As our need to mitigate and adapt to climate change becomes more urgent, so our need to communicate effectively with a wide audience also increases in importance. Before we can motivate people to take action, we need to engage and empower them, and their governments, to act.”

Prof. Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of the EEA

Eight environmental stories for Europe in 2009

EEA Signals is an annual publication profiling key environmental stories for the coming twelve months. Signals 2009 includes the following articles:

- Not just hot air: Global diplomacy and the search for a successor to the Kyoto protocol
- If the well runs dry: Climate change adaptation and water
- Killer Slugs and other Aliens: The killer slug is just one threat to Europe’s fragile biodiversity.
- Every breath you take: Air quality in Europe
- If bioenergy goes boom: Large scale bioenergy production bears considerable environmental risks. How will the great bio debate unfolding?
- Fish out of water: Marine management in a changing climate
- Taking CAP in hand: reform of the Common Agriculture Policy
- Not in my Backyard: International shipments of waste

EEA Signals 2009 is available here: http://reports.eea.europa.eu/signals-2009
Seanchai Eddie Lenihan to Open Mines of Information Exhibition at TI

Tipperary Institute is delighted to announce the opening of ‘Mines of Information’, at its Thurles Campus from Thursday 22nd January 2009. The ‘Mines of Information’ project was devised in 2007 by artist Katy Goodhue and received Percent For Art funding from South Tipperary County Council.

Mines of Information shares short stories on video gathered by the children from the four parish schools in Ballingarry Parish - St. Joseph’s N.S., Ballingarry, Mohobar N.S., Lios-na-mBroc N.S. and Slieveardagh N.S. These stories were used as the starting points for the artwork in the exhibition. All the stories are about the communities day to day lives, many of the stories are about the coal mines in the parish. It is still a little known fact that coal was mined in the Slieveardagh hills for over 200 years up till the 1970s. At the height of production over 600 people were employed in the local mines. We hear about the mines from some of the miners, from farmers about farming and about how different life was before the 1970s.

The primary aim of the project was to provide a framework for the entire Slieveardagh community to rediscover their historical past using current video technology and through high-quality visual art experience. Almost 50 people were interviewed for the project and almost ten hours of video interview material was gathered. The project’s video component was co-ordinated by Katy’s husband, film-maker David Quin.

‘Mines of Information’ will be opened by well known Irish storyteller and seanchai Eddie Lenihan at Tipperary Institute, Thurles on Thursday 22nd January at 8:00pm. The exhibition opening will be preceded by an hour of story-telling by Eddie Lenihan commencing at 6:30pm. The exhibition runs until Thursday 19th February 2009.

Admission to both the storytelling and exhibition is free and all are welcome to attend.

For more information please contact :
Jean Forbes-Cooke
at (0504) 28211
or (087) 2362489.

Clodagh Kelly
‘Awakening & Surrender’
Art Show January 2009

Official opening by Lorraine Wall
Friday 23rd January 6 - 8pm
The De Valera Library, Ennis

Clodagh Kelly is from Ennis, Co. Clare. She has been involved in the Performing and Visual Arts for over 15 years. Starting off in Dance and Theatre, she has choreographed and performed various projects in Cork & Dublin.

She studied for a BA Arts degree at NUI'Galway and Performing Arts at the Institute of the Arts Arnhem, The Netherlands where she started Drawing and Painting along with her choreographic work.

She has previously exhibited in Clare, Cork & Dublin. She has had three solo exhibitions at successive October Arts in Ennis in 2000, 2001 and 2002/2003. She had an exhibition in the Cottage Bar, Galway 2008.

She has a new exhibition entitled ‘Awakening & Surrender’ in response to the work of poet & philosopher, John O Donohue author of Anam Cara.

All Welcome
Source : Clan Arts
"Dear Colleague"

Why have I posted these older letters online?

