



CELEBRATING
20 YEARS
2006 – 2026

The Future is Open

Solstice Arts Centre | 20 June - 29 August 2026



Bassam Issa Al-Sabah, George Bolster, Alan Butler, Cecilia Danell, Willie Doherty, Rachel Doolin, Mark Garry, Hammerheads (Marie Farrington, Sibyl Montague, Liliane Puthod, Laura Ní Fhlaibhín), Elaine Hoey, Patrick Hough, Bernadette Kiely, Sinéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Niamh McCann, Eleanor McCaughey, Lucy McKenna, Isabel Nolan, Barbara Knežević, Emily Waszak, Grace Weir.

The Future is Open

20 June - 29 August 2026

Curated by Ruth Hogan

The Future is Open marks the 20th anniversary of Solstice Arts Centre, and its continued commitment to showcasing and commissioning contemporary Irish artists. *The Future is Open* is a celebration of future possibilities. Taking its title from the last sentence spoken by theoretical physicist, Professor Fay Dowker, in Grace Weir's film 'Time Tries All Things', this exhibition brings together a selection of previously exhibited artists, whose work explores expansive theories of space, time and the cosmos, embracing ancient and technological ciphers of prophetic divination as a means for understanding the human experience in the post-human era of AI and global climate crises.

Throughout history, mankind has looked to celestial bodies, deities and the natural world for spiritual guidance, enlightenment and instruction. In Ancient Greek astronomy, the practice of reading the skies through asterisms was relied on for navigation. In Ancient Rome, augury was the widespread sacred practice of observing the migratory flight patterns of birds, to interpret omens from the gods.

Today, AI predictive systems have replaced mystical practices as the definitive speculative prognostic in contemporary society.

In this exhibition, alternative environments and future realities are presented through a cross-section of photography, film, sculptural installation and painting.

Each artwork represents an enquiry into the great unknown - an exploration of the outer regions of space and the universe - and to micro-cosmic revelations within our natural environment. Objects, materials and nonhuman actors become instrumentalised to act as portals to other worlds; divine soothsayers that illuminate the path to navigate this current moment and future reality.

Previous Solstice shows from exhibiting artists

Bassam Issa Al-Sabah	Dissolving Beyond The Worm Moon (2019)
George Bolster	You are made of Stardust (2020)
Alan Butler	We Were Promised Anarchy, But What We Got Was Chaos (2015)
Cecilia Danell	These Magnetic Magnitudes (2025)
Willie Doherty	Remnant(2024)
Rachel Doolin	Holdings (2023), New Era (2020)
Mark Garry	To hold and be held (2024)
Marie Farrington, Sibyl Montague, Laura Ní Fhlaibhín & Liliane Puthod	Hammerheads (2023)
Elaine Hoey	Mimesis (2021)
Patrick Hough	False Starts (2018)
Bernadette Kiely	SECOND WORLD – any given day (2016)
Sinéad Ní Mhaonaigh	Deep Mapping: Unseen Landscapes (2023)
Niamh McCann	someone decides, hawk or dove (2023), Just left of Copernicus (2016)
Eleanor McCaughey	Moments of Being (2025)
Lucy McKenna	A Dormant Light Resides In the Eye (2022)
Isabel Nolan	A delicate bond which is also a gap (2021)
Barbara Knežević	The Iron Gates (2025)
Emily Waszak	Thresholds to the Unseen (2024)
Grace Weir	The history of light (2023)

Film Programme (Gallery 3)

Daily screenings from 11:30am to 3:20pm

Patrick Hough

Whale Fall, 2023, 16 mins

In the middle of an Irish peat bog, the inexplicable remains of a humpback whale are discovered by two rural women.

Grace Weir

In my own time, 2007, 21 mins

A film-essay drawing together perceptions of time from different cultural, philosophical, and scientific viewpoints.

Willie Doherty

At the End of the Day, 1994, 10 mins

A car travelling along a border road at dusk is halted by a concrete roadblock. A voice speaks of moving on, only for the image to repeat.

Ghost Story, 2007, 15 mins

The camera slowly follows a long empty path flanked by woods and barbed wire as actor Stephen Rea narrates, recounting incidents from the past and memories of traumatic loss.

