

Blogpost Blogpost #antainartists

Roseann Berrill

Tanabata

As we are in the midst of festival season, and on our beautiful Island we have more than our fair share of amazing music, culture and arts festivals, I have been looking a little further ashore for inspiration.

Tanabata, also known as the Star Festival is a Japanese festival dating back over 2,000 years ago and it celebrates an old Chinese legend of the meeting of two deities, Orihime and Hikoboshi. According to the legend, the Milky Way separates the two star-crossed lovers and they are only allowed to meet once a year on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month. Tanabata begins on the 7th July. For Tanabata the Japanese tradition is celebrated by writing wishes or poetry on small colorful pieces of papers and hanging them on bamboo branches. Alternatively, bamboo branches are also adorned with small brightly colored paper decorations. The streets are turned into the colorful Milky Way, with large-scale extravagant decorations, huge rainbow streamers, origami in multitudes all sparkle with paper lanterns.

A combination of celebration and craft-making, I want to create beautifully crafted interactive objects that evoke a sense of nostalgia with a lighthearted playfulness, with all the colours of the Milky Way.





Roseann Berrill is An Táin Arts Centre's visual artist in residence. Roseann will be in residence in the Basement Gallery studio during July, August and September 2017. Follow her progress on Instagram @rosieberrill #antainartists