



**PLATFORM FOR  
INTERCULTURAL EUROPE**

*In collaboration with its  
Member Organisation*



## **6th Intercultural Practice Exchange**

14<sup>th</sup> – 16th November 2012

**PROGRAMME** (as of 17th October 2012)

**Navigating the journey from conflict to  
interculturalism:**

**The Arts in Northern Ireland**

*The MAC (The Metropolitan Arts Centre), <http://www.buildingthemac.com>*

## ***Introduction of the Event***

When Bertolt Brecht said "Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it", he had the reality of class conflict in mind. However, the reality of inter and intra-community conflict such as in Northern Ireland lends itself to a similar discussion of the role of the arts. PIE's 6th Intercultural Practice Exchange, in collaboration with its member, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, will examine the varying responses of artists to the Northern Ireland conflict.

The transition from conflict has been made and the people of Northern Ireland now live in a relatively peaceful political dispensation. Yet some challenges remain; and we will consider the role of the arts as a tool to enable reconciliation, allowing peace to firmly bed down across the region. We will also ask how the experience of this reconciliation affects the reception of newcomers in Northern Ireland.

A special focus of this Practice Exchange will be on the role of cultural institutions in transforming society. We will look at the challenge of transforming existing institutions in order to provide equality of opportunity as well as at the need to create new infrastructure to promote good community relations.

Participants will have the choice of four excursions to look at community projects close up. These will be accompanied by experts from elsewhere in Europe who have particular viewpoints on the role of artists in social transformations or can bring comparative insights from other inter and intra-community conflicts into consideration.

## Day 1: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012

### 19.00-22.00 **WELCOME RECEPTION at Arts Council Northern Ireland**

*77 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 6AQ*

Welcome by **Bob Collins**, Chairman, ACNI board  
Address by **VIP Guest**

## Day 2: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012

*The MAC (The Metropolitan Arts Centre)  
10 Exchange Street West (in Saint Anne's Square, right behind St. Anne's  
Cathedral and beside the University of Ulster), Belfast, BT1 2NJ*

### **THE ROLE OF THE ARTS IN POST-CONFLICT NORTHERN IRELAND**

#### **An exploration of the social, economic and political impact of the arts**

10.00 Coffee & registration

10.30 Welcome by **Sabine Frank**, Secretary General, Platform for  
Intercultural Europe, and **Roisín McDonough**, Chief Executive,  
Arts Council of Northern Ireland

10.45 **Fourteen years after the Good Friday Agreement:  
remaining challenges for peace and cohesion**

#### **A look at the Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report, Number One**

*Presentation by **Paul Nolan**, Research Director for the  
Community Relations Council*

*Discussion moderated by **Nick Livingston**, Director of Strategic  
Development, Arts Council of Northern Ireland*

11.30 Coffee break

11.45 **How the arts contribute to transforming society in  
Northern Ireland: Examples from the digital world and the  
public realm**

*Presentations:*

- **The Troubles Archive** **Nóirín McKinney**, Director of  
Arts Development, Arts Council Northern Ireland
- **The Re-Imaging Communities Programme**  
**Fionnuala Walsh**, Head of Community and Participatory  
Arts, Arts Council Northern Ireland, **Conor Shields**,

*Community Arts Partnership, and **Lesley Cherry**, artist*

*Presentations and discussion moderated by **Sabine Frank***

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Departure for excursions

15.00 **Looking at transformative arts practice**

Excursions with local guides and "external eye"  
moderators/rapporteurs

- **Connecting Creativity – Community Arts Practice in Northern Ireland**  
with **Conor Shields** and **Guido Orlandini** at Community Arts Partnership
- **Music and community bridging**  
with **Paul Kane, Suzel Reily** and **Dusica Parezanovic** at Oh Yeah Music Centre
- **Theatre Outside Theatres**  
with **Paula McFetridge, Laurence McKeown** and **Aleksandar Brkic** at Kabosh Theatre
- **Traditional songs and story-telling within contemporary visual arts practice**  
with **Phil Hession** and **Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio** at The Golden Thread Gallery

Coffee breaks on location

18.00 End of excursions and return home/to hotel(s)

19.15 Departure from city centre to Stormont by coach

20.00 **DRINKS RECEPTION AT PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, STORMONT**  
**Hosted by the NIA Culture, Arts & Leisure Committee**

## Day 3: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012

*The MAC (The Metropolitan Arts Centre)*

*10 Exchange Street West (in Saint Anne's Square, right behind St. Anne's Cathedral and beside the University of Ulster), Belfast, BT1 2NJ*

### **THE ROLE OF THE ARTS IN PROMOTING INCLUSION FROM AN EQUALITY STANDPOINT**

09.00 Coffee

09.30 **Transformative arts practice in Northern Ireland from the comparative perspective of outside observers**

*Reporting back from previous day's excursions with comments*

*Panel with:*

- **Guido Orlandini**, Intercultural Communication and Leadership School, PIE Steering Group member; (comparative perspective: impact study on ICLS dialogue activities in Bradford)
- **Dusica Parezanovic**, Trans Europe Halles, PIE member (comparative perspective: work of Cultural Centre REX in Belgrade etc)
- **Aleksandar Brkic**, lecturer and research fellow at the UNESCO Department for Cultural Policy and Management, University of Arts in Belgrade, 2011 Cultural Policy Research Award (ECF/ENCATC) winner
- **Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio**, Art historian and critic specialising in Intercultural Dialogue and Cross Cultural Encounters, University of Barcelona (comparative perspective: ASTIDE project - Art for Social Transformation and Intercultural Dialogue in Europe etc)

Moderator of panel and discussion: **Nóirín McKinney**, Director of Arts Development, Arts Council of Northern Ireland

11.00 Coffee break

11.15 **An overview of the equality landscape: the reasons behind the introduction of legislation and its impact on arts organisations**

Panel with:

- **David Hill**, Chair of the Crescent Arts Centre
- **Roisin Mallon**, Equality Commission Northern Ireland
- **John Gray**, former librarian of the Linen Hall Library and social historian

Moderator of panel & discussion: **Rani Kasapi**, Riksteatern, Sweden, PIE member

12.50 Lunch

## **ARTS, POLICY-MAKING AND POLITICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

13.30 **Local politicians share their views and experiences of the impact of local and regional arts  
The role of the arts and the challenges facing Northern Ireland**

*Panel with political representatives:*

- Representative of the Democratic Unionist Party (tbc)
- **Cllr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir**, Sinn Féin\*\*
- **Mike Nesbitt**, MLA\*, Ulster Unionist Party (Leader of

- Ulster Unionist Party)
- **Dominic Bradley**, MLA\*, Social Democratic and Labour Party
- Representative from the Alliance Party (tbc)

*\*Member of the Legislative Assembly of Northern Ireland*

*\*\* Member of Belfast City Council*

*Moderator of panel and discussion: **Chris Torch**, Intercult, Sweden, PIE Steering Group member*

- 15.00 Coffee break
- 16.30 Wrap-up  
**Roisín McDonough and Chris Torch**
- 16.45 Finish

A programme produced in collaboration by:

**Sabine Frank**, Platform for Intercultural Europe and **Roisín McDonough, Nick Livingston** and **Nóirín McKinney**, Arts Council of Northern Ireland,

Overall responsibility: **Sabine Frank**, Platform for Intercultural Europe



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.  
This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



The Platform for intercultural Europe acknowledges the support of the European Cultural Foundation