

FUTURE

HAPPINESS

8TH → 10TH OCTOBER 2021

JOHN CONWAY

John is a visual artist working extensively in community and health settings. His work is characterised by the production and coproduction of innovative multi-disciplinary projects which respond to sensitive and often challenging themes resulting in sophisticated solo and collaborative outputs. He frequently commissions, curates, and collaborates with other arts and non arts specialists and orchestrates complex multi-stakeholder projects. He is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland and Kildare County Council Arts Service. Recent awards include the Next Generation Award 2021, Brightening Air (Coiscéim Coiligh project funding 2021 and the Arts Participation Bursary 2020 (all Arts Council). He was also a recipient of a NFMHS/NCAD MFA Scholarship which began his research in that area.

FUTURE HAPPINESS

1 ● **Portrane Castle (Stella's Tower).**

Future Happiness is a neon sign based on a sketch by John which quotes the phrase "future happiness" from Johnathan Swift's final letter to an ailing Esther Stella Johnson, titled *Stella's Birthday*, March 13, 1727. The work is displayed on the exterior of Portrane Castle (locally known as Stella's Castle). On one hand the work stands for hope, recovery, and prosperity, especially in the historical and recent context of mental healthcare in Portrane. On the other hand it is intended as a Swiftian tribute to a perpetually elusive state of happiness: It is an invitation to consider our (in)ability to find that happiness in the present moment.

GLENN LOUGHRAN

Glenn is an artist and lecturer at the TU Dublin School of Creative Arts. Exhibiting nationally and internationally, his work has developed hybrid forms of artistic research at the intersection of artistic practice, pedagogical process and evental philosophy. Key long-term projects include: *The Hedge school project* (2006–12)/*Mode D* (2011–14)/*After the Future... of Work* (2016–20)/*What is an island?* (2018–21). He is Programme Chair of the MA Art and Environment (West Cork) and the B.A in Visual Art (Sherkin Island).




PARA-RADIO

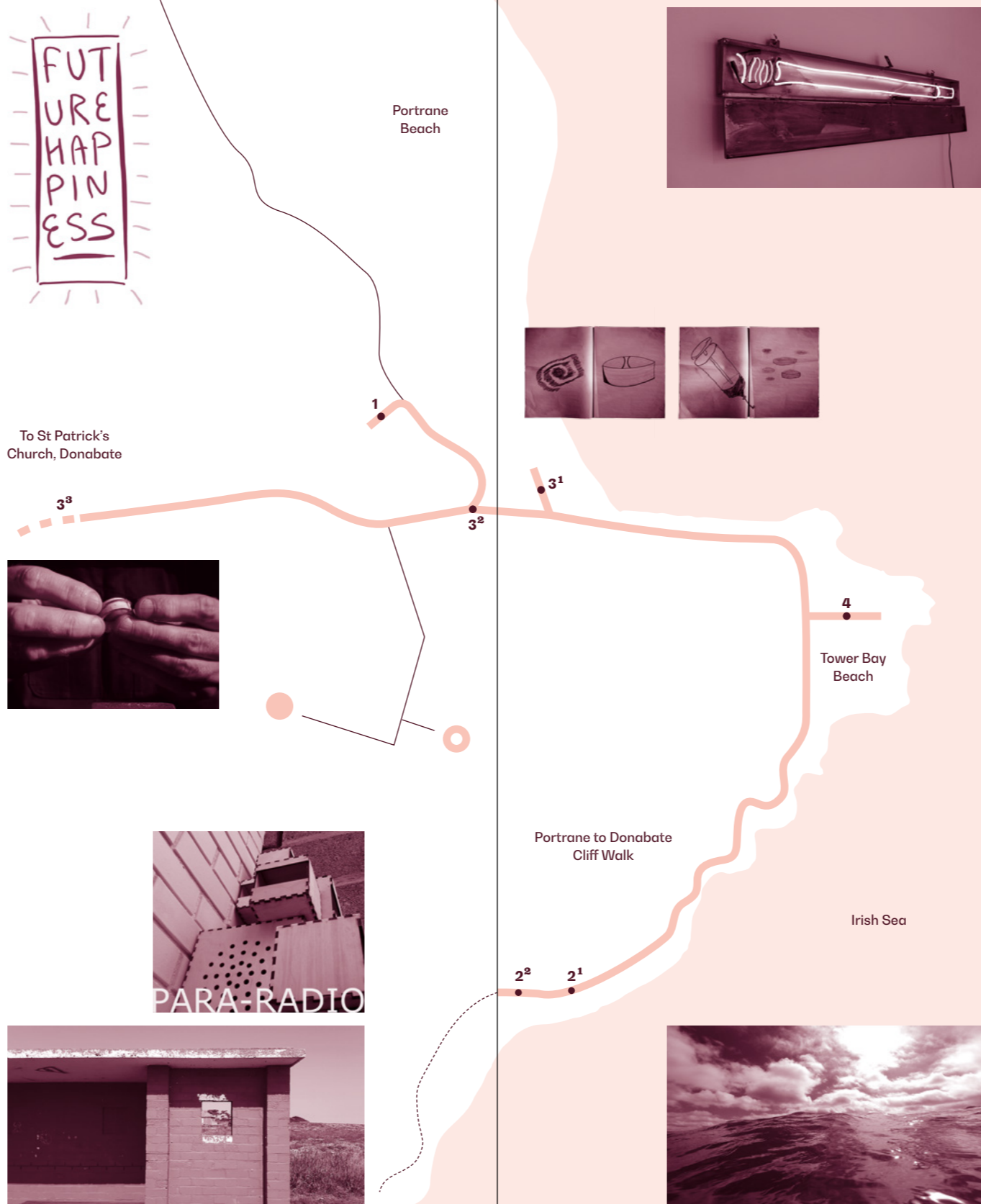
2 ● **Along the coastal wall of Portrane peninsula.**

