

## Aughty Public Art Projects 2010

A series of Public Art projects will be happening in Galway County during the late summer and Autumn of 2010, focusing on the Aughty region stretching from Gort to Woodford and Loughrea, commissioned by Galway County Council Arts Office, supported by The Arts Council of Ireland and Clare Arts Office.

**Artists from the Ground Up Artists Collective(GUAC) Marie Connole, Emma Houlihan and Jim Ricks will be creating temporary art works that engage creatively with the communities of the area. The project is curated by Dr Áine Phillips.**

Marie Connole's ***Weed or Knotweed?*** is a series of drawings and a paper sculpture installation based on the proliferating Japanese Knotweed plant. She will examine the knotweed as a metaphor for being 'transplanted' or a 'blow-in' to or from the region. Her research for the project has involved contacting many people from the Aughty's who have travelled around the world and asking them to send home postcards home. Contributors write one positive and one negative about travelling and living in a country other than their place of birth. She will create an installation sculptural work in the Woodford Heritage Centre in December with all the postcards she has collected and drawings she has created.

**Emma Houlihan's *Aughty Walk: Rural Futures*** is a community engaged project involving a "slow" public walk over 7 days with her camping gear, exploring the potential futures and identities of the Aughty region and inviting all those she meets along the way (and via the internet) to join her. Her walk will happen on the last week of August, the 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>. She will also invite guest speakers to give talks, holding public dialogues along the route. See [www.groundupartists.com](http://www.groundupartists.com) for updates on her walk with details of times and locations where the public can join her on the Aughty roads.

***Poulnabrone Bouncy Dolmen*** by Jim Ricks is a giant soft sculpture for people of all ages to view, discuss and bounce on, touring four venues around the Aughty Region during August and September. The artwork is a replica, at twice the scale, of the famous megalithic portal tomb located near Ballyvaughan in the Burren, Co. Clare. Jim Ricks created the interactive soft sculpture with the intention of bringing a portal dolmen to Aughty, a region which has only wedge tombs. By combining an icon of ancient Ireland with an icon of contemporary Ireland, he is playfully re-presenting elements of Irish culture, often over-used commercially to attract tourism, in an accessible, witty and visually spectacular way. The *Poulnabrone Bouncy Dolmen* will be installed at Kylebrack woods, near Woodford, Co. Galway on the afternoon of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August and at Portumna Castle, Co. Galway on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September as part of Shorelines Arts Festival. More dates and locations will be posted up on [www.groundupartists.com](http://www.groundupartists.com)

A final exhibition in Woodford Library and Woodford Heritage Centre running from 2nd to the 17th December 2010 will showcase the work and a small publication will be produced for free distribution. The project is curated and managed by Dr Áine Phillips, Head of Sculpture at the Burren College of Art.

The three artists are all ex students of the Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan County Clare. Marie Connole and Emma Houlihan are from Clare and Jim Ricks is from California, now based in Galway city. All are members of the Ground Up Artists Collective and have been exhibiting contemporary visual art nationally and internationally since graduating in 2007.

Aughty Public Art Projects is also supported by Slógadh Aughty, the steering group of communities in the Aughty region. For more information see [www.aughty.org](http://www.aughty.org)

For more information on the project and on Ground Up Artists Collective see  
[www.groundupartists.org](http://www.groundupartists.org)  
email us at [groundupartists@gmail.com](mailto:groundupartists@gmail.com)



*Jim Ricks The Poul nabrone Bouncy Dolmen*

Marie Connole's *Weed or Knotweed?*