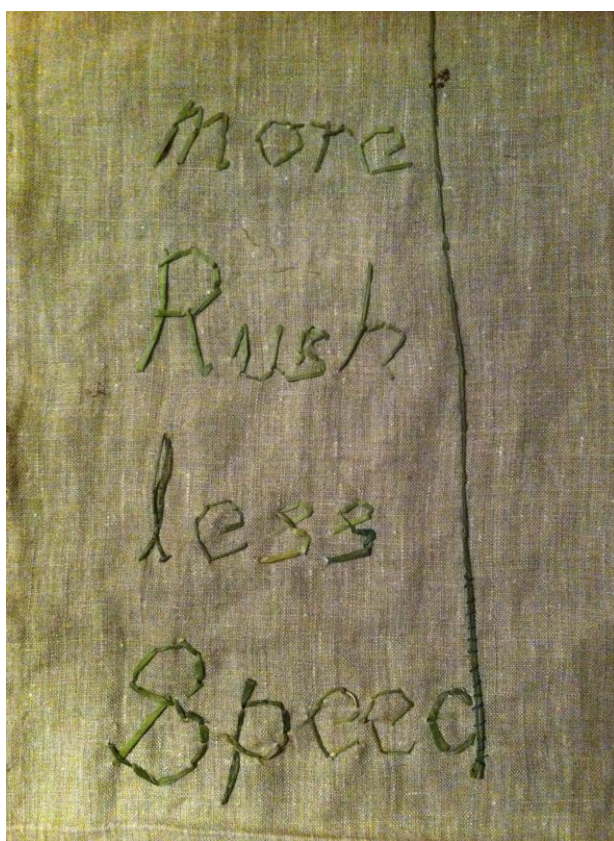


Blogpost #antainartists

## Úna Curley | Louth Heritage and Mi Camino a Través del Arte Exhibition

This exhibition title is inspired by the current popular trend to 'do the Camino' referring usually to the Camino de Santiago. A Pilgrim Camino, or Journey, is one of self-discovery, unravelling, reflection, meditation and ultimately greater awareness. My Camino began much closer to home, not with a good pair of walking shoes but by unpicking a few stitches, tying the yarn to a nail and walking on in blind faith...

As I curated the exhibition to represent my journey through art, I was struck by how appropriate that it was set in the Basement Gallery. The gentle slope downwards through the cells for the unravelling, where we explore the detail of the past craft industries of flax growing and shoemaking to find answers, and the rising or emergence from the personal experience. The basement, which used to be the holding cells for those awaiting sentencing, echoes containment, which is a big feature of my work. Of course, the similarities to the life of St. Bridget cannot be overlooked with the space for quiet contemplation set up in one of the cells and the use of rushes to narrate the story and share the message to slow down.



Recycled linen embroidered with rushes

*'Rush (k)not through life to dismiss what has gone,  
to reach a destination that might not exist  
but rest awhile to enjoy  
that is being presented to you  
for you to experience  
in your own unique and special way'.*

Úna

Úna Curley is An Táin Arts Centre's visual artist in residence. Úna will be in residence in the Basement Gallery studio during July, August and September 2016. Follow her progress on Twitter @una\_curley #antainartists