Following on from his residency in Usher's Island, Glenn presents *PARA-RADIO*: two small wooden structures which broadcast audio work designed to fit into architectural spaces along the coastal walls of the Portrane peninsula. Creating feedback loops between St Ita's Hospital and the surrounding natural environment, *PARA-RADIO* broadcasts live audio soundings, recordings from St Ita's radio archive, and audio created during workshops with service users of the NFMHS which took place in Usher's Island in 2019.

Site¹: Installed at a mid-point along the coastal wall beside a blocked-up gate. This unit broadcasts a specially commissioned audio history of St Ita's hospital radio by local hero STEREO JACK.

Site²: Installed in the Cliff Shelter at the coastal entrance to St Ita's Hospital. This work broadcasts soundings and songs from environmental themed workshops developed with NFMHS service users in Usher's Island.

-  **Future Happiness trail**
-  **National Forensic Mental Health Service Hospital**
-  **St Ita's Hospital**



JONATHAN CUMMINS

Jonathan's work, made for gallery and screen, is approached as a process of enquiry and engagement and addresses themes such as ideological belief, political violence, experience of institutions and the challenges of representation, most notably through the inter-connecting film installations *When I Leave These Landings* (2004–2009), *Go Home* (2010–2013) and *Out the Road* (2012–2016). His work has been exhibited widely, both nationally and internationally. He occasionally curates, including *Andrei Molodkin* (2020, 2018), *Katrina Palmer* (2016), *Brian Maguire* (2016), *Santiago Sierra* (2013), *Phil Collins* (2012), *John Gerrard* (2011) and *Eija-Liisa Ahtila* (2009). He holds an MFA from UCLA and a PhD from the Centre for Socially Engaged Practice-Based Research, TUD. He teaches with Belfast Art School, Ulster University.

COMPLIANCE / INSIGHT

3 ● **Piper's takeaway¹, Grogan's supermarket², and St Patrick's Church, Donabate³.**

Compliance/Insight brings together several works developed with service users of the NFMHS and researched during Jonathan's Resort residency. A neon cigarette and distribution centre for tabloid newspapers of drawings of medications and food produced by the service users is located at Piper's and Grogan's. Six rings are on display at St Patrick's church: The result of a further collaboration by the same group of service users with Belfast-based goldsmith Garvan Traynor. The process of producing the rings is examined in a film installed in the church. The artworks offer an enquiry into solidarity, the passage of time, conviviality and tensions between compliance and insight. They highlight art and its processes of enquiry as fundamental to understanding our institutions, those negotiating life within and related communities of care.

EMMA FINUCANE

Emma has been researching and making visual art in health contexts for over ten years. Most recently her art practice has led to a new commission in St Louise's Unit, Crumlin Children's Hospital, CHI (2020) a residency with Other Peoples Practices, Usher's Island NFMHS (2019) and a residency in the UCD School of Nursing and Midwifery (2015). Recent awards include the Arts Council COVID-19 Crisis Response award and artsandhealth.ie reflective bursary award 2020. Emma lectures part time in the NCAD and regularly presents her work at conferences the most recent being Culture Health and Wellbeing International Conference (CHW21).

FLOAT

4 ● **Lynders Mobile Home and Caravan Park.**

FLOAT is a response to time spent reflecting and building on research collected while artist in residence in Usher's Island (2019) and the Resort Residency (2020). It is an artwork that invites the local community to participate. It considers the people of Portrane/Donabate, the patients and staff of St Ita's past and present, the existing and future patients and staff of the new NFMHS Hospital. It attempts to connect people with place, past, present and future.

FLOAT took place on Sunday 3RD October at 11AM where the local community entered the sea at Tower Bay beach. The cold water held them as they floated united in their thoughts and actions to acknowledge and care for our individual and collective mental health. The result of this event is exhibited as a video projection displayed in Lynders Mobile Home Park.

Acknowledgements

We would like to especially thank Debbie, Eilish and Larry of the Bleeding Pig Festival, despite Covid interrupting plans for 2020/2021 they have rowed in behind the Resort Residency/Revelations Programme with all the rigour that they always bring to their activities. Pat Monk from Pipers chip shop, who is making his restaurant a site for this years work, Liam Grogan of Grogan's Shop, Brian Scott of St Patrick's Church of Ireland church, Paul McCarthy of the HSE, Christine Baker and Brian O'Connor of Fingal Architects and Fingal Operations Department and as always Gerry Lynders and the Lynders Family for their continued care of this project.

OPP would like to extend a further thanks to everyone mentioned above and to highlight and thank Caroline Cowley for her excellent work as Public Art Co-ordinator and her support of OPP.

Design: Conor Foran & Bart Rzezniak
Typefaces: Clarendon & BW Gradual
Print: Azo Print

For further information visit:

resortresidency.com
otherpeoplespractices.com

FUTURE HAPPINESS

Other People's Practices x Resort Residency Revelations

The fascinating omni-presence of the former Victorian Psychiatric Hospital St Ita's has influenced artists from Johnathan Swift to Beckett. The initial invitation to artists for Resort Residency in 2014 asked them to consider the site of a holiday destination and its proximity to the hospital—the visitor/visited, one who came and went or never left. In this case the artist would be the visitor and many returned to the presence both physical and historical of this hospital. During our explorations of St Ita's history it became clear that the communities of Portrane/Donabate had a great affection for the hospital: families worked there and it formed an identity for the town: an identity that described how it fostered a great care for each other. Since the beginning of Resort Residency at Lynders, we have witnessed many changes to the area, including increased tourism, sadly coastal erosion*, and a re-activation of the local area's historical memories and connections to St Ita's Campus and its cultural significance with the relocation of the NFMHS to an adjacent site.

While the practices and function of St Ita's have changed, traces of the original vision where clients are cared for and empowered to have a degree of autonomy in their recovery journeys is still very much present. In parallel to this, the NFMHS recently demonstrated their contemporary approach to patient-lead/patient-focused care through their support of an ambitious pilot project by OPP with CMH clients at Usher's Island where high quality arts engagement was placed at the centre of the recovery journey, not as art therapy but as a meaningful route to independence, to express without judgement and engage in necessary moments of collective joy that comes from making art together.

