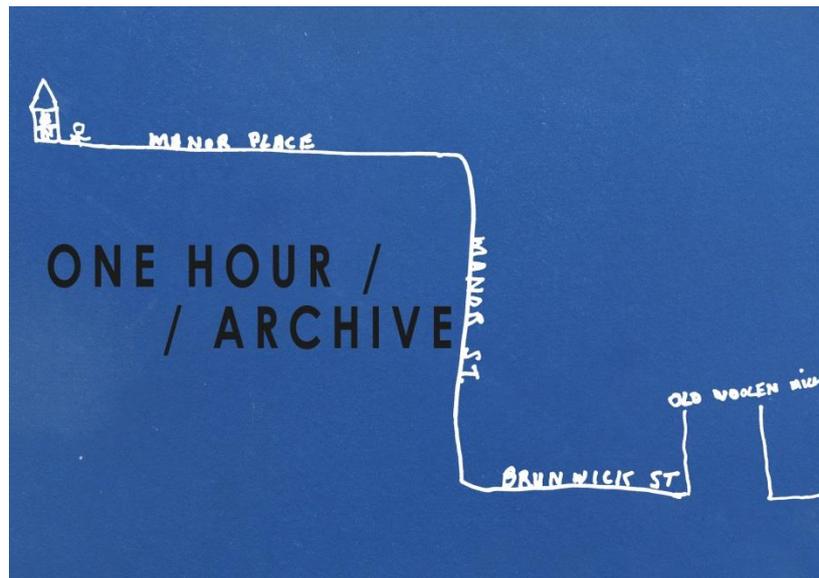


Grangegorman's Senior Residents Intrigue with their Life Tales in Urban Living



One Hour Archive (OHA) is a community based art project, made in partnership with An Síol. Taking its lead from the quote; ‘...the lives we live’ OHA asks the senior residents of Grangegorman to creatively engage in conversation around the lives they have lived, in particular the lives lived throughout Stoneybatter’s diverse social and industrial histories. This engagement manifests in the form of one-hour-long community gatherings at The Darkroom (an independently run arts space in Stoneybatter) and at An Síol’s local community resource centres throughout Stoneybatter.

Within living memory, Stoneybatter boasts a rich history of industry, agriculture, commerce and social engagement that come together in a dynamic tapestry full of stories and personal experiences. Much of these personal histories live in a tradition of storytelling and thus are at risk of being lost, yet still play an integral role in understanding the history of the area. It is the aim of OHA to represent the importance of these stories through documentation and creative engagement.

Chair of the Grangegorman Public Art Working Group Ciarán Benson, commented on the challenge as well as the enriching nature of this initiative for all participants in the context of the redevelopment of Grangegorman. He said: “The Public Art Working Group is currently supporting eight community-based arts projects. A project of this nature accommodates residents wishing to naturally engage in conversations that have meaning in their lives whilst at the same time being creatively challenged and supported in coproduction.”

Working in partnership with *One Hour Archive* Owen Binchy of An Síol stated: “When you embark on journey like this it is impossible to presume what will evolve and develop. The beauty about life and people is it is made up of many colours and contrast that will always have the capacity to surprise and challenge your preconceptions. I am excited to see where it takes us and the seniors of Stoneybatter. Art has not always been inclusive and bringing it into everyday life and using it challenge stereotypes and the dross of everyday life. I think this programme will be innovative and meaningful”.

Mairead Tully, also of An Síol added: “A project like OHA is so important to communities like Stoneybatter because it recognises the wisdom of lived experience in older generations and gives a voice to those who otherwise might not be heard.”

Commenting on taking part in the project, participant Alice Fitzsimons notes: "I think a project like this gives older people a chance to talk and be a part of something exciting." Alice has been living in Stoneybatter for 80 years and is a key participant of *One Hour Archive*.

One Hour Archive will develop in three stages;

-Beginning with a programme of 12 community gatherings at the Darkroom, a multi-media record of succinctly personal and interpersonal stories emerges through group mapping exercises, artist led conversations, sharing of family archives and other means.

-Drawing from the material gathered, a collaborative editing stage will emerge whereby participants in the project will help shape the form of the work to be made.

-The conclusion of the work is expected to coincide with the Mayday celebrations, with a public presentation of the work in Grangegorman expected on Monday May 1st.

Artist Bio

As a graduate of IADT's BA Photography programme, Louis Haugh is a visual artist working both independently and collaboratively in Dublin with photography, sound, installation and text. Haugh's work showcases an intimate relationship with people and places, borrowing from photography's rich history of practice to make visible these otherwise unseen relationships.

Haugh's working methods are both socially and creatively engaged, with each creative process often being connected to a wide gamut of people, places or organisations. As a result, Haugh produces work that is both co-authored and collaboratively made.

'...the lives
we live'

grangegorman
public art



1: Extract from 'Dreams of a Summer Night', New Collected Poems (2011), by kind permission of the author, Derek Mahon, and The Gallery Press.

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