Buried, 2009, 8 mins

Now with no voice-over, the camera returns to the location of *Ghost Story*, searching for something buried in the woodland clearing.

Barbara Knežević

Gvozdene Kapije (The Iron Gates), 2025, 46 mins

The film explores the Gvozdene Kapije region, a deep scenic gorge on the border of Serbia and Romania, and the interconnected histories and materialities related to the development of the dam built there in 1964.

Niamh McCann

Hairline Crack – Colin's Journeys, 2026, 11 mins

Colin, an eyeless dog, guides us as we journey through three distinct landscapes in an odyssey along the border region of Northern Ireland.

Patrick Hough

The Two Faces of Tomorrow, 2021, 38 mins

An experimental documentary-fiction film about algae, and how they have shaped all life on Earth, from the deep past to the near future.

Bassam Issa Al-Sabah & Jennifer Mehigan

Uncensored Lilac, 2024, 30 mins

A story about revenge and desire following a group of goddesses as their land and ways of communication with each other have been destroyed by climate collapse.

Willie Doherty

Sometimes I Imagine It's My Turn, 1998, 3 mins

A handheld camera brings us ever closer to an unidentified body, interrupted intermittently by television clips suggesting news coverage, although no link between the clips and the body are made directly.

Passage, 2006, 8 mins

Cutting from one view to the other with metronomic regularity, two young men stride determinedly along a roadside path at night, apparently headed toward each other.

The Amnesiac, 2014, 10 mins

Bookended by a car journey where an unnamed man drives through a wooded landscape, what unfolds in between could be a return to a particular place, or a momentary lapse in concentration; an unguarded moment that brings the amnesiac back to the thing they can never forget.

Mark Garry

Hands, 2024, 8 mins

A black and white moving image work that explores simple human gesture in a meditation on the human experience. With an original accompanying score by Séan Carpio and lyrics by Garry.

Front cover:

Grace Weir, *Time Tries All Things* (film still), 2019.
Courtesy of the artist.

Inside fold-out (clockwise, starting top right):

Isabel Nolan, *My atoms are your atoms*, 2020-2021. Photo: Lee Welch. Courtesy of the artist and Kerlin Gallery.

Lucy McKenna, *Dimorphos*, 2024. Courtesy of the artist.

Patrick Hough, *Whalefall* (film still), 2023. Courtesy of the artist.

Alan Butler, *Plantationocene* (detail), 2025. Courtesy of the artist and Green on Red Gallery.

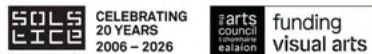
Solstice Arts Centre

Railway Street,
Navan, Co. Meath,
C15 KWP1

Gallery Opening Hours

Tue - Sat, 11am - 4pm
Free admission, all welcome

www.solsticeartscentre.ie
046 909 2300



ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

VARIOUS DATES

Gallery Tours using Visual Thinking Strategies

For adult and teen groups of 5+
Various times available
Free, booking required

WEDNESDAYS

Sensory Connections

For groups with additional needs
10am (60mins)
€5

SATURDAYS

Creative Corner

For families
11am - 1pm
Free, no booking required

FRI 26 JUN, FRI 31 JUL & FRI 28 AUG

Azure: Dementia-Inclusive Gallery Tours

11am (90mins)
Free, booking required

WED 1 - FRI 3 JUL

Artistic Explorers Summer Camp

For ages 8-12
10am - 1pm daily
€60 (3 days)

Inspired by a wide range of artworks in Solstice Gallery this summer, our Artistic Explorers will travel through space and time. Imagining new futures through drawing and mixed media, personal connections and aspirations of our future world will inform our creative journey.

SAT 25 JUL

Hello Human

Workshop for adults & teens 16+
10am (120mins)
€15 / €10 (student)

Encouraging creative responses using new media art practices that are both technical and personal, exhibiting artist Elaine Hoey will guide you in building your own personal app, a Chrome browser extension, that interrupts prolonged AI chatbot use. A basic introduction to HTML, 3D scanning techniques, and reflective narrative writing, capture, write or record a short message to your future self, a reminder that you have a body, a voice, a life outside 'the machine'.

