



An epic folk tale of electromagnetic energy, health and cultural lore

# DRAGON'S TAIL

by artist Marie Brett

**Dragon's Tail is a contemporary epic folk tale.** It explores how electromagnetic energy and cultural lore relate to human health and alien other-worlds?. Fact, fiction and myth fuse to a new cultural lore contemporaneity, encouraging new thinking on global wellness issues, asking what's being culturally lost amid future environmental prophesy? Filmed on a peninsula in Ireland's West

Coast, this once-off, folk-cult performance was created by visual artist Marie Brett working in collaboration with a team of musicians, dancers and circus performers. The resulting short film includes contemporary willow effigies, straw costume attire, ritual stick and skull artefacts and a fire labyrinth, plus a specially commissioned voice and instrumental soundscape. Informed by Brett's research with farmers, folklorists, strawyers, druids, a necromancer, electrician, shaman, curator, scholars of folk art and mythology plus a curator and Council of Elder specialist in elemental and extra-sensory perception; the piece combines the gravity of rite of passage and ritualised ceremony, with a frenzied celebration of carnival. It explores narratives of disease, protection and cure, and combines different truths of the uncanny and stories of ancient and modern times.

*A premier film installation with live straw-girl performance was presented by Cork Printmakers for Culture Night, 2022.*

**Collaborators and Contributors:** Joanna Kate Grant, Helen D'Bharóid, Sarah Kelleher, Elisabeth Vandermