



Arts Office  
Kilkenny County Council



# RESILIENCE

Unit 28,  
MacDonagh Junction,  
Hebron Rd, Highways,  
Kilkenny

23.09.22 - 22.10.22

# COMMUNITY & EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

## **Official Launch,**

*September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 – 8pm Culture Night, Unit 28, MacDonagh Junction, Hebron Rd, Highhays, Kilkenny*

A memorable evening is promised featuring an introduction by Mary Butler – the Kilkenny Arts Officer and staff from Amber Women’s Refuge at 6. 20pm. *Resilience* will be formally launched by Mayor David Fitzgerald.

*Resilience* is supplemented with an array of engagements and educational events to reach the expanded community.

## **Online Audio Tour**

*23<sup>rd</sup> of September*

An audio tour will be available online for audiences who are blind and visually impaired at [kilkennyartsoffice.ie](http://kilkennyartsoffice.ie) and Kilkenny Arts Office social media.

## **Tactile tour with the NCBI**

*24<sup>th</sup> September, 11 – 12pm, Unit 28, MacDonagh Junction, Hebron Rd, Highhays, Kilkenny*

A tour using non visual elements to explore *Resilience*. A tactile tour enlists methods to engage and integrate with our audiences who are blind and visually impaired. The tour includes the stories and language of the works and the backgrounds of the artists involved.

## **Amber Women’s Refuge Awareness Display,**

*23<sup>rd</sup> September - 23<sup>rd</sup> October,*

*The Window Gallery at John’s Green House, John’s Green, Highhays, Kilkenny*

We are pleased to present a special display with our charity partners at Amber Women’s Refuge at The Window Gallery. This display will raise awareness about Amber’s work, how to access information, a QR code to donate from the window and a visual display.

## **Panel Discussion**

*1<sup>st</sup> October, 12 – 1pm, The Butler Gallery, Evans Home, John’s Quay, Kilkenny*

An informative and robust discussion on feminism, art and social change with Joanna Cunningham (Watergate Theatre Director), Mary Butler (Kilkenny Arts Officer), Siobhan McQuillan (Amber Women’s Refuge), Breda Lynch (Artist and Lecturer) and Mary O’ Hanrahan (Kilkenny Women’s Group).

## **Talk by S.O.S – Survivors of Symphysiotomy**

*16<sup>th</sup> October, 12 – 1pm, Watergate Theatre, Parliament St, Gardens, Kilkenny*

An informative talk by Chairperson of Survivors of Symphysiotomy, Marie O’Connor. This talk will inform audiences about symphysiotomy, what S.O.S have been working on and their continued path of resilience and fight for justice.

*Resilience* is a statement. A statement of supporting women, supporting artists and supporting the community. *Resilience* will examine the complexity and strength of the human condition in the face of adversity – and how it prevails. Experiencing the multifarious layers of stamina and understanding, each work and engagement examines the different ways in which women have overcome obstacles and societal oppression.

Take for example, in *The Invisible Limb* by Sarah Browne, Browne collaborates with powerhouse stonecarver Cynthia Moran of the older generation (b. 1930) who continues to make work and exhibit in the face of conventions over restrictions surrounding age and work. In *WITCH* by Kilkenny artist Breda Lynch, we see a group of women protesting from W.I.T.C.H. (Women's International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell); an activist group originally from the US who utilise the figure of the witch as it's symbolic metaphor for defiant women. Working with Amber Women's Refuge as our charity partner, a special textile wall hanging has been commissioned to mark Amber's twenty years of supporting local women and children, made with the staff of the refuge and local women from Kilkenny. In terms of educational highlights for the programme, we are honoured to have Marie O'Connor, Chairperson of S.O.S (Survivors of Symphysiotomy) give a talk on their work which will be held in Watergate Theatre on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The determination and resilience of the survivors is an inspiration to us all, and this opportunity to learn more about their continued fight for justice will be a memorable and moving experience. We are also working with the talented and brilliant members of the Kilkenny Women's Group on their archive and a dedicated page will be available on our website at [kilkennyartsoffice.ie](http://kilkennyartsoffice.ie) where you can visit and learn more about the groups history. *Resilience* is a space to learn, to talk and to facilitate exchanges between persons of all ages and genders about the power of women.

