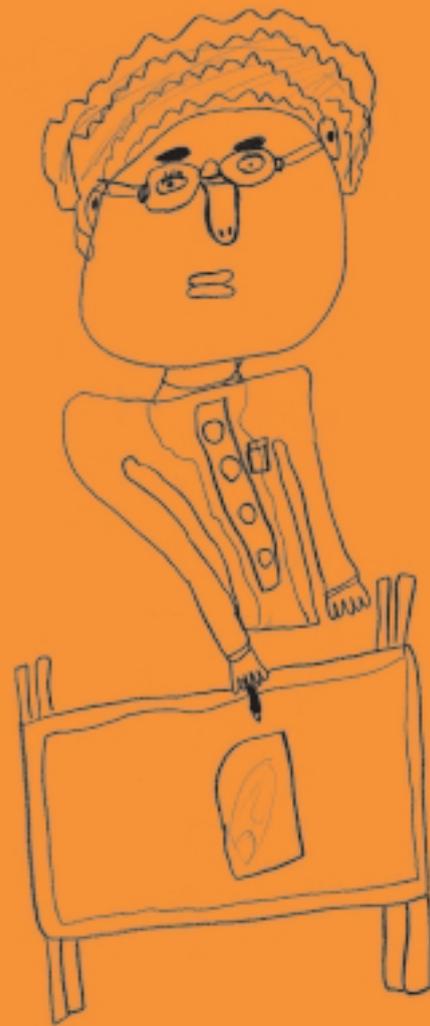


# Séideán Sí

an exhibition of artwork from the  
Maugherow Project 1998-2001.

model arts + niland gallery, sligo.  
august 30th-september 16th.



Michael  
FORAN  
21.9.00



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LISSADELL 5 km



HOUSE  
CHEARNAIGH  
GARNEY  
DODDALL 2 1/2  
LISSADELL

MAUGHEROW



MOUNTAIN VIEW km  
House Accom. 1

Dunfore 9 km  
Farmhouse

LISSADELL

## About the Project

The **Maugherow Project** is an intergenerational arts initiative, which is based, in St. Patrick's National School, Maugherow, Co. Sligo. Initiated in 1998 by Sligo County Council in partnership with the School, it is also supported by the Arts Council and the North Western Health Board.

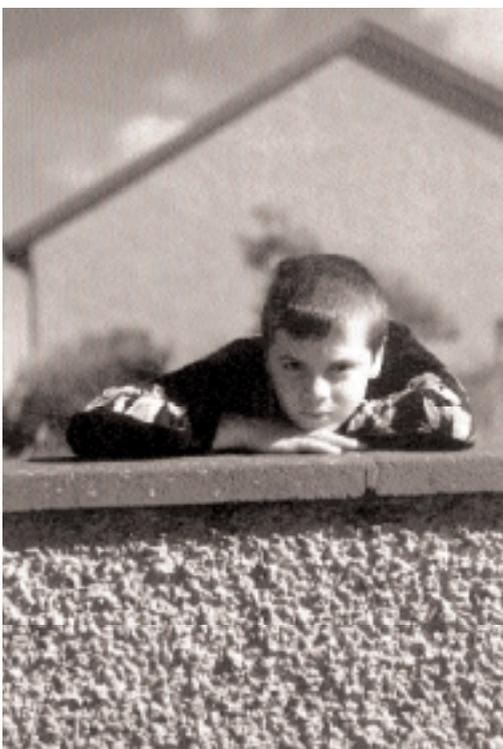
The Project was established in order to explore the potential of using the arts in a school environment; to address the isolation and social exclusion experienced by many older people in rural areas. From the outset, it was considered essential the Project was structured in a holistic manner, which not only benefited older people, but also the school, its students and the wider community.

The Project is grounded in a number of beliefs, which are integral to its implementation.

- Full access and participation in the cultural life of the community is a fundamental right of all citizens.
- Creativity has no age.
- Older people are a mine of experience, skills and insights. A resource in the community, not a burden on it.
- Good community arts practice is not about occupying participants for an hour or two, but facilitating the development of their creativity, art skills and confidence, and encouraging quality artistic work.
- Working with older people is not solely about reflecting on the past, but also about contemplating the present and the future.
- Learning is a lifelong process.
- Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (World Health Organisation definition)
- Arts-based work has a beneficial impact on peoples mental, physical and social well being.
- Consistent interaction between young and old can impact on older person's feelings of life satisfaction and on children's growth, learning and attitudes towards ageing.
- Studying art is a fundamental part of a balanced education. The arts can also provide engaging and motivational entry points to academic study.
- The learning from arts-based activities can make a valuable contribution to social policy development and service delivery.
- We are all interdependent, and collaboration at all levels, allows a holistic approach which brings mutual benefit.



