

Blogpost #antainartists  
Roseann Berrill

VAI

The Visual Artists Ireland Get Together 2017 was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September in IMMA, Irish Museum of Modern Art. Ireland's National Day for Visual Artists, a day of coming together with talks, clinics, presentations, information sharing and networking, and I was excited to attend as part of my residency with An Tain Arts Centre. The day featured speed curating, portfolio reviews, one on one clinics, artists talks, film and the visual artists café, all set with the beautifully elegant backdrop that is IMMA.

The clinics were dotted throughout the day and offered a focused one-on-one advice session on whether it being a particular area of your career you need help or seek advice, or to gain some insight and information on your practice. These sessions lasted around 20 minutes and provided advice in many areas such as portfolio review, proposal writing, Curatorial to legal, self employment and help promoting your work. In the afternoon I was eager to meet with Emma Dwyer with a background in architecture and publishing. It was very relaxed and informal, with myself and Emma having a chat where she viewed and gave feedback on my work, gave me some solid advice on direction and promoting my work.

Throughout the day there were some interesting and thought provoking panellist discussions, artists talks from Sue Rainsford and Joanne Laws about research and writing practice. There was also a great talk from Marie Korpe and Ole Reitov – co-founders of Freemuse, the world's leading organisation defending artistic freedom. The theme of this year's programme was The Freedom to Make. Keeping within the theme the two discussed how personal, political, religious and social attitudes impact on ideas, test the limitations of freedom of artistic expression, and address how violations can be monitored.

A film screening of Erik Bunker's 'The third Man' played throughout the day.

The Great Hall space hosted many representatives from arts organisations and galleries from all over the country to showcase their services, from NCAD, A4 Sounds, The Arts Council, Create, RUA RED, Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, The Hugh Lane Gallery and our own local Creative Spark Studio.

All in all it was a great day for generating discussion and opportunities, making new connections and an amazing opportunity to have both artists and curators in the industry look at your work, give feedback and gain insight and clarification in a professional and friendly setting. Something I look forward to attending next year.

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

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