CREATIVE SHOWCASE

24TH - 30TH MAY 2018
INTRODUCTION:

IT Sligo is located in Ireland’s ‘Creative West,’ a place that has inspired centuries of creative work, from art, architecture and design to literature, music and theatre. The stunning landscape and mythical geography have nurtured a wide array of internationally renowned artists, most notably William Butler and Jack B. Yeats.

Our department offers six distinctive programmes across the disciplines of Arts, Design and Architecture. All programmes are delivered using a vibrant mix of studio work, critical and creative thinking, broad research engagement, with combined facilities and opportunities for interdisciplinary practice.

Our students benefit from a rich educational experience. Whatever their discipline, our priority is to encourage each of our students to develop their unique imagination and creativity to help them acquire the knowledge, skills and experience needed to find their distinctive voice as an actor, architect, artist, designer or writer.

We provide opportunities for students to explore contemporary themes that connect all arts and design disciplines, and enable them to also acquire the business skills that success in any career demands. Our students not only achieve technical mastery of their practice, supported by academic staff, but also develop their critical and intellectual abilities. You can expect a high level of support from highly skilled specialist technicians, as well as access to facilities and services and an excellent library resource.

At IT Sligo our aim is to provide the conditions in which students flourish and achieve their highest potential. Come to IT Sligo to push the parameters of your creativity and to pursue your dreams.
Architecture

Architecture is the art of reconciliation between ourselves and the world, and this mediation takes place through the senses.

Juhani Pallasmaa,
The Eyes of the Skin (2005)

The ethos of Architecture at IT Sligo is a belief in the potential of architecture to transform places. We aim for a strong student-centred and student-led culture and our ambition is to impress upon the students their role in contributing to society as a new generation of architects for this area and beyond.

Architecture at IT Sligo aims to encourage students to develop an understanding of and sensitivity to historical, contextual and cultural influences on the practice of design in a local, national, and global context. Just as poetry possesses universality as well as an acutely personal sentiment, architecture provides another perspective into how we dwell, how we interact and how we seek meaning between ourselves and the world which surrounds us.

We aim to build on our lineage, born of the energy specific to this location on the edge of the Atlantic. We embrace our role in the region as the educational centre supporting discourse and social engagement on the transformative role of architecture and exploring its relevance for future place-making, facilitating active participation of people in realising the potential of their place.

Our philosophical approach to architecture centres on:
- Interpretation of Place
- Regionally Transformative Architecture
- Architectural Regeneration of our Built Heritage
- Human Experience and Perception of Space.
Creative Design

Design creates culture.
Culture shapes value.
Values determine the future.

Robert L. Peters,
Designer of ‘Solace House’

Graduates from these programmes are offered an in-depth education in all aspects of Creative Design. During the course of their studies in IT Sligo they develop essential soft and hard skills that respond to core competencies, from the ability to model and visualise solutions through user-focused research to an awareness of relevant cultural contexts.

Our students understand the diverse and rich contribution design makes to 21st century living.

The most significant aspect of the BA in Creative Design is that it affords the student the opportunity to work and create in a variety of design contexts.

Whether they are designing Apps for people with mobility issues; or creating environments that respond to multigenerational living; or designing accessories for the car of the future, our students learn to work and develop ideas in collaboration with external bodies and companies. These real-life skills are essential ingredients in the designer’s toolbox.

Students also have the opportunity to travel abroad on Erasmus Exchange to the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Vilanova, Spain and Mid Sweden University in Sundsvall, Sweden.
At IT Sligo we offer a three-year BA and a four-year BA (Hons) in Fine Art; both options are studio-based and practice-led. Our programmes offer students a wide experience of materials, processes and ideas within a supportive and stimulating environment. Individual modules include Ceramics, Digital/Lens Based Media, Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture Studies and Visual Literacy. Over the duration of their studies students are encouraged to develop their own particular interests and pathways. There is a special emphasis on Drawing as a tool to connect a diverse range of ideas and activities.

Contemporary and historical art practices are examined through a series of lectures, seminars, field trips and written assignments. Professional Practice and Work in Context modules offer practical, real-world experience within the arts sector. All of our students have individual studio spaces and access to specialised, well-equipped technical workshops.

Our Fine Art lecturers are practicing artists and historians who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to their roles. We organise a visiting artist lecture programme as well as local, national and international study trips.

The beautiful Sligo environment, offering unrivalled outdoor pursuits, is extremely well served as a cultural hub for the entire North West region. With strong ties to art institutions in the region (e.g. The Model, Leitrim Sculpture Centre, The Dock), students are afforded a number of opportunities to gain experience, collaborate with artists/ projects and exhibit in professional environments. Hyde Bridge Gallery award our students an annual graduate exhibition prize and a studio residency award if offered in association with the Ballinglen Arts Foundation.

