

Raymond Watson

Mob: 077545 95370

Email: [raymie.watson@gmail.com](mailto:raymie.watson@gmail.com)

Web site: [www.thehandsofhistory.com](http://www.thehandsofhistory.com)

[www.irishartworld.com](http://www.irishartworld.com)

[www.belfastflags.com](http://www.belfastflags.com)

### **Employment**

Current Visual Artist

### **Societies and Organisations**

Member Visual Artists Ireland

### **Education**

1989 - 93 Master of Philosophy University of Ulster

1986 - 89 BA Honours University of Ulster

### **Statement**

I am an artist who creates public artwork, gallery art, audio visual installations, audio soundscapes and largescale art in the community projects. I work with any material required to manifest the theme I want to explore.

I have exhibited and worked widely in Ireland and in a number of international venues - New York, France, Spain, India, England, South of Ireland, Holland, Israel/Palestine and the Basque Country. I have produced a number of site-specific installation pieces in Ireland, Spain, India, Italy and the Basque Country. I have produced a number of pieces of public art locally; most of which have been made in close contact with local communities and schools. My practice is diverse and hybrid – site specific installations, site specific material, personal materials, sound and photography. I have worked with mud, bamboo and rice straw in India, ice and steel in Belfast, oranges in Valencia and have created soundscapes and audio visual installations. Although much of my work revolves around topics of dislocation, human rights and visions for a better world, I also like to create beautiful things and to visualise poetry and mythical stories.

### **Some recent and significant international and local arts activities:**

**2020:** Solo exhibition Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast

**2020:** Recorded and produced soundscape, 'Weaving – Israel Palestine.

**2020:** Recorded and composed experimental album. Unlocking 3.

**2019:** Composed experimental soundscape Vinyl album, titled Unlocking, Yard Side/Garden Side.

**2018/19:** Residency project, Um Al Fahm, Israel/Palestine

**2018:** The Hands of History +20, major solo exhibition, Victoria Gallery Liverpool

**2017:** Joint international exhibition, Nothing But Longing, Void Gallery, Derry City

**2017:** Book, written and collated, Ireland Versus Israel – Penkiln Burn Books.

**2015/16:** Israeli Ireland residency project and exhibition.

**2014:** Workshops at ArTifarti Festival, Western Sahara, Africa

**Summer 2013:** Kids Gernika International Art Project, for display at Derry City of Culture celebrations. Venue of exhibition – Gas Yard Centre and Cushendall Youth Centre.

**In 2015** the Kids Gernika project was displayed at Hosishima commemoration and other important sites in Japan.

**2013 autumn:** Published art book re art and conflict. Title: The Cell Was My Canvas. This was also translated to German and released as an e-book in Germany, 2015/16.

**2013: Bridging Cultural Divides Programme.** Expressionist Art sessions for team building and self-expression. Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency, Armagh Business Centre Ltd.

Banbridge District Enterprises and the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership - European Union's PEACE 111 Southern Partnership.

**2013: Work 4 You Plus**, I provided cross community art workshops to mature groups, and provided 'Champion Leadership' program to teenagers on the WIN, Youth Development Program.

**Dec 2012: The ICD Annual Conference on Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin.** Presented the paper - **The Power of Arts & Culture to Promote Democracy & Global Peace.**

**Oct 2012: Art and Social Justice Conference.** I presented and conducted workshops at 3<sup>rd</sup> Art and Social Justice gathering, Gernika, Basque Region, Spain.

**Aug. 2011: Belfast Flags of Hope.** Belfast. Created 10,000 individual artworks with community groups to present the largest art display ever seen in Belfast.

**2010:** Residency at Cacus, Contemporary Arts Centre, Catalonia, Spain.

**Nov 2008:** I conducted a teaching residency at **Santiniketan**, The Tagore International University of Art, in West Bengal, India, instructing post grads and undergrads in sculpture techniques.

