To book a place on our four week workshop programme email catherinefanning@hotmail.com

May Saturday 10th – 31st

‘Michael’ Group Exhibition

Opening May 10th 12noon

Hyde Bridge Gallery, Yeats Building, Sligo

A group exhibition by potters & studio artists, inspired by and celebrating the late artist mentor and potter Michael Kennedy. Michael Kennedy was one of Ireland’s leading potters. A ceramic artist, who incorporated sculptural elements, rich surface textures and a wide range of colours to create his original style of functional and decorative ceramics. He set up his first pottery studio in Sligo in 1979. In building and growing his studio he also nurtured and created a vibrant ceramic community in Sligo.

Bealtaine Festival Sligo 2025

Sligo Arts Service Programme of Events

May Tuesday 13th & 20th

Eco-art Workshop, 11am

Ballymote Day Centre, Lower Edward Street

The Day Centre users will work with artist Sarah Ellen Lundy. Taxidermy wildlife and dried plants will be used as a prompt to generate memories and conversation around connections to the land.

May Wednesday 14th

Artists in Conversation, 1pm

Hyde Bridge Gallery, Yeats Building, Sligo Town

Join ceramic artists Rachel Quinn & Tom Callery for a conversation and gallery tour around Michael Kennedy's inspired exhibition at the Hyde Bridge Gallery.

May Thursday 15th & Friday 16th

Mixed Media Collage, 2pm - 3.30pm

Garden Room, St John's Community Hospital, Ballytivnan, Sligo

Mixed Media collage, creative session with artist Deirdre Houston. Residents and visitors are invited to sit, watch, take part and create with artist Deirdre Houston. The sessions are inspired by St John's building, gardens and plants.

The finished collage artwork will be exhibited in the garden room.

All events are FREE

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May Saturday 17th , 1pm - 2pm

Lola Montez & Lady Morgan, An Imagined Conversation

Hawk's Well Theatre Temple Street Sligo F91X77K

Tickets are FREE, booking site will be open from May 1st

Booking via www.hawkswell.com

We are delighted to collaborate with the Hawk's Well Theatre Sligo for this lunchtime performance. Lola Montez & Lady Morgan aka Sydney Owenson, were Wild Irish Girls of the North West, They were singular women who followed their dreams, against the odds, in the early 1800s. They both struggled financially in pursuit of their respected vision. Both embraced the world of entertainment. They relied on performance, for Bread & Butter and or “Supper”!. Lola Montez was given great global “Press” for her unique scandalous Spider Dance. Ankles and calves were exposed! Sydney Owenson performed in Sligo Town often. She was an accomplished Harpist and published many literary works. She, in her later years, as Lady Morgan, was the first female writer to be awarded an annual pension of 300 pounds, from the Crown. A dream come true. Lola Montez dream of fame saw her sail the 7 Seas, in it's pursuit. She unlike Lady Morgan became more infamous, than famous. Her dream in her final years was redemption and contentment.

Let us eavesdrop on a brief imagined “Tete a Tete” between these two women in an excerpt from a new work, of the same title.

Performed by Marianne Fahy & Maura Logue. Written & directed by Maura Logue. A Dark Daughter Production Original Work, Feb. 2025.

All events are FREE

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May Sunday 18th

Lino Print Workshop

Facets Studio, Enniscrone, 11am - 2pm

Create art inspired by the sea.

Join local artist Bernie Colhoun for a unique lino print workshop in her studio near Enniscrone Beach. Explore your creativity and connect with the natural beauty of the ocean as you craft your own printed tote bag inspired by the sea's treasures.

Adults only, age 50+ Limited to 6 spaces

FREE workshop, but booking is required.

Email berniecolhoun@gmail.com

May Monday 19th

Mentor

Sessions for Creatives

Slot 1: 10am - 11am

Slot 2: 11.15am - 12.15pm

Slot 3: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

MADE Sligo Craft Collective Shop, No. 3 Wine Street

One on one mentor sessions with ceramic artist Rachel Quinn, from the Made Sligo Craft Collective Shop.

Mentor sessions to assist creatives in discovering their unique voice by providing support, guidance, insights, constructive criticism and direction.

Booking required, email catherinefanning@hotmail.com

Funded by Creative Ireland Sligo

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Sligo Arts Service Programme of Events

May Wednesday 21st

Community Art Exhibition, 11am

**The Benwiskin Centre, Mill Site Stone Building,
Ballintrillick Co Sligo.**

‘at the field edge’ a mixed media art exhibition. The Benwiskin, Art Smart art (Rosses Point) and Seaside Crafters (Enniscrone) art groups join together to bring you a mixed media art exhibition.

