



Fragile Expanses

an exhibition of new work by

Violet Dempsey and Eilbhe Donovan

27th August - 30 November 2019

Art at The Ivy House is delighted to present ***Fragile Expanses*** - a two person exhibition of new work by artists **Violet Dempsey** and **Eilbhe Donovan**. The artists have seemingly contrasting and contradictory art practices - Violet - a Dublin based collaborative artist working in the area of community and youth sector and Eilbhe - an avid sea kayaker living in the Seven Heads Peninsula in West Cork. Where their practices and work converge and diverge is in their exploration of nature, their connection to nature both in its uniqueness and in its interconnectedness. Both artists work in ink, watercolour and drawing on paper connecting their work aesthetically.

"My work explores and investigates interconnectivity. How we make creative connections and how we identify the potential to connect within the world we live in. Drawing on nature and mainly on a Buddhist philosophy, my work explores the idea of interconnectedness. In various forms and mediums from watercolour, ink and pen, the work is an expression of human beings' primal drive to connect."
Violet Dempsey

"My studio overlooks a wonderful saltwater marsh with myriad bird populations coming and going. An avid sea kayaker and coasteerer, my ideas come from daily coastal excursions to people-less places. All work is in ink; painting, intaglio and monoprint. Ink is a fickle and contrary medium; it dries of its own accord, resulting in a randomness which creates a lightness & subtlety that I hope justifies the grace of my subject."
Eilbhe Donovan

Violet Dempsey graduated from DIT with a BA Fine Art (Painting) in 1994 and completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Community/Arts/Education from NCAD in 2012. As a Community and Collaborative Artist, Art Teacher and Early Years Practitioner she works with a wide range of groups in a variety of contexts and project. Recent collaborative projects include *Freedom For Kids Program* with Aoibhneas Women and Children Refuge, Coolock; *North Star - Our Personal Journey* with Aoibhneas Women and Children Refuge Coolock; *Community DNA Mural* with Brú Youth Services.

Eilbhe Donovan graduated with a BA (Hons) in Art and Design from West Wales School of the Arts, Carmarthen, Wales in 2004 and completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Education for Art, Craft & Design at Crawford College of Art & Design, Cork in 2010. She has exhibited in many solo and group exhibitions in Ireland and abroad including most recently - *Glasgow Contemporary Art Fair*, Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, Glasgow, UK; *Flights of Fancy*, Cronin's of Crosshaven, Co. Cork; *MAG Swiss*, Montreux, Switzerland; *ArtSource*, RDS, Dublin; *Winter Exhibition*, Group Show, Origin Gallery, Dublin; *West Cork Creates*, Skibereen, Co. Cork

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