Bassam Issa Al-Sabah works across digital animation, painting, sculpture and textiles creating visions of resistance, transformation and queer possibility. Recent solo exhibitions include; *THE MISSION IS THE END, THE END IS ALL I WANT!*, FACT, Liverpool; *BioLytic Daughter*, VSSL Studio, London (2025); *you are in heaven but suddenly everything begins to burn*, Kunstverein Auhgrim (2024); *Uncensored Lilac*, Transmediale, Silent Green (2024); and *ITS DANGEROUS TO GO ALONE! TAKE THIS*, The Douglas Hyde Gallery (2022). In 2023 he received an award of distinction in New Animation Art from Prix Ars Electronica.

George Bolster has exhibited in numerous museums, institutions, and galleries internationally, including IMMA, Dublin, Ireland; BACC, Bangkok, Thailand; Galerie Barbara Thumm, Berlin, GE; MASS MoCA, Massachusetts, USA; Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE; RHA, Dublin, Ireland; CCI, Paris, France; Uterior Gallery, NYC, USA; and MMCA, Seoul, Korea. Bolster's book 'When Will We Recognize Us' was recently published by Hirmer, and his work has appeared in Artforum, The New York Times, Washington Post, and Irish Art Review. He is curator for the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation in NYC.

Alan Butler works with traditional and new media to explore subjects and ideas related to digital culture and their role in the formation of realities. With a production modality that utilises materials and media from the history of image-making, the body of work often examines how 3D graphics, video game, and cloud technologies function both ideologically and politically. His work has been exhibited at Exposed Torino Photo festival, IT (2025); Aksioma – Institute for Contemporary Art, SL (2025); V&A Dundee, UK (2024); transmediale/Akademie der Künste, DL; Royal Hibernian Academy, IE (2023); The Photographers' Gallery, UK (2022); Fotomuseum Winterthur, CH (2021 & 2018). As part of the collective ANNEX, he represented Ireland at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2021. Alan Butler is represented by Green on Red Gallery, Dublin.



Cecilia Danell is a Swedish-born, Ireland-based painter with a multidisciplinary practice that incorporates sculpture, film, and textiles. Her work explores landscape, memory, and the psychological impact of place through a distinctive and contemplative aesthetic. Danell was recently awarded the 2024 Merrion Plinth Award and the 2022 RHA Hennessy Craig Award, the ESB Keating Award and Medal at the 190th RHA Annual Exhibition alongside multiple awards from the Arts Council of Ireland. Recent solo exhibitions include *The Upside Down World*, Kevin Kavanagh Gallery, (2026); *Kevin Kavanagh Presents Cecilia Danell*, Dunamais Arts Centre (2024); and *A Stillness Expanded*, Claremorris Gallery (2023).

Willie Doherty has been a pioneering figure in contemporary art film and photography for four decades. Exploring the relationship between landscape and memory, Doherty's artworks tend to begin as responses to specific terrains and evolve as complex reflections on how we look at such locations – or on what stories might be told about their hidden histories. Nominated twice for the Turner Prize (2003, 1994), Doherty's work has been the subject of many solo museum shows, recently including Ulster Museum, Belfast (2021); Fondazione Modena Arti Visive, Modena, Italy (2020); Art Sonje Center, Seoul, South Korea (2017); Villa Merkel, Germany (2016); and Museum De Pont, Tilburg (2014). Group shows include Manifesta 8 (2010); 3rd Auckland Triennial (2007); Venice Biennale 2007, 2005 and 1993.

Rachel Doolin is an artist based in the South of Ireland. Her interdisciplinary practice creates work that is informed by durational led research and driven by a desire to test the parameters of materiality, media and the criticality of issue-based practice. Recent exhibitions include; *Open Space, Sim*, Reykjavik (2024); *Holdings*, Solstice Arts Centre (2023); *Heirloom*, LHQ Gallery Cork County Council Lexicon Gallery, Dublin (2022/23).