**Aug. 2008:** Participated in **13Isolations**, a prison residency art project and exhibition in Hoorn, Holland.

**Autumn 2008.** I exhibited in **Fis 2008**, part of the Liverpool European City of Culture celebrations.

**Sept /Oct 2008.** Exhibited in the Independent **Liverpool Biennial.**

**Sept. 2007.** I represented Northern Ireland at the 3<sup>rd</sup> **International Gathering of Artists for Peace, in Gernika, the Basque Country.**

**Jan – Apr 2007,** I conducted a four month residency project in Calcutta, India. I worked with deprived young people and produced a large temporary installation, **The Helix of Hope.**

**Mar. 2007,** I presented and discussed my work with a large audience of academics and students at Santiniketan, The International University of Peace, founded by Rabindranath Tagore, in West Bengal, India.

**Ongoing:** My artwork is included in the **International Humanist Art Archive, Melbourne Australia**

**December 2005.** I was commissioned to produce an outdoor installation for the **1V Encuentro Internacional Artistas para la Paz** (4<sup>th</sup> International meeting of Artist for Peace), in **La Vall d'Uixo, Spain.** A painted element of the installation is on permanent exhibition in the **Municipal Library in Vall d'Uixo.**

**Sept. 2005.** I had work exhibited with the **RUA** in the **Ulster Museum Belfast.**

**Aug. 2005.** I organised the **International Humanist Arts events** and the **International Humanist Art Archive Exhibition** in **Conway Mill, Belfast.**

**June 2005.** I presented and discussed my work at the **Foc Art Festival, Moncofa, Spain.**

**March 2005.** I was an **Arts Delegate** at the **Crossing Borders, Crossing Waters International arts project, Cork, Ireland.**

**2004.** I presented and discussed my work at the **Peace Pedagogy Conference, Gernika, the Basque Country.**

**2003.** I represented Ireland at the **1<sup>st</sup> International Gathering of Artists for Peace in Gernika, 2003.** At this same Gathering I travelled with an International group of artists to schools and community centres to conduct workshops with hundreds of local people.

#### **All Exhibitions and events:**

Feb. 2023 Talk/Presentation

NI Science Festival, Belfast, Artisan Gallery.

Feb. 2023 Talk/Presentation

My life as an artist. Cushendall, To the u3a, Glens.

Feb. 2023 Exhibition

Apis Mellifera/The Honey Bee. Artisan Gallery, Belfast.

May 2022. Mural project	St. Joseph's School, Newry. Work 4 U+ Newry
April 2022. Special event	Presentation and discussion on topic of Refugees. Cushendall Old Church Community Centre.
March 2022 Art and Law Network	Exhibition, panel presentation and workshop Imagine Belfast Festival. Conway Mill.
2022 Peace Through Film	Contributed as presenter of international event exploring the conflict in Cameroon, Africa
2021 Art, Law, and the Borders	Open University, art/law network.
2021. Pathos, Calabria, Italy	Art production workshops with refugees/migrants
2021. 2 <sup>nd</sup> wall mural project	Produced 2 large painting projects.
2020. Wall mural project	Work4Uplus, Newry community project.
2020. Contributed a chapter	Work4Uplus, Newry community project.
March 2020 – soundscape	To the academic publication 'Arte En Prison', Artists and Narratives
Feb. 2020 - Experimental sound	'Weaving', Sounds of Israel + Palestine
2020. Can Art Stop a Bullet	Unlocking 3. With harp, piano, Txalaparta.
Dec/Jan. 2020 Solo Exhibition	I featured in William Kelly film about artist across the globe who use art to build peace
Jun. 2019 Solo Exhibition	Golden Thread Gallery. Hands of History +20
2018-19 Album launches.	ArtisAnn Gallery. Seamus Heaney themed exhibit.
Spring 2019 Radio features	Local and international launches of the soundscape album, Unlocking
Dec. 2019 Album release	Unlocking featured on Arts Extra, Micky Bradley, and BBC Radio Ulster, Soundscapes
Apr. 2018 Solo Exhibition	Unlocking. 40mins. Soundscape. Composed with Crumlin Rd., prison keys.
Apr. 2018 Joint Exhibition	The Victoria Museum and Gallery, Liverpool
Feb. 2017 Joint Exhibition	Peace and Beyond, British Council, Belfast
Aug 2016 Solo Exhibition	Void Gallery, Derry. Nothing but Longing
Aug 2014 Solo Exhibition	Brighter Syndrom, Duncairn Arts Centre
Spring 2014 Solo Exhibition	Mystery of Brighter, Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, Newry
Winter 2013 Solo exhibition	Brighter Boat, Ards Borough Arts Centre
2013: Kids Gernika	Towards Brighter, Roe Valley Arts Centre
Aug 2012 Solo Exhibition	Community Art International painting project.
Aug 2012 Solo Exhibition	Cushendall, Co. Antrim. 'pop-up gallery'
Nov. 2011 Solo Exhibition	St Mary's College, West Belfast Festival
2010/11 Belfast Art Flags	Ballyeamon Barn Gallery, Co. Antrim
Aug.2009 Solo Exhibition	Belfast Flags of Hope, outdoor exhibition
Jan 2009 Solo Exhibition	Feile an Phobal, Belfast, The Shot Lock.
Aug. 2008 Residency	Waterfront Hall, Belfast. With Martin Lynch
July 2008 Fis 2008	Theatre release - Long Kesh
May 2008 Solo Exhibition	13Isolations, Hoorn, Holland
Sept. 2007 Joint exhibition.	Novas CUC, Liverpool
Aug. 2007 Solo exhibition	The Shot Lock. John Hewitt, Belfast
Aug. 2006 Solo Exhibition	International Gathering of Artists for Peace Gernika, Basque Country
May 2006 Installations	An Culturlann Gallery, Belfast
Feb. 2006 Solo exhibition	Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh
Sept 2005 Exhibited	Barriers of Belief. Lagan Tunnel, Belfast
	Cathedral Quarter Festival
	Hands of History James Joyce House, Dublin
	RUA, Ulster Museum, Belfast