I would like to thank Kilkenny County Council and the Arts Council for their support of the Kilkenny Arts Office Emerging Curator Development Programme and the artists Breda Lynch, Sarah Browne and Amber Women's Refuge (Siobhan McQuillan, Ita Crowley, Jess Van Valkengoed, Connie Jordan and Stella Coughlan). I would like to thank for their engagements: S.O.S and Chair Marie O' Connor, Kilkenny Women's Group, the NCBI, and addition panelist Mary O' Hanrahan. I also wish to thank my mentor Kate Strain, Siobhan Fitzsimons, Kasia Kaminska, Darren Caffrey, Mayor David Fitzgerald, Damian Swida, The NCBI, Joanna Cunningham and the staff of Watergate Theatre and Hollie Kearns and staff at The Butler Gallery. Additional thanks to the Kilkenny Arts Office team Deirdre Southey, Bernadette Roberts and Kilkenny Arts Officer Mary Butler. Resilience is greatly supported by Marion Acreman, Donna Byrne and everyone at MacDonagh Junction. Thank you all for your kindness and support.

The Kilkenny County Council Arts Office Emerging Curator Programme is pleased to collaborate with our charity partner Amber Women's Refuge for 2022. The mission of Amber Women's Refuge is to empower women and children, of all cultures and backgrounds, to achieve their rights to live abuse-free lives.

- Sinéad Keogh

Kilkenny Arts Office Emerging Curator Development Programme recipient 2022.

# SARAH BROWNE

*The Invisible Limb (2014)*

*The Invisible Limb* is the third in a series of works that address issues of gendered labour and representation (with *Peripherals and Something from nothing*). This latest film is partly addressed to deceased Frankfurt artist Charlotte Posenenske, renowned both for her rigorous artistic oeuvre and her eventual cessation of art production in favour of practicing sociology, focusing on the study of wage labour conditions and factory processes. The film features another sculptor of Posenenske's generation, born in the same year in fact; Irish stonecarver Cynthia Moran, with an entirely different political and artistic trajectory. Shot partly on location at the Giant's Causeway, Co. Antrim, the film stages a series of unlikely correspondences through sculptural objects and ideas of mimesis, technology, and the magic of apparently costless production.

Sarah Browne is an artist based in Ireland concerned with spoken and unspoken, bodily experiences of knowledge, labour and justice. Her practice involves sculpture, film, performance and public projects, often in collaboration with others. Recent solo projects include *Echo's Bones* (2022: a collaborative film-making project with autistic young people in North Dublin,

responding to the work of Samuel Beckett); *Public feeling* (2019: public art commission in South Dublin leisure centres); *Report to an Academy*, Marabouparken, Stockholm (2017), *Hand to Mouth* at CCA Derry~Londonderry & Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, and *The Invisible Limb*, basis, Frankfurt (both 2014). In 2020 she curated TULCA Festival of Visual Arts, Galway, with a project titled *The Law is a White Dog*. Significant group exhibitions Browne has participated in include Bergen Assembly: *Actually, the Dead are Not Dead* (2019) and the Liverpool Biennial, with Jesse Jones (2016). In 2009 Sarah Browne co-represented Ireland at the 53rd Venice Biennale with Gareth Kennedy and Kennedy Browne, their shared collaborative practice. She is associate artist with University College Dublin College of Social Sciences and Law.



*Still from The Invisible Limb (2014)*

---

## BREDA LYNCH

*WITCH (2019)*

This cyanotype/digital print titled - “*WITCH*” (2019) is part of the larger body of work titled ‘*Fragments of a Lost Civilisation*’ (2016 ongoing). It is derived from an appropriated image foraged from online that details W.I.T.C.H. (Women’s International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell) an activist group originally from the US that uses the figure of the witch to establish a collective identity as a social movement by using the theoretical framework of identity work.

Breda Lynch - born in Kilkenny and lives in Limerick city where she works as a full-time

lecturer in Fine Art at Limerick School of Art and Design. She holds a BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Art Print at Crawford College of Art, an MA in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art and Design, London and an MPhil in Fine Art Print and Digital Media from the University of Wolverhampton. A visual artist working in a variety of media, including drawing, photography, print and digital media, video and installation. She engages with dialogues and discourses on - queer feminisms, the western mystery tradition and occulture, appropriation and the economy of the image. Lynch has exhibited

extensively in solo and group exhibitions in Ireland and abroad. A recipient of several awards and residencies, Lynch is included in national and private collections. Her work was recently purchased by IMMA - Irish Museum of Modern Art and the Arts Council of Ireland for their permanent collections.

