



Eyes on Boora Workshop & Exhibition Offaly Culture Night September 22nd 2017

www.eyesonboora.com
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John Berger said “at home, one is nearest to the gods in the sky and to the dead of the underworld”.

As an visual artist from county Offaly, I am never more grounded than when I can look to the sky and feel the underworld beneath my feet out on the bog. For me Lough Boora Parklands, is where I feel a real and tangible sense of home.

I have recently embarked on a new documentary photography project following the success of my book A Bower For Sisters. This time I'm looking at Lough Boora Parklands and its recent rise to become a tourist hotspot, you might say it's Offaly's hidden gem. I believe the story of this community and their attempts to preserve this vitally important environment and our sense of home alive, warrants documentation and recognition.

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As part of this I have been commissioned by Offaly County Council to facilitate a children's exhibition for Culture Night 2017 in Lough Boora Parklands Visitor Centre.

Children from Lumcloon, Broughall and Coolanarney National schools senior classes are invited to a photographic workshop at Lough Boora on September 8th starting at 10.00. I am working on the understanding that we will have 50 pupils taking part, but await official confirmation from all three schools. Here the children will be divided into 10 teams of 5 to create images, documenting what the parklands mean to them. Through this I hope they will gain a broader understand of the power of visual media, and the ability to give their ideas a voice through photography.

In the days following the workshop, would it be possible for the class teachers to put together a class response to the workshop? Basically a couple of paragraphs where the pupils outline what they learned, enjoyed etc? I would hope to include this in a zine to be handed out on the day of the launch.

The pupils are then invited to return to the visitor centre on site on September 22nd to install and launch their very own photographic exhibition. The launch will take place at 15.30 on September 22nd. If we could agree a time for the children to come to the visitor to install the work I would appreciate it, I would hope to have the zine printed by then and we can assign a group of students to compile it and others to install the work. I envisage this to be an interactive process and I will work to ensure it's as simple as possible.

I have created a website and facebook page to go along with this project. www.eyesonboora and Eyes on Boora on Facebook. I would be very grateful if you could post about your participation on your own websites, social media accounts and share my posts also. The more interaction the better. Bord na Mona has also agreed promote the event and project on their own sites and accounts and they are also hiring Jeff Harvey to take publicity shots of the workshop and opening for the local media.

Finally it would be wonderful for each school to nominate one pupil to officiate at the launch. This would involve a short speech welcoming guests etc.

The launch is a public event, pupils and their extended family and friends are encouraged to attend at 15.30 on September 22nd, I would hope to have some

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refreshments for the guests. I believe this provides an opportunity for the children of Boora and the surrounding area to not only take part in Offaly Culture Night 2017, but to charge of the occasion for their community.

I hope this outline provides you with enough information, please get in touch if you have any questions ahead of the 8th.

I look forward to working with you,

Aisling

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Artist Bio

An emerging visual artist skilled in creating intimate photographic documentary. Aisling self published *A Bower For Sisters* in 2015. *A Bower For Sisters* will also be exhibited at Áras an Chontae, Tullamore later this year. A Broadcast Journalist with Newstalk Aisling holds an MA in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography from the University of Arts London's London College of Communication and a BA in Journalism from Dublin City University.

Artistic Achievements:

2017 Light Grey Art Lab, Art Camp Japan.

2015 Self published *A Bower For Sisters* photobook, an intimate portrait of Our Lady's Bower Boarding School and Convent.

2015 *A Bower For Sisters* exhibited at the University of the Arts London

2015 *A Bower For Sisters* exhibited at the Library Project, Temple Bar.

2014 Selected by World Press Photo Ireland for Young Journalist Spotlight at World Press Photo 2014, Dublin.

2014 My T1 Life.

2010 In Her Own World.

2009 Like a Prairie Fire, the GAA at 125 years old.

Masterclass Participation

2016 Hijacking Reality at PhotoWerk Berlin with Boris Eldagsen.

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2013 Roger Ballen, Belfast Photo Festival Masterclass.
2010 Documentary Photography with Kim Haughton, Gallery of Photography Dublin.

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