As a student in Yi-Fu Tuan's last graduate seminar in Fall 2004, I was introduced to the "Dear Colleague" letters appearing in my department mailbox each week. Intrigued and delighted, I asked Yi-Fu if I might start posting his letters to a website for a worldwide audience. He encouraged me to give it a try, writing to me that: "These bottled messages, thrown into the ocean, almost never reach a shoreline, and one's arm, if not one's intellect, does get a little tired after thirty-four years of tossing!" The result is the website before you, tossing its messages into a churning blogosphere that they might join with the millions of other truly human voices—beautiful, contentious, lonesome, sensual, and humorous—that wash onto your shore every day, longing for you to discover them.

Melanie McCalmont, Webmaster, yifutuan.org

Source: http://www.yifutuan.org/

126 presents: The 2nd Annual 126 Members' Show

Opening: Thursday, 8th of January, 2009

As part of our commitment to encouraging and supporting the greater Galway visual arts community, 126 is proud to host its second annual members' show. 126 is grateful for the financial and moral support of its membership, so once a year we open the gallery to them as a sign of thanks.

By taking this unique democratic approach, this show highlights the diverse strengths and approaches of 126's membership, which varies from students, to unrepresented emerging and local artists to those established at an international level.

We have an open membership available to anyone who supports our aims and ethos.

Please visit our website www.126.ie for more information on becoming a member today.

The show runs until January 31st and will travel to Catalyst Arts in Belfast for February.

126 is a voluntarily led, artist-run gallery that promotes challenging and experimental works that would not be seen in commercial galleries or conventional institutions.

Gallery hours: Thurs-Sat 12-5 or by appointment.

Unit 11o, Ballybane Ind Est, Tuam Rd, Galway Ireland

+353 (0)91 761626

www.126.ie

Supported by The Arts Council of Ireland and the Galway City Council

John Spillane @ The Island Music Club

A quick note to flag our first gig of 2009 with John Spillane who will be joining us in Minogues Bar, Tulla on Feb 21st. John who is having major success with his latest album "John Spillane's Irish Songs we learned at School". Advanced booking advised for this show.

Sixmilebridge Folk Club News

The Sixmilebridge Folk Club continue this year with their wonderful winter music weekend which runs from the 16th to the 18th of January.

Check out www.wmw.ie for the full program of events.

The 10th Anniversary of the "WINTER MUSIC WEEKEND" festival takes place from the 16-18th January '09 in Sixmilebridge, Co.Clare

Source: Clare Gigs | www.myspace.com/claregigs
The Irish Landscape 2009

Looking Around
Looking Ahead
10 years on from the successful conference held by the Heritage Council in 1999 – this conference will evaluate progress on the actions that emerged and the changes and pressures that have shaped the Irish landscape in 2009.

The Conference will look beyond 2009 and assess how effective our current strategic and legislative provisions are in securing the sustainable development of our landscapes and in providing for effective landscape planning, landscape management and landscape conservation.

The conference will be firmly bedded in the approach advocated in the European Landscape Convention. Cultural and natural landscapes will be considered in an integrated manner using a multidisciplinary approach.

The purpose is to seek to identify the most appropriate mechanisms to secure long-term benefits for communities and their landscapes alike. Examination of the relevance of our landscapes to the lives of the communities and individuals who live in, work in and visit all our landscapes on a daily basis will be a central theme for discussion.

A range of international, European, national, regional and local speakers is being lined up to address the conference. These include speakers from the Council of Europe, the Landscape Observatory in Catalonia, Parks Canada, IUCN, ICOMOS, Natural England, Teagasc, Failte Ireland, Coïte, the EPA, NRA, Local Authorities, Irish Universities, Professional Institutes, farming organisations and local community groups. In addition there will be workshops and general discussion sessions to allow for participation by all attending.

The conference is targeted at policy and decision makers, local authorities, government agencies, NGOS, representative associations and individuals with an interest in landscape matters.

