

Blog post #2 – September 3rd 2018

Heading into the second month of my residency at An Táin Arts Centre, I wanted to continue working on large scale, outdoor art in public spaces, so I started working towards painting a mural. I approached Martin McElligott from the Dundalk BIDS (Business Improvement District Scheme) Office and told him I was looking for a wall to paint on in the town. He told me they had a vacant wall at the side of Roe River books in the alleyway that connects the Ramparts to Park Street. After consulting with Martin and Tom Muckian who owns the book shop, we agreed on a suitable design based on the idea of a Parisian style cityscape. Given that the surface of the wall was pebble-dash, I had to consider the challenging nature of the texture to paint and work with a simple, graphic design. I believe street art has the power to transform the landscape of urban environments as seen in places such as Waterford and Philadelphia thanks to publically-funded initiatives and it's great that the BIDS Office are supporting this type of art.



A couple of weeks ago, I held an open call for images of Dundalk which I would use to form the basis of a second mural. After receiving a variety of both archival and modern photos, I began experimenting with different compositions and ways of combining them through a series digital collages. I also plan on starting on some new screen prints in the coming days and will use that as another way to develop ideas for it. It'll be my first time doing printmaking since finishing college in June so I'm looking forward to getting back to it!



For the month of September I have the opportunity to use the Basement Gallery space where I will be displaying my current works in progress. Since it's not a set exhibition, pieces will be added to it throughout the month. The main event will be on Culture Night with an opening reception accompanied by a collaborative live drawing piece. My childhood friend Tommy McGovern and his band will also be performing some music on the night from his upcoming album which I'm doing the album artwork for. When I was at college in Limerick, Culture Night was always one of the most anticipated events of the year, in which a number of cultural events and exhibitions were celebrated with a party-like atmosphere. I'm hoping this year's Culture Night at An Táin Arts Centre will be able to provide the same experience and offer something of value to people of all ages.



Sean McGill is An Táin Arts Centre's visual artist in residence. Sean will be in residence in the Basement Gallery studio during July, August and September 2018. Follow his progress on Instagram @seanmcguillart #antainartists