The work was created under the artistic guidance and direction of msletb artists and facilitators Aideen Connolly, Andy Parsons and Winifred Mc Nulty.

Join us out in nature at the wonderful Mill Site to view the ‘at the field edge’ project work and find a number of hidden land art work treasures along the walking path.

The project was funded and run by Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board. The festival is delighted to be able to showcase this project as part of our Bealtaine Sligo programme 2025.

Drop by on the day, have a cuppa, view the art and walk in nature.

May Saturday 24th

Music of the Plants, 12pm - 1.30pm

Ard Voltas Art Space, Ballisodare

Free event open to adults age 50+

‘Music of the Plants’

A meditation/performance with Roisin McNamee (with the music of the plants including some spoken word)

As part of the event:

Participants creative response to music of the plants through writing/collage/drawing

A chance to record your own plants song using the music of the plants device.

Record your own house plant song. Your house plant will be connected to a music device that picks up electrical variations in plants leaves and roots which can be turned into pitch and music notes.

Booking required email Roisin roisin@roisintree.com

Bealtaine Festival Sligo 2025

Sligo Arts Service Programme of Events

May Wednesday 28th

Ceramic Workshop, 1pm - 2.30pm

MADE Sligo Craft Collective Shop, No. 3 Wine Street

Free ceramic workshop with potter and artist Tom Callery, from the Made Sligo Craft Collective Shop.

Open to adults age 50+

The ceramic workshop is interactive and hands-on, it gives a unique opportunity to delve into the captivating world of ceramics.

Booking required, email catherinefanning@hotmail.com

Funded by Creative Ireland Sligo

May Saturday 31st

Pulled Open Print Session, 12noon – 2pm

Open to professional artists of all ages

Pulled, ATU Innovation Centre, Ash Lane, Sligo, F91 YW50

This May Puled are linking with the Bealtaine Festival Sligo to host a free intergenerational artist lead skills and experience sharing event.

Puled is a community focussed Printmaking and Artist studio based in Sligo Town. The studio focus is creating and facilitating socially engaged art and providing workspace to visual artists and practitioners.

Pre booking required email info@pulled.ie

For more info see binder.ie

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Bealtaine Workshops for Caregivers

Hosted by Sligo Children's Community Garden in collaboration with artist Ruth Le Gear

Cleveragh Dr, Demesne, Sligo F91X314

This Bealtaine, we're inviting mothers, carers, and all those who give so much of themselves to others —to slow down, breathe, and take some time.

these workshops are for the ones

whose days are made of other people's needs

whose hands are always full,

whose time is never quite their own.

we gather around slow things

dough that asks to rise,

fabric waiting to be mended,

flowers pressed after seasons of tending,

paper made from the very plants we've nurtured,

words written from the quiet spaces we carve for ourselves.

because care takes time.

and beauty takes time.

and healing, too, takes time.

about letting time soften us,

shape us,

remind us we are still here.

These are grown-up only workshops — a rare moment to refill your own cup.

Read more about the programme:

<https://sligochildrenscommunitygarden.com/.../bealtaine...>

Sign up here (spaces are limited preference will be given to members of SCCG):

<https://forms.gle/k3adDJMyYZ142nWcA>

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Art Exhibition

Ballymote Library

Library opening hours apply

An exhibition of paintings by the Ballymote Art Group. The group is lead by Paul Murray, a Sligo based artist and teacher. The Ballymote art Group are made up of a collective of adults and retirees, art enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds, styles and experiences, from beginners to over 30 years' experience.



This years Bealtaine poster image is by Paul Hartel

Artist statement

Hailing from New York and currently residing in the picturesque West of Ireland, I immerse myself in the world of abstract, neo-expressionist, and art brut styles, using a diverse array of mediums such as oil, acrylic, oil stick, pastels, charcoal, and pencil. I firmly believe in creating art for art's sake, valuing the authenticity of spontaneous artistic expression. My creative work celebrates a pure, uninhibited essence while also serving as thought-provoking commentary on various social issues. It is delivered through an energetically raw and improvisational approach. My art bears witness to an unfiltered truth untouched by doubt or reservation. I am driven by an unmitigated sense of urgency, mirroring the vitality of life and all its complex intellectual, emotional, and existential fluctuations. Only through the viewer's perception and genuine appreciation can my artwork transcend and achieve its ultimate fulfilment.

Paul Hartel is a highly acclaimed artist with a strong presence in major cities across the USA and Europe. His captivating artworks are currently on display at the prestigious Green Gallery in Dublin, and Vivid Gallery, Sligo, Ireland.

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