Mark Garry is an artist and an educator. Recent projects include; *Forest: Wake This Ground*, Arnolfini, Bristol (2022); *Songs and the Soil*, Limerick City Gallery and The MAC, Belfast (2021); *An Lucht Siúl*, RAC (2021); and *Non Sculpture - Light or ~ Flexible*, Changwon Sculpture Biennale, Changwon, South Korea (2021). Mark was one of the artists that represented Ireland at the 2005 Venice Biennale.

Hammerheads is an informal group of four Irish artists, **Marie Farrington**, **Sibyl Montague**, **Laura Ní Fhlaibhín** and **Liliane Puthod**. Formed during a group show in Solstice Arts Centre in Summer 2023, they have since engaged in discussions about potential ways to collaborate, exchange and expand practices together in a visual arts context. Hammerheads work primarily in sculpture, with their individual practices sharing common ground through materiality, objects, ecology, landscape, architecture, and contemporary consumerism.

Elaine Hoey works mainly creating interactive based installations, appropriating contemporary digital art practices and aesthetics to explore the politics of digital humanity and our evolving relationship with the screen. Recent exhibitions include *Desire; A Revision from the 20th Century to the Digital Age*, IMMA, 2019-2020; *Unflattering*, The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea, curated by Soojung Yi, 2020; *Citizen Somewhere Citizen Nowhere*, The Crawford Gallery, Cork, 2020.

Patrick Hough is an artist from Offaly working with moving image across gallery and cinema contexts. Their practice traces the entanglement of archaeological, geological and ecological worlds, folding deep time into lived experience and material memory. Their work has been exhibited and screened internationally at institutions including Whitechapel Gallery, London; the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; MAAT, Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon; CPH:DOX, Copenhagen; Para Site, Hong Kong; and the Jing'an International Sculpture Project, Shanghai. They are a recipient of the Jerwood FVU Awards (2017) and a Film London FLAMIN Productions Award (2019).

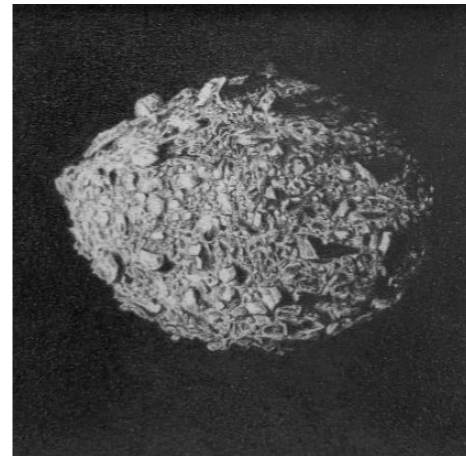
Bernadette Kiely studied at the School of Art & Design in Waterford and the Slade School of Fine Art, London. Kiely's practice is driven by an intimate connection to the places she paints and is the product of a process that involves a close examination of her subject through drawing, photographing and experiencing the landscape first-hand at all times of the day and throughout the changing seasons. Recent solo exhibitions include: *River(s) of No Return*, The Tea Houses, Kilkenny; *Towards a future floating*, Arthouse, Stradbally, Co. Laois; *Ashes + Rain*, Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny (2025); and *Don't Need No Country, Don't Fly No Flag*, Galway International Arts Festival (2024).

Sinéad Ní Mhaonaigh is an artist based in County Wicklow. In 2025, Ní Mhaonaigh was elected President of the Royal Hibernian Academy, having served as an Academician since 2023. She was elected a member of Aosdána in 2024. Recent solo exhibitions include *Snaidhm* (2026) at Kevin Kavanagh Gallery; *Sruth* (2025) at An Gailearaí and Regional Cultural Centre; and *Bailiúchan* (2025) at The Hunt Museum. Ní Mhaonaigh's work has been presented at major international art fairs, including VOLTA New York, Art Market Budapest, Art Rotterdam, and VOLTA Basel.

Niamh McCann makes materially intricate and seductive works in multi-mediums, most often expressing a precarious optimism and seeking to find communal tenderness and connection within divisions. Through sculptures, drawings, moving image, and performance, McCann looks to personal specificity from an Ireland based perspective meshed with broader brushstrokes of context. McCann was an exhibiting artist in *ReMemory*, Sydney Biennale 2026. Recent solo projects include *Someone decides, hawk or dove*, The MAC, Belfast (2024); *Someone decides, hawk or dove*, Stable Arts, Washington DC, (2023); *Hairline Crack (a dialogue)*, Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris and *Wilhelm- Hack Museum*, Germany (2022/3); and *Tableau Vivants*, The Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin (2022). McCann is represented by Green on Red Gallery, Dublin.

