

# VITAL SIGNS

**Vital Signs**  
*Arts & Health in Context*  
An Arts Council Initiative



Marie Brett & Charlotte Donovan  
Memory Dress

The *Memory Dress* project took place as part of Triskel Arts Centre's three year arts and health programme in St Finbarr's Hospital, Cork. The project was a collaboration between artists Charlotte Donovan and Marie Brett and involved more than 150 participants. In addition to working with the patients and staff in St Finbarr's Hospital the artists also invited individuals and groups associated with the hospital to become involved in the project. The sculptural pieces *Lost Children* were created in response to the historical and social landscape of St Finbarr's Hospital. The hospital was originally the city workhouse with an onsite laundry similar to the infamous Magdalene Laundries. The hidden and forgotten stories of children loved and lost were recollected through the creation of these dress sculptures. The work was developed in collaboration with patients from St Catherine's and St Monica's Wards, hospital staff and visitors. The *Memory Dress* prints are made from original fabric dresses created by women from Ballyphehane ICA. Participants contributed their own fabric scraps, using them to recreate a dress that was special to them and shared a memory associated with that dress. The *Memory Dress* prints and *Lost Children* were exhibited as part of the *Memory Dress* Exhibition in Triskel Arts Centre, Cork in 2007. There is an accompanying catalogue.

Marie Brett's practice spans video, sculpture and installation as well as participatory public art and in-context projects. Her work has been presented in exhibitions and events nationally and internationally and her sculpture is held in numerous public collections throughout Ireland and the UK. She holds an MA and first class BA from Goldsmith's College, London University.

Charlotte Donovan is a visual artist with twenty years experience of devising, developing, facilitating and managing art projects in healthcare and community contexts in Scotland and Ireland. She was Triskel Arts Centre's artist-in-residence in St Finbarr's Hospital for three years. Her practice also includes international residencies, public art commissions, curation, training, mentoring, evaluation and consultancy. ([www.scarletibis.org](http://www.scarletibis.org))

*Memory Dress* was funded by St Finbarr's Hospital, the Health Service Executive South, Triskel Arts Centre, Cork City Council and the Arts Council Artist in the Community Scheme managed by Create.

Bhí an tionscadal *Memory Dress* ar siúl mar chuid de chlár trí bliana ealaíon agus sláinte de chuid Ionad Ealaíon Triskel in Ospidéal Naomh Fionnbarra, Corcaigh. Comhobair idir na healaíontóirí Charlotte Donovan agus Marie Brett a bhí sa tionscadal agus bhí os cionn 150 rannpháirtí i gceist ann. Chomh maith lena bheith ag obair in éineacht le hothair agus leis an bhfoireann oibre in Ospidéal Naomh Fionnbarra, thug na healaíontóirí cuireadh do dhaoine aonair agus do ghrúpaí a bhí bainteach leis an ospidéal páirt a ghlacadh sa tionscadal. Cruthaíodh na saothair dealbhóireachta *Lost Children* mar fhreagairt ar thírdhreach stairiúil agus sóisialta Ospidéal Naomh Fionnbarra. Ba é teach na mbocht na cathrach a bhí san ospidéal i dtús báire, agus bhí neachtlanann ann freisin cosúil leis na Neachtlananna Mhaigdiléana (Magdalene Laundries). Chabhraigh na

dealbha gúna seo le daoine cuimhneamh ar na scéalta a bhí curtha i bhfolach agus a dearmadadh faoi leanaí a bhí grá ag daoine dóibh ach agus a tógadh uathu. Forbraíodh an saothar i gcomhair le hothair ó Bhardaí Naomh Catherine agus Naomh Monica, foireann an ospidéal agus cuairteoirí. Tá na priontaí *Memory Dress* déanta ó ghúnaí fabraice bunúla a rinne mná ó Bhaintreach na Tuaithe i mBaile Féitheán. Thug rannpháirtithe a bhfuiligh fhabraice féin isteach, bhain siad úsáid astu chun gúna a bhí speisialta dóibh a athdhéanamh, agus roinn siad cuimhní a bhain leis an ngúna sin. Cuireadh na priontaí *Memory Dress* agus *Lost Children* ar taispeántas mar chuid den Taispeántas *Memory Dress* in Ionad Ealaíon Triskel i gCorcaigh in 2007. Tá catalóg ag dul leis.



Memory Dress: Lost Children  
2006 - 2007, St Finbarr's Hospital, Cork  
VISUAL ARTS, ARTS PARTICIPATION

Cuimsíonn cleachtas Marie Brett fiseán, dealbhóireacht agus suiteáil chomh maith le healaín phoiblí rannpháirteach agus tionscadail i gcomhthéacs. Bhí a cuid oibre curtha i láthair i dtaispeántais agus in imeachtaí go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta agus tá a dealbhóireacht in go leor bailiúcháin poiblí ar fud na hÉireann agus sa Ríocht Aontaithe. Tá MA agus BA den chéad ghrád aici ó Goldsmith's College, London University.

Is fisealaíontóir í Charlotte Donovan a bhfuil fiche bliain taithí aici ag ceapadh, ag forbairt, ag éascú agus ag bainistiú tionscadail ealaíne i gcomhthéacs cúram sláinte agus pobail san Albain agus in Éirinn. Bhí sí ina healaíontóir cónaithe d'Ionad Ealaíon Triskel in Ospidéal Naomh Fionnbarra ar feadh trí bliana. Cuimsíonn a

cleachtas cónaitheachtaí idirnáisiúnta, coimisiúin ealaín phoiblí, coimeádacht, oiliúint, meantóireacht, luacháil agus comhairliúcháin. ([www.scarletibis.org](http://www.scarletibis.org))

Bhí *Memory Dress* maoinithe ag Ospidéal Naomh Fionnbarra, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte Theas, Ionad Ealaíon Triskel, Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí Ealaíon agus Sceim na nEalaíontóirí sa Phobal de chuid na Comhairle Ealaíon, arna bainistiú ag Create.