I invited OPP's first generation of resident artists—Glenn Loughran, Emma Finucane & Jonathan Cummins, as well as OPP's director, artist John Conway, to the new context of Portrane in 2020 for Resort Residency to reflect on their experiences and observations as arts practitioners in the NFMHS and explore possibilities to continue their practice in its new home. For Resort Residency/Revelations 2021, we are delighted to present a diverse array of new work encountered as a promenade style circuit around Portrane and Donabate. The show, titled *Future Happiness*, features new work by each of the artists. Jonathan Cummin's series of works, *Compliance/Insight*, were developed with service users during his residency in Usher's Island, Emma Finucane's work explores the local community's historical affiliation with mental healthcare and the sea through site specific communal action in a work titled *FLOAT*, Glenn Loughran reflects on the local area and its history

using archival audio material in his work *PARA-RADIO* and John Conway invites us to look forward while prompting us to consider the present moment, with a site specific work titled *Future Happiness*, a phrase contained in a letter by Johnathan Swift to his love Stella, whom a famous Portrane landmark is named after. On Saturday 9TH October between 15:00 and 17:00, St Ita's Hospital Radio (available worldwide online and locally on 89.5FM) will broadcast a short interview with John Conway about the exhibition, followed by a series of experimental audio documentaries produced by John with family members of patients and a former patient of the CMH during his initial research into the NFMHS context. This will provide a deep insight into the complex lived experience of forensic mental health care.

These collective works leave a visible imprint on the landscape as the CMH completes its transition and remind us of the value of art in animating this conversation locally. Fingal Arts Office have initiated the beginnings of an Arts & Health Strategy which will seek to place a structure where art will always have ways to support us when we need it most.

* Resort Residency was home to An Urgent Enquiry in 2019—an Arts Council partnership with Fingal County Council, Wexford County Council and Dublin City Council that focused on the effects of climate change on the east coast Special Area of Conversation by resident artists Joanna Hopkins and Mary Conroy was presented on theme of home and biodiversity loss on Portrane's Burrow Beach. www.anurgentequiry.ie

Caroline Cowley
Public Art Co-ordinator, Fingal County Council

About Caroline Cowley

Caroline is the Public Art Co-ordinator with Fingal County Council and is committed to bringing contemporary art practices into all aspects of life in the county. She currently directs and manages the council's Public Art Programme Infrastructure 2017-2021, Resort Residency at Lynders Mobile Home Park, *THE HIDE SCULPTURE* by artist Garrett Phelan at Rogerstown Park & the Skerries Art Trail in addition to commissioning work as part of private development opportunities in the county and programming in the field of heritage, art & ecology and Arts in Health. She holds a BA in History of Art from Trinity College Dublin, Masters in Arts Administration and Cultural Policy from UCD and Masters in Visual Arts Practices from Institute of Art & Design, Dun Laoghaire. She is the current chair of artist run organisation Pallas Projects/Studios.



Photo courtesy of Emma Finucane.

FLOAT



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Cummins.

COMPLIANCE/INSIGHT

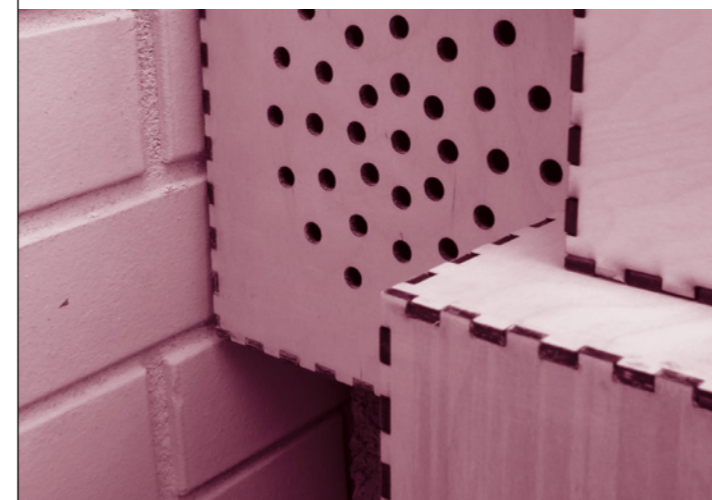


Photo courtesy of Glenn Loughran.