Eleanor McCaughey studied at TU, Dublin. Selected exhibitions include *Panorama Europa*, The Glucksman, University College Cork (2026); *Songs to the Siren*, The Model, Sligo (2026); *Silent Parlours*, Linenhall Arts Centre, Co Mayo (2026); and *When you open your door to a mountain*, Kevin Kavanagh, Dublin (2025). Eleanor McCaughey is a recipient of the Fingal County Council Bursary (2021), Arts Council Ireland Bursary Award (2020), The Fingal County Council, RHA Residency Award (2022), The Temple Bar Project Award (2021), and the Next Generation Award (2018).

Lucy McKenna's work is concerned with the observation and interpretation of data relating to our understanding of the universe. She looks at the systems that attempt to explain our place in it, who owns them and the perspectives that those systems include or exclude. Recent projects include *Artifacts*, Casa Hoffmann, Bogotá, Colombia (2021); *Ollphéist*, Ormston House, Limerick (2020); *Subliminal Sublime - Roscommon Arts Centre Park Project* (2019); and *Cube Space*, The LAB, Dublin (2017). Awards include DCC Artist in Residence Award (2018), Culture Ireland award for international exhibition (2013), Irish Arts Council Project Award (2012).



Isabel Nolan's exhibitions are rooted in big subjects: cosmology and deep history; religion and mythology; mortality and love. Working across sculpture, textiles, paintings, drawings, photography and writing, Nolan responds to the fundamental question of how humans bring the world into meaning. Looking at the history of aesthetics, theology, technology, and ideas, Nolan examines how we frame and make our lived experience. Nolan has had significant solo exhibitions nationally and internationally in spaces including: Château La Coste, Aix-en-Provence, France (2023); Solstice Arts Centre, Meath (2021); London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE, London (2017); Grazer Kunstverein, Graz; Mercer Union, Toronto and Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (2016); Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2014). In 2026 she represented Ireland at the 61st Venice Biennale with *Dreamshook*.

Barbara Knežević is an artist working with sculpture, installation and film. Her practice is attentive to how sculptures and other artistic objects engage the body and affect the politics of materials, nationality and ethnicity; historically and in contemporary contexts closely related to her own subjecthood. Solo and group exhibitions include *The Iron Gates*, Wexford Arts Centre (2026), and Sirius Arts Centre (2025); *Pleasure 'Scapes*, RHA, Dublin (2021); and *Woman in the Machine*, VISUAL Carlow (2021).

Emily Waszak is a Donegal-based visual artist of Japanese-descent working in sculpture and textiles. Themes of grief and loss are ever present in her art. Recent solo exhibitions include *Ancestors, Lovers, Kin*, Southwark Park Galleries, London (2026); *Enchanting, and Then What Sorrow*, The Courthouse Gallery, Ennistymon (2025); *The Land and Others Including the Dead*, Pallas Projects/Studios, Dublin (2024); and *Grief Weaving*, Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny (2023). Her work was also exhibited in IMMA as part of the RDS Visual Arts Awards exhibition (2023–2024).

Grace Weir is an artist whose work ranges from film and video art to photographic, painting, installation, web projects and lecture-performances. One area of Weir's work is her unique approach to research, based on encounters with specifics such as certain objects, books, artworks; particular locations and sources or from conversations with philosophers, scientists and practitioners from other disciplines. She represented Ireland at the 49th International Venice Biennale and has exhibited widely nationally and internationally. She was an Artist-in-Residence in Trinity College Dublin (2012-2015) and had a major solo exhibition, *3 different nights, recurring*, at the Irish Museum of Modern Art (2015-2016). In 2019 she was commissioned by The Institute of Physics (UK and Ireland) to create an installation 'Time Tries All Things' for the inaugural show in their gallery in London. Solo exhibitions also include *For every line, a point not on it*, Galleria Alessandra Bonomo, Rome, Italy (2023-2024).