

Blog Post #3 - Reflection – December 11th 2018

Now that I've had time to reflect on my Summer residency, I'd like to leave some final thoughts about my three months in An Táin Arts Centre. Overall I very much enjoyed the experience and felt it was a very beneficial and productive time. The staff at An Táin Arts Centre, namely Paul, Elaine and Linda as well as everyone else behind the scenes, were great at providing assistance and helping with any questions I had. I'm very thankful for their support as well as to the Arts Council for funding the residency.

The only doubts I had coming into the residency was that it could be daunting going from a hectic few months putting my degree show together, to working full time in a studio. I decided to work around this by making work that was very different than what I made for my degree show. Rather than sticking with one particular theme or technique, I used the time to experiment with different mediums such as collage, drawing, painting, print and sculpture, as well as different subjects, from portraiture to images of Dundalk itself.



Since I was having an open studio event for Culture Night rather than a solo exhibition, as to not clash with my solo exhibition in Droichead Arts Centre next year, it was freeing to be able to experiment without the restriction of making a cohesive body of work. I ended up getting a number of new ideas that will inform my work going forward.

The highlight of my residency was being able to work on large-scale public artworks rather than exclusively working in a studio indoors like I usually do. The warm weather certainly helped and it was great to see people's reactions and get feedback as I was making the High Cross Installation at Arcadian Field festival and the mural off Park Street. I enjoyed the opportunity to explore making art in a public setting to engage with the local community.