PARA-RADIO

About Resort

Resort Residency/Revelations is a unique artist residency and commissioning programme located at Lynders Mobile Home Park, Portrane. This unique partnership between the Lynders Family and Fingal County Council's Arts Office began in 2014 where a selection of invited guest artists and curators were chosen for their specific interests in site specific enquiry. The Resort Residency experience was such that the 2014 residents were invited to return in 2015 for the first Resort Residency/Revelations with a view to make new work inspired by their time in Portane and as part of a locally organised initiative—The Bleeding Pig Festival. This model of reside-and-return has continued since and Resort Residency has been home to almost 40 of Ireland's most exciting artists. In 2016 Lynders Mobile Home Park and Fingal Arts Office were recognised for this unique project and were awarded a Business to Arts Award. Lynders furthered the facilities for artists on site by building a Studio/Exhibition space in addition to the provision of a mobile home which is used by artists during the summer months. The Programme and the business has gone from strength to strength. Look back on it's history at www.resortresidency.com

About Other People's Practices

Other People's Practices (OPP) is a platform for socially engaged artist residencies founded and directed by John Conway in response to his research as an artist in the field of forensic mental health care which began in 2018. Phase 1 of OPP supported high quality artists to work with patients and staff of the National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) to explore, and produce art in response to, the wider lived experience of forensic mental healthcare. Phase 1 began in 2019 with 3 consecutive residencies in Usher's Island, Dublin 8, a community day centre for recovered and recovering service users of the original Central Mental Hospital (CMH), Dundrum. Phase 2 occurs in parallel with a historic move from the CMH Dundrum, a Victorian asylum built in 1850, to a new modern care facility in Portrane designed by Scott Tallon Walker Architects. Phase 2 seeks to establish and sustain ongoing artist residencies, build on new local partnerships with Fingal County Council Arts Office, and to implement sustainable plans for future generations of artist residencies.

OPP's participation in Resort Residency/Revelations began in 2020 and is funded by Fingal County Council Arts Office. OPP is funded by The Creative Ireland Programme National Creativity Fund and made possible by a partnership with NCAD and the NFMHS. OPP was the subject of the 2019 Artsandhealth.ie Documentary Bursary Award which is available digitally at www.otherpeoplespractices.com

OPP in Portrane

St Ita's, built in 1903, had a massive impact on the cultural fabric of Portrane, with numerous local families having at least one generation employed there. In the same way, the Dundrum suburbs grew up around the original CMH which was built there in 1850. The hospitals, and their local context do not exist in isolation from one another. Indeed recovering and recovered service users will take their first steps back to community life in the local area. OPP seeks to position itself on the overlapping thresholds of the existing local community in Portrane, and the new community of the NFMHS.

OPP's vision is to support future generations of long-form artists residencies to work with staff and patients in the local area on participatory art projects: *Future Happiness: Other People's Practice X Resort Residency/Revelations* is the first in a series of steps which attempt to establish OPP in the local area in order to realise this vision. It is a brilliant opportunity between OPP's Phase 1 and 2 where we can connect and respond to the local area, and exhibit new work based on the artist's collective research, engagement and insight into the NFMHS through their Usher's Island residencies, and their connectivity to Portrane through their experience during their Resort Residencies.

OPP's end goal is the establishment of a community arts and health site which provides a platform for artists to work in Portrane both within the new NFMHS and in the local community—an arts-centric site with capacity to reach patient and staff populations of the CMH, as well as the local community where recovered and recovering patients will eventually find themselves spending time as they progress back to community living—providing access to, and participation in, top quality art projects exterior to the hospital institute and not orientated as healthcare staff/patient, but artist/participant.

John Conway
Director of Other People's Practices



Photo courtesy of Glenn Loughran.

PARA-RADIO

Keep updated on the projects:

[/fingalpublicart](https://www.instagram.com/fingalpublicart)

[/other_peoples_practices](https://www.instagram.com/other_peoples_practices)