

Media Release:

## **A Collection of Conversations – a Dementia Inclusive Exhibition**

**A collaboration between Municipal Gallery, dlr Lexicon and Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery**

**Municipal Gallery, dlr Lexicon, Dún Laoghaire**

16 June – 31 August 2022, Admission free

**Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda**

17 June – 24 September 2022, Admission free

From mid-June two neighbouring art galleries, in Dún Laoghaire and Drogheda present 'A Collection of Conversations', a dementia inclusive exhibition. The artworks included are from the dlr County Collection and the Drogheda Municipal Art Collection, Highlanes Gallery, and the exhibition has been specially selected by artists Claire Halpin, Julie Merriman and Orla Goodwin for visitors living with dementia. A series of free dementia inclusive events and tours will take place throughout the exhibition run, inviting those living with dementia and their carers/ families to the galleries for: visual, musical, olfactory and movement-based sensory experiences. Full programme details will be available on [www.dlrcoco.ie/arts](http://www.dlrcoco.ie/arts) and [www.highlanes.ie](http://www.highlanes.ie)

The exhibitions include a wide range of engaging art works by important modern and contemporary artists where work from the Drogheda Municipal Art Collection, Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda featuring artists Gerard Dillon, Evie Hone, Mary Swanzy, Nano Reid, William Leech, Nathaniel Hone, Diana Copperwhite, Anthony Haughey, and many others will be on view at dlr Lexicon; alongside a selection of work from the dlr County Collection, while at Highlanes Gallery Drogheda, works by Mainie Jellet, Melanie le Brocqy, Paul Hallahan, Bassam Al Sabah, George Potter, John Behan and many others will be presented with other key works from the Collection.

Speaking about the selection of artworks, Claire Halpin, Julie Merriman and Orla Goodwin said:

*"A Collection of Conversations reflects the rich and engaging conversations we as Azure trained facilitators have had with dementia inclusive groups looking at artworks in the two Collections, the tangents of discussions, the listening, the looking, the back and forth, exchange of stories inspired by what we see in the artworks. We considered what it means to bring together and exchange and share the two collections....Artworks have the power to takes us to different places, explore, imagine, reflect, feel mindfulness and most importantly to enjoy a good chat and good company."*

The exhibition will feature a multisensory installation by artist Joanna Hopkins. This is a specially developed commission opportunity which came through extensive consultations with local services that support people with dementia. Multisensory experiences for people living with dementia are an established practice in residential care settings. The aim of this multisensory installation is to be as engaging as possible for people with dementia who visit the exhibition. It is supported by Creative Ireland under the Creativity in Older Age Scheme 2022

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lettie McCarthy said:

“We hope that this exhibition and programme of events will benefit people living with dementia and will support their families and carers, creating an awareness among the general population about the benefits and positive impacts of creativity for people living with dementia. The *Creativity in Older Age Scheme 2022* is a fantastic opportunity to create a vibrant and positive programme for people with dementia living in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and we are very grateful for the support of Creative Ireland and the HSE who support our Dementia-Inclusive Gallery Tours.

The exhibition opens to the public on Thursday 16 June in Dun Laoghaire and runs until Wednesday 31 August at the Municipal Gallery, dlr Lexlcon, Dún Laoghaire. (Please note that dlr Lexlcon is closed over Bank Holiday weekends).

The exhibition opens to the public on Friday 17 June in Drogheda and runs until Saturday 24 September at Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery, Drogheda. (Please note that Highlanes Gallery is open Tuesday - Saturday).

For details of the Gallery Learning Programme go to [www.dlrcoco.ie/arts](http://www.dlrcoco.ie/arts)

For details of the Public Programme at Highlanes go to [www.highlanes.ie](http://www.highlanes.ie)

For further information or images please contact Ciara King email: [cking@dlrcoco](mailto:cking@dlrcoco) or phone dlr Arts Office: (01) 2362759.