If you are interested in attending please register your interest by contacting Anne Barcoe by e-mail : aabarcoe@heritagecouncil.ie
by fax : 056 7770788
or by post at : Áras na Oidhreachta, Church Lane, Kilkenny, Ireland.
Source - www.heritagecouncil.ie

‘Towards Policies and Priorities for the Irish Landscape’
http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/publications/landscape/fore.htm
Archaeology in inner-city Dublin:
Spatiality, materiality and identity-formation among Dublin's working class and immigrant communities

'It is a ‘unique’ approach to archaeology in this country, emphasising creative methods that combine social science, humanities, collaborative arts practices and local knowledge in revisiting these territories - the oft neglected histories of overlooked minorities and the poor. In its focus on lived space, that includes both the physical and social elements, archaeology is dependent here on more than the physical remains, of which in these parts of the city there are only fragments – a street kerb, the façade of the Scot’s Church, the width of a lane, a patch of cobble stones, a rusty iron drainpipe, the hoarded up entrance to a Magdalene laundry, faded graffiti.'

Source: Create | www.create-ireland.ie

'This project will develop a multi-media exhibition and interactive website representing two Dublin communities to catalyse new (inter) Cultural understandings of the Irish past as it informs the contemporary lived landscape.'
http://www.projecthumedia.com/ucdep.html

Peasant Social Worlds & their transformation.

'This interactive learning project explores the transformation of rural societies in the Twentieth Century. You will learn about theoretical debates and can explore issues in more depth through case studies based on anthropological fieldwork.

In contrast to a printed book, you can choose how much detail and contextual information you want at any moment in the presentation, and you can use the various indexing and search facilities built into the package to find information, list the contents of the different sections of the presentation, and gain suggestions for further reading in a traditional library.

In Addition to pictures, the case study sections offer you video and sound clips to enrich your learning experience.'

Source - Experience Rich Anthropology | http://era.anthropology.ac.uk/

Landscapes Unlocked

Explore Northern Ireland's Landscapes through interactive video guides

- Coasts
- Mountains, Lakes and rivers
- Settlement
- Land Use & Economic Activity
- Ecosystems

Source: BBC Northern Ireland Schools
http://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/landscapes/index.shtml

Belmont Mill Bursary Programme 2009

Belmont Mill Bursary programme for 2009 will be funded again by Offaly County Council and The Arts Council.

The programme this year will give 6 National Artists (normally resident in Ireland) the opportunity to live and work at Belmont Mills for 3 months with their own workshop and apartment.
To apply for a Bursary at Belmont Mill, artists must send
1) CV
2) A CD showing samples of work
3) A narrative describing their work and work practice and
4) A statement of how they would use their time at Belmont
5) A stamped addressed envelope for return of application

Belmont are keen to hear from artists who are focusing on a body of work for a soon to take place solo/joint exhibition towards which they are working. Previous artists have found that the length of the bursary is particularly suited to support this outcome.

Applications must be sent to: Sandy Lloyd, Mill House, Belmont, Birr, Co. Offaly.

Application deadline 2nd February 2009

For more information on Belmont and to see other artists testimonies see:
www.belmontmill.com

Dates for each 13 week bursary:
Period 1 14th February - 17th May 2009
Period 2 23rd May - 23rd August 2009
Period 3 29th August - 29th November 2009

There will be 2 artists for each period of 13 weeks. Please note that pets, children or partners cannot be accommodated

Mary Phelan
Public Art Co-ordinator
Galway County Council
Prospect Hill
Galway
email: mphelan@galwaycoco.i
Tel: 091-746877

Lough Gur Public Art Opportunities
The public art initiative at Lough Gur provides an opportunity for artists to be involved, at the planning stages, of a significant environmental development in County Limerick. The public art works are seen as integral to the planning for Lough Gur and will add to increasing the understanding and enjoyment of this stunning natural resource.

Update on Lough Gur Public Art Initiative
Following a strong competition which included submissions and expressions of interest from national and international artists, Limerick County Council is pleased to announce that 'DEISEAL' has been selected and appointed to create art work for Lough Gur. 'DEISEAL' presented a collaborative submission from artists Anthony Lyons, Niall O'Neill and Holger Lonze. Their submission outlines a staged approach that allows a variety of related elements at different scales to be implemented. These elements are quite comprehensive ranging from small to medium pathway features to large earthwork features. DEISEAL have now been contracted to create a number of pathway features.

For full information on DEISEAL see www.deiseal.net

Source: Limerick County Arts Office | http://www.lcc.ie/Arts_Culture