Aug 2005 Joint Exhibition	International Humanist Art Archive
May 2005 Solo Exhibition	Culture House, Gernika, Spain
Jan. 2005 Solo exhibition	Lyric Theatre, Belfast
Nov. 2004 Solo exhibition	Belfast Festival at Queens.
Aug. 2004 Solo Exhibition	An Culturlann, Belfast
Aug. 2004 Solo Exhibition	Installation exhibition, 'Cultural Barriers', Conway Mill, File An Phobal, Belfast
2004 Joint exhibition	Kenny Gallery, Galway
April 2004 Joint exhibition	Culture House, Gernika, Spain
Sept 2003 Solo exhibition	Hands of History, Belfast Festival @ Queens
May 2003 Joint exhibition	Space Gallery, Conway Mill, Belfast
Mar. 2003 Solo exhibition	An Culturlann, Belfast
Aug. 2002 Joint exhibition	Upper Springfield Dev. Trust, Belfast
July 2002 Joint exhibition	John Hewitts Pub Gallery, Belfast
June 2002 Joint exhibition	The Space Gallery, Conway Mill, Belfast
Nov. 2001 Solo exhibition	Irish Arts Center, New York, USA
July 2001 Solo exhibition	Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Dublin
June 2001 Joint exhibition	Space Gallery, Conway Mill, Belfast
May 2001 Solo exhibition	Cathedral Quarter Festival, Belfast
July 2000 Solo exhibition	Irish Arts Center, New York, USA
March 2000 Solo exhibition	An Culturlan, Belfast
Oct.1999 Solo exhibition	Space Gallery, Conway Mill, Belfast
Autumn 1999 Joint exhibition	Canal Gallery, Newry, Co Down
Autumn 1999 Joint exhibition	Ilaine Somers Gallery, Co. Down
Autumn 1996 Solo exhibition	An Trian Centre, Armagh, Co. Armagh
Spring 1996 Solo exhibition	The Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart

### **Community projects**

**Most of the projects described below as 'outdoor commissions' were completed through working directly with schools and community organizations.**