Pictured from top to bottom;  
Kathleen Walsh and Donna Gallagher.  
Mary Mannion.  
Mark McLoughlin.  
Olive Siggins.



A key objective of the Project is to document and evaluate the experience of the Maugherow Project in a way that will inform relevant health, educational, social and cultural policy makers and providers.

Ongoing evaluation has been an important part of the project since 1998 and a substantial evaluation document will be completed in October 2001.

Learning from the Project will drawn up in a publication, which will be available in November 2001. This publication will consider lessons learned and experience gained from a number of perspectives, the older persons, the students, the school, the teachers, the artists, the wider community and the funders. Good practice guidelines will be included. The Projects work has also been documented on video and this too will be available in November 2001.

In September 2001 the Project will host a Seminar entitled **Unwrapping Creativity: An Intergenerational Approach**. The Seminar aims to highlight the philosophy, methodology, successes and challenges of the Maugherow Project and to promote reflection and debate about the wider issues of Arts in Health, and Arts in Education, which are central components of the Project.

#### Project Participants 1998–2001

Anthea Feeney  
Brendan Lenehan  
Brian Dunleavy  
Bridget Currid  
Cathy Dunleavy  
Christopher Dolan  
Clare Gillan  
Conor Boyle  
Daniel Carty  
David Jordan  
Donna Gallagher  
Emma Brady  
Eoin Leonard

Ita Waters  
J.P. Lenehan  
James Donlon  
Jessica Large  
John Dunleavy  
John Legge  
Kathleen Herity  
Kathleen Walsh  
Laura Wilson  
Maeve Leonard  
Mark McLoughlin  
Mary Mannion  
Mary Mitchell

Michael Conway  
Michael Foran  
Michelle Coyle  
Nicola Anderson  
Nicola Currid  
Nigel Gallagher  
Olive Siggins  
Padraig Meehan  
Padraig O Boyle  
Peggy Waters  
Peter Siggins  
Rita Cribben  
Rueben Cummins

Sadie Gillen  
Samantha Feeney  
Shane Leonard  
Sorcha McGinty  
Stephaine Currid  
Stephen McTiernan  
Steven Henry  
Teresa Nicholson



## Séideán Sí

Since 1998, students and older people from the Maugherow area have worked together in the school with various artists. Workshops take place each Thursday morning during term-time. Older participants are picked up from their homes by bus and brought to the school, where they are joined by fifth and sixth class students. To date, 47 people have participated in the Project, ages range from 10 to 78 years.

Project members explored and developed their creative skills using a variety of artforms: drawing, sculpture, painting, drama, creative writing, ceramics and video work. They have gone on field trips and visited abroad range of art exhibits. They have also hosted exhibitions of their own work locally. At every stage they have been guided, encouraged and at times creatively challenged, by skilled and experienced artists.

Participants have worked with great commitment and spirit throughout the Summer in preparation for Séideán Sí. The exhibition presents an ideal opportunity for all involved in the Project to reflect on and celebrate their considerable achievements over the last three years.