We equip students with the practical skills, knowledge and intellectual resources necessary for a rewarding career in the arts.
Our vision for Interior Architecture and Design Programmes supports the following core philosophical aspirations: (i) Care for human experience; (ii) Creative response to culture, community and location; and (iii) global engagement and communication.

Care for Human Experience: From first year, interactions with live clients, real sites and diverse design projects provide students with real-world design challenges that respond to the needs of the communities in which their designs are situated. Student projects focus on both the social concerns of the student’s individual locations, as well as human and perceptual responses. Student projects engage directly and positively with their surrounding communities.

Creative response to culture, community and location: The program harnesses the potential of inter-cultural communication and students interpret the specific ‘genius loci’ of the locations or ‘sites’ of their designs.

Global engagement and communication: Discursive visual delivery modes and group design tutorials embrace cross cultural communication, enabling students to share, discuss and engage first hand with diverse global influences. Mixed media modes employed, support graduates who are confident communicators the digital world.

Students are equipped with an industry ready creative and technical skill-set. Our graduates are ethically and professionally motivated, innovative, responsible and versatile design professionals, inspired by current knowledge of the design world and experienced in design collaboration.
Performing Arts

- Theatre Design Graduation Exhibition: Black Box
- Adaptation of Synge’s Playboy of the Western World: Factory Performance Space 25th & 26th May

Our vision is to provide a learning experience that is immersive, practical and creative, producing theatre artists who are self-directed and responsible, who value collaboration and can express themselves through their craft.

In acting, students are introduced to acting techniques, a range of vocal and physical skills and regularly showcase their work. In theatre design, students develop skills in designing for performance, visual research, costume design, lighting design and model-making.

Both acting and design students have opportunities to collaborate with professional practitioners, including directors, writers, scenic artists, filmmakers, light and sound designers. Our programme has a relationship unique in Ireland with The Abbey.

Through the Yeats Bursary, The Abbey provides workshops, consultations, placements, and students have the opportunity to work with Abbey directors. Our programme has added ballast from working with local artists and practitioners as well as Blue Raincoat Theatre Company and The Hawkswell.

Sligo is central to our vision for this course. Seamus Heaney spoke about the significance of place in the imaginative experience, “that nourishment that comes from belonging to or knowing a place.” The landscape and stories connected to Sligo have shaped the spatial and poetic exploration of place encouraged in this programme. Landscapes, ruins, dolmens, passage tombs, and sites connected to Irish mythology and folklore have been used for performance, design, filmmaking and storytelling.

We read, imagine, design, make, reimagine, adapt, perform, and create stories in every module. Be it voice, body, movement, performance, space, words - we are making narratives.
Writing is about what’s on the page – but it’s also about the world. It’s about the geese over Maugherow. It’s about crouching in the lee of the storm in Dermot Healy’s cottage reading poetry to your class. It’s about reading on the same stage with Kevin Barry and Lisa McInerney. It’s about taking pictures and storytelling. It’s about listening. It’s about looking. Sometimes, it’s about being still.

The Writing & Literature BA is in its first year, and the showcase reflects some of the work developed over the past months: words, websites, photographs, books, videos, story.

In addition to the writing workshop, students have developed skills in digital storytelling, building websites, video editing, bookbinding and have read and analysed short stories, essays, poetry, plays, and novels, enriching their own experience of writing and their practice.

Our writers have stepped into the world – to a patch of grass on campus that became an imagined crime scene, to Beckett in Hazelwood, to artists’ studios in the Model, to the coast, and further – the Seamus Heaney Centre, the bog bodies in the National Museum. Some of our students have shared their work at readings this year and several have published in literary journals.

The programme is delivered through interactive workshops. Visiting writers – including novelists, poets, screenwriters, playwrights, bloggers, journalists, as well as editors, agents and publishers – give seminars and talks.

Students have started a portfolio of writing which they will continue to develop over the next two years in a supportive and professional learning environment.
IT Sligo School of Engineering and Design

Courses in Arts, Design and Architecture

Level 8 Honours Degree (Ab-Initio)
- SG347 BArch in Architecture (Hons)
- SG245 BA (Hons) in Creative Design
- SG244 BA (Hons) in Fine Art
- SG241 BA (Hons) in Performing Arts
- SG249 BA (Hons) Writing & Literature

Level 7 Ordinary Degree
- SG331 BA in Interior Architecture and Design
- SG236 BA Performing Arts (Acting)
- SG235 BA Performing Arts (Theatre Design)
- SG232 BA in Creative Design
- SG231 BA in Fine Art

Level 8 Honours Degree (Add-On)
- BA (Hons) Creative Design
- BA (Hons) in Fine Art
- BA (Hons) in Interior Architecture and Design (On-line)