<b>2021. Pathos, Calabria, Italy</b>	I conducted workshops with refugees/migrants
<b>2021. 2<sup>nd</sup> wall mural project</b>	Work4Uplus, Newry community project.
<b>2020. Wall mural project</b>	Work4Uplus, Newry community project.
<b>2018/2019</b>	Um Al Fahm Gallery, Kids Guernca, Israel
<b>2016/2017</b>	Workshops. Jerusalem School of Arts, Israel
<b>2015</b>	Conducted sculpture workshops for Men's Shed projects and Moyle District Council comm. group.
<b>2014</b>	Kids Guernica, International painting project, Cushendall and Broughshane youth clubs.
<b>2014</b>	Wall mural project, WIN Enterprise, Newry
<b>Summer 2012</b>	International Cow Parade project.
<b>2011 Aug.</b>	Belfast Flags 10,000 art flags, largest community art/painting project in Ireland.
<b>2010</b>	Belfast Flags of Hope, schools project.
<b>Summer 2009</b>	'Come Join Us' bronze relief sculpture, Newhill Community Centre
<b>2009, An Croi</b>	Stone/bronze sculpture. With Suicide Awareness Group
<b>Harpurs Hill, Coleraine</b>	Wall mural project, community project
<b>Jan/Apr 2007 India</b>	Helix of Hope, Calcutta, India
<b>Spring 2006</b>	Healing through Remembering and An Coiste community project.
<b>2006</b>	The Dream Catcher, public sculpture Ballycastle.
<b>Autumn 2005</b>	The Kicks, workshops and outdoor bronze sculpture – Poleglass.

<b>Autumn 2005</b>	Hands on Wall, mural/sculpture, Poleglas, Belfast
<b>Summer 2005</b>	Workshops and sculpture, Tullymore, Andersonstown
<b>Summer 2004</b>	Series of workshops and outdoor sculpture, St Gerard's special needs adults – with USDT.
<b>Summer 2003</b>	Series of workshops and outdoor bronze plaques for Tir Na hOg Park, Springhill. USDT
<b>Autumn 2002</b>	Conducted arts project with special needs pupils St. Gerard's Education Centre
<b>Autumn 2002</b>	Conducted community arts project, USDT
<b>Summer 2002</b>	Conducted Arts Open Week, Conway Mill
<b>Summer 2001 – Groundworks NI</b>	Sculpted number of pieces for Mount Vernon Community Centre
<b>Summer 2001 – Groundworks NI</b>	Sandy Row Community Centre. Created sculpture, and workshops with local children
<b>Spring 2001 – Conway Mill</b>	Conducted an Arts Open Week
<b>Summer 2000 – NIVT</b>	Conducted a series of sculpture workshops at Benedy Community Centre, Co. Derry
<b>Autumn 2000 – NIVT</b>	Set up community exhibition in Arts Centre, Cookstown, Co. Derry
<b>Autumn 2000 – Groundworks NI</b>	Conducted series of sculpture workshops at Rostulla Special Needs School, Belfast.
<b>Outdoor Commissions</b>	
Oct. 2022	The Owl. Wood sculpture. Cushendun
Summer 2009	'Come Join Us' bronze relief sculpture, Newhill Community Centre
2009, An Croi	Stone and bronze sculpture.
2008 Mural	Harpurs Hill, Coleraine, Wall mural project
Autumn 2007, Swatragh	Extensive wall mural project, Swatragh
2007 Helix of Hope	Bamboo, rice straw, clay; Calcutta, India
2006/7 The Dreamcatcher	Steel and Aluminium, Photography, Ballycastle
Dec. 2005, The Kicks	Bronze sculpture, Poleglass, Belfast
Nov. 2005, Finn and the Causeway	Bronze sculpture, Lenadoon, Belfast
Aug.2005, Our Hands Our Future	Wall sculpture and mural, Glenbawn
Aug. 2005 Salmon of Knowledge	2 Sculptures, Tullymore Comm.Centre
May 2005, 'Hands on'	Bun Scoil, Slieve Dubh, Belfast
2004, Seat of Tara,	Tree sculpture, Teach na Ban, Belfast
2003, Tir na hOg	Bronze plaques located in Tir na hOg Park
Sept. 2002, Poetree	Tree sculpture, Upper Springfield Development Trust
Nov. 2002, The Gatepost	Portaferry Promenade, Ards Borough Council
Mar. 2002, The Spirits	Carnaget Comm. Group, Daisy Hill Park, Newry
Jan. 2002, St. Column's	Derry City Council, St. Column's Park, Derry
Nov. 2001, Dilworth Cross	Unique bog oak Celtic Cross, Royal School, Dungannon
Aug 2001 – Groundworks NI	Outdoor sculpture, Lancaster ST. Park
May 2001, Dulra	Outdoor sculpture, Drumlamph Wood, Co. Derry. Comm. By The Woodland Trust
May 2001, The Jockey	Outdoor sculpture, Sandy Row Community Centre. Comm. by Groundworks NI
Sep. 2000, Charabanc	Outdoor sculpture, Star of the Sea School, Belfast. Comm. By Groundworks NI
June 2000, The Nymph	Corrog Wood, Co. Down, by Woodland Trust