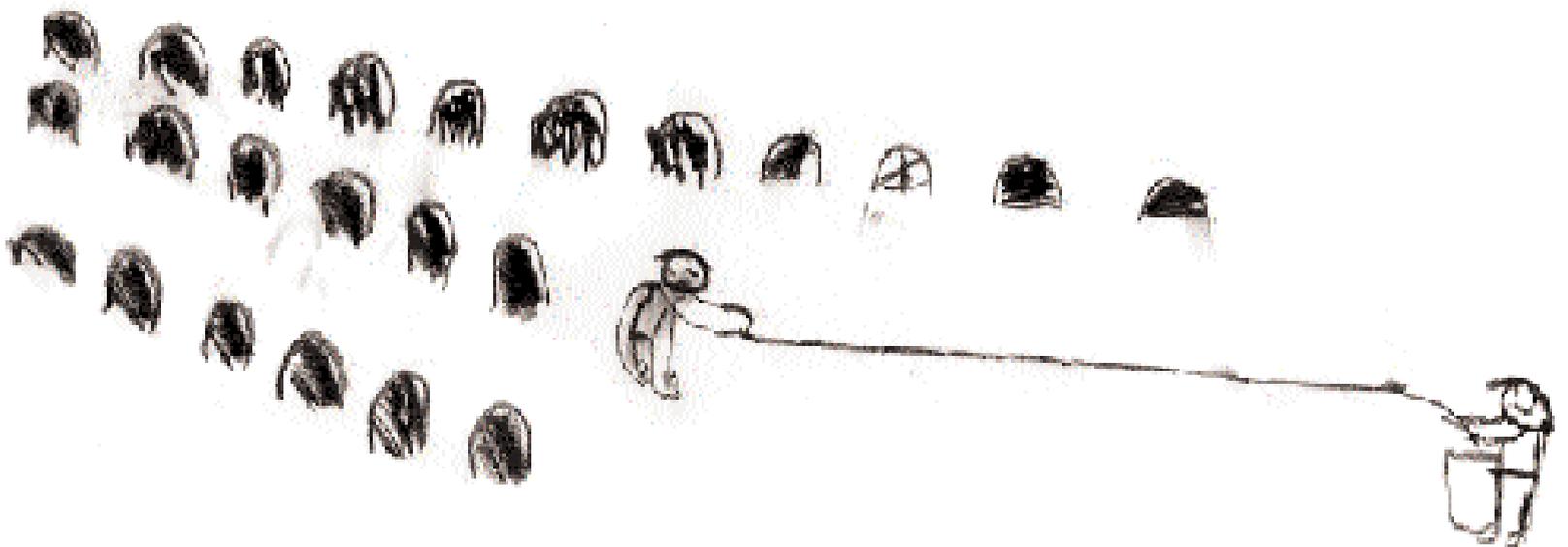
## Writings from Raughley and Lissadell

"Stephen and Professor Potts ran over to see what was wrong. They couldn't believe what they saw. It was an alien. He was examining a load of earth stuff like a knife and a fork, a candlestick holder, a pair of glasses and a Liverpool tee-shirt. The alien saw the humans. He pressed a red button. The UFO began to shake. Jan Screamed. The ship took off on it's journey to outer space, taking Jan, Stephen and Professor Potts with him."

Jessica Large, excerpt from Writings from Raughley, June 2000

"The house inside was beautiful. There was a large entrance hall and on one side of this was the billiard room and library, and on the other side a lovely stairs leading up to all the bedrooms. In front of the hall there was a door leading into the gallery which had beautiful open fireplaces, pictures, piano and two organs. It was here all the parties and dances were held. Off this gallery was Lady Gore-Booth's sitting room, all in pink. One side of this was the dining room with magnificent furniture, china and cutlery. In this room there was a drawing of Mr. Kilgallon who saved the life of Sir Robert Gore-Booth when he was attacked by a bear whilst he was on one of his expeditions. The bear was brought home and stuffed and now stands in the entrance hall. Time has taken its toll and he is getting very dilapidated."

Olive Siggins, excerpt from Lissadell, May 1999





## Participants Comments

- "I found out lots of things about how people lived in the olden days from the older people. I found out how to make a rope from hay, and how Lissadell House was run. I also found out lots more about my area."
- "Being involved with the children seems to energise us."
- "I found out that older people have very imaginative and creative minds."
- "Some people say that older people are boring, but not these ones, they are the complete opposite."
- "Life long learning enables us to catch up on any subject of our choice we may have missed earlier. It's like a new lease of life... It's great to be alive and fit to take part in it all. As the younger generation say, it's cool..."
- "I learned a lot from this project but what I learned mostly is teamwork."
- "We had lots of laughter over it and everybody feels good after a jolly morning."
- "I enjoyed the social side as we were meeting with different people in the community and we were taken to different places and of course the cup of tea and biscuits!"
- "We think that all over Ireland people should start this arts project – old and young!"



#### Project Steering Group;

Des Keaney, Comm. Worker, North Western Health Board.  
Joe Leonard, Principal, St. Patrick's National School.  
Mary McAuliffe, Arts Officer, Sligo County Council.  
Ann O Connor, Maugherow Project Leader, Sligo Co.Co.  
Peggy Waters, Project Participant, Maugherow.

#### The Project steering group would like to thank the Artists & Facilitators who have collaborated closely in the development of the Project;

Martina Coyle, Visual Artist.  
Fionnula Gallagher, Actor.  
Maria Gibbons, Video Worker.  
Sinead Aldridge, Visual Artist.  
John McDwyer, Writer.  
Alan Tweedie, Arts Consultant and Project Evaluator.