Twitter @BredaLynch2

[bredalynch.wordpress.com](http://bredalynch.wordpress.com)



*Witch (2019) cyanotype/digital print, A0*

---

## AMBER WOMEN'S REFUGE

*Amber Women's Refuge- Supporting Local Women and Children for 20 years (2022)*

*Amber Women's Refuge - Supporting Local Women and Children for 20 years (2022)* is a specially commissioned textile wall hanging to mark twenty years of Amber Women's Refuge and was made lovingly in honour of its service users. Made by Amber

Women's Refuge staff and local women who are allies to the refuge; this work is one of the collaborations between the Emerging Curator Development Programme and Amber as our charity partner for the year. The wall hanging has a palette of

purple to symbolise anti-violence against women and silver to represent resilience throughout. Each patch on the piece represents a different symbol of hope and strength and the special eight pointed star from Amber’s One Million Stars project is central to the piece.\* The artists are: Lead Artist Siobhan McQuillan, Ita Crowley, Jess Van Valkengoed, Connie Jordan and Stella Coughlan, with additional making by Sinéad Keogh and support from Ginan Abbas.

\*Amber’s One Million Stars Ireland project is an inclusive community arts project connecting communities across Ireland in solidarity against domestic abuse and all forms of violence. Find more information at [onemillionstarsireland.ie](http://onemillionstarsireland.ie).

Amber, is a long established organisation working to empower women and children of all cultures and backgrounds to live abuse-free lives. As a specialist domestic abuse service our professional team works alongside others to safeguard women and children against domestic abuse, including coercive control. We provide safe, supportive, client centered services, from early intervention to recovery, both in the community and at the refuge.

Instagram [@amberwomensrefuge](https://www.instagram.com/amberwomensrefuge)  
[amberwomensrefuge.ie](http://amberwomensrefuge.ie)



5ft x 3ft, textile wall hanging (2022)



Scan to code to donate to Amber Women’s Refuge



# KILKENNY WOMEN'S GROUP

A short history of the Kilkenny Women's Group as told by one of its founding members Mary O' Hanrahan.

In the early to mid 80's Mary had become aware of what was happening in the women's movement both nationally and internationally. At the time Mary had five sons. She wanted to meet with like minded people in Kilkenny and so the women's group was established from a mutual desire from Kilkenny women to come together and acknowledge the experience and talent of women in the home. At the time, society had seen women's place to be in the home looking after children and were not encouraged to develop or had the same privileges as men. Kilkenny Women's Group went to visit women working in the home place to talk, to act as a support system and to identify the needs of their peers. A mission statement was drafted communally and so began a series of incentives, workshops, lobbying politicians, gatherings and actions taken to improve the lives of women. Two groups were established in this support mechanism; a group to support women in the home and a group supported by ANEB (Adult National Education Body) to provide classes in History, English Literature and Sociology. Martin O' Grady, the then Education Officer was very supportive in securing funding for this venture. Courses were on offer of the low cost of around £15 and if the women could not afford this cost the classes were subsidised. In addition to this there were free creche facilities set up to support women who were receiving this education. It was an exciting time for local women. The group were members

of the Council for the Status of Women which later became the National Women's Council of Ireland. Mary was a board member of the council for a period also. Mary and the Kilkenny Women's Group conducted research with the support of Gerard O'Neill of Amárach for five months working with women in the home. This report was launched by president Mary Robinson in 1994. The Kilkenny Women's Group was the first group to celebrate International Women's Day in Kilkenny. Over the years they had conferences with political speakers, poets, panels with people and groups from across the county in attendance. One of the key objectives in the Kilkenny Women's Group is to support one another in their talents and leadership skills. This motivation is evident in women from the group going on to help establish Amber Women's Refuge, the Kilkenny Age Friendly Council and the Rape Crisis Centre. Women did all of this work both for themselves and for each other.

Mary says " I am just one of the women involved, every woman contributed something".

Today the Kilkenny Women's Group meets weekly to support, encourage and celebrate each others lives. Mary notes that there is still a lot of work to be done.

The research into the Kilkenny Women's Group is ongoing. A special thank you to the Kilkenny Women's Group for their time and collaboration.



Arts Office  
Kilkenny County Council