### **Corporate Commissions and Collections**

Feb. 2003-23 – Celtic Media Festival Mooney Hotel Group 2008 2006. Novas Scarmen, CUC Liverpool	Bronze Torc Media awards, annual awards ‘The Yard and the Flower’ Oil and canvas. 1. Installation: Cold Floor 2. Painting: The Cold Floors ‘The Dug Out’ sculpture.
May 2006-Antrim Borough Council	
Nov. 2005-Antrim Borough Council 2005 Gernika Gogoratus International Peace Research Centre 2005 Kultur-Etxea, Gernika May 2005-World Highland Games Jan. 2004 – Australia Aug. 2002- Women’s Group June 2002- World Highland Games July 2001 – World Highland Games June 2001 – Parity Training Ltd.	‘Final Furlong’, award for Tony McCoy ‘The Legend’, photo etched print ‘The Legend’, photo etched print Winners Awards, variety International Archive of Humanist Art Republican Women’s Monument, Belfast Strongman’s Award Strongman Award 18 original bronze awards for corporate clients Large indoor sculpture on mythology
March 2001 – MDS Pharma- Services	
Nov. 2000 – Cinemagic- International Film Festival	Bronze Jury Awards and bronze Best Film Awards
Oct. 2000 – Andersonstown News	Sculpture Award for Irish President Mary McAleese
July 2000 – Country Bank, USA	Two large indoor sculptures
July 2000 – Gabriel Byrne, actor, USA	Indoor sculpture
Spring 2000 – Double Joint Theatre Group	Sculpture Award for guest
May 2000 – Goodfellas Restaurant	Indoor sculpture
Dec.1999 – NI Home and Interiors	Arts Award
Nov. 1999 – Roscoffs Restaurant	table sculptures

### **Conferences and Residencies**

2019	Art and Prisons	Onati University, Basque region, Spain
2018/19	Um Al Fahm Gallery	Month long residency, Israel
2017.	Tower Residency Project	Ongoing international residency.
Oct 2012	ASJ 2012	International conference, Art and Social Justice, Gernika.
Apr. 2010	Artist Residency	CACIS, Contemporary Arts Centre, Catalonia, Spain
Aug 2008	13isolations, Holland	Production of site specific art.
Jan. 2007.	Installation	Seagull Foundation, Calcutta, India
Dec. 2005	Produced site specific Installation and discussion.	1V Encuentro Internacional Artistas Para la Paz
Aug. 2005	Hosted panel discussion And exhibition	International Humanist Art Archive in Conway Mill, Belfast
June. 2005	Presented work and hosted discussion on art and peace.	Foc Art, Moncofa, Valencia, Spain
Mar. 2005	Arts participant/Delegate	Crossing Borders, Crossing Waters International project, Cork, Ireland
May 2004	Presented work and discussion	Peace Pedagogy Conference, International Peace Museum, Gernika
Dec 2003	Represented Ireland	Gernika Art and Peace Conference

**As an artist I have been acknowledged with the following awards:**

- 1) Awarded the Aisling Award 2000 for Arts and Culture.
- 2) Previewed as Artist of the Month in Artslink, Jan. 2001, the monthly bulletin of the Northern Ireland Arts Council.

**Awards and Bursaries**

2018 – **General Arts Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
2017 – **General Arts Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
2017 – **Travel Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
2015 – **General Arts Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
2014 – **Travel Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
2013 – **General Arts Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
Nov 2008 – **Travel Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
Jan. 2007 – **Travel Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
Dec. 2006 – **Travel Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
Mar. 2004 - **Travel Award**- Northern Ireland Arts Council  
Nov. 2003 – **Bursary Award** from the Community Relations Council.  
Sept. 2003 – **General Arts Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
February 2002 – **General Arts Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
October 2001 – **Travel Award** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
November 2000 – **Aisling Award 2000**, for Arts and Culture  
September 2000 – **Arts Flight** – Northern Ireland Arts Council  
Summer 1999 – **Irelands Homes and Interiors** - Artist of the Month