#### Others whose contribution to the project has also been invaluable;

Con Lynch, Ceramicist. Barry Lynch, Community Development Consultant. SORCHA CARROLL, Actor. Aída Bangoura, Visual Artist. Catherine Fanning, Visual Artist. David Smith, Typographic Designer. Liz Lennon, Community Development Consultant. Anthony Mannion, Bus Driver Extraordinaire. Gerry Grace, Photographer. John McMorrow, Video Production. Bridget O Connell, Artist. Immelda Peppard, Artist. Cillian Rogers, Artist. Denny Harron, Woodworker. Jho Harris and Sinéad McClure, All Points West. Steve Rogers, Photographer. Odilaun Hunt, AVA. Dermot Healy, Writer and Poet. Lee DeLong, Actor and Director. Perry Share and Padraig McGlowan, Sligo IT. Úna McCarthy, Suzanne Woods, Marion McEnroy and all the staff in the Model Arts and Niland Gallery, Sligo.

#### Special thanks also to the Teachers and Board of Management in St. Patrick's National School, Maugherow (1998–2001);

*Teachers:* Ken O'Hare. Francis Kearns. Mary Leonard. Catherine McGinty.

*Board of Management:* Canon Peadar O Laimhin. Claire Lenahan. Maura Foran. Jim Callaghan. Zita Waters. John L. Conway. Mary Gillan. Nancy Farrell.



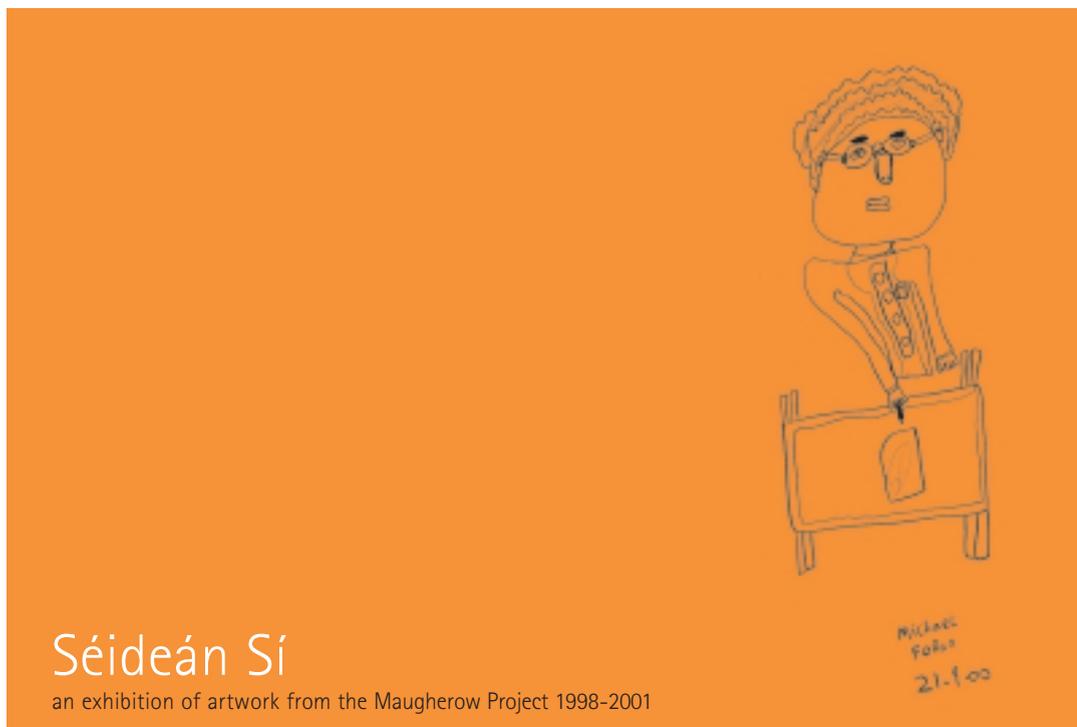
This publication coincides with the exhibition **Séideán Sí**, an exhibition of artwork from the Maugherow Project 1998–2001 at the Model and Niland Gallery, Sligo, August 30th to September 16th, 2001.

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It's an ongoing process keeping our vocabulary up to date. Years ago, grass was fodder for cattle. A joint was the Sunday roast. A mouse was something that peeped put of a hole...

Peggy Waters, excerpt from Writings from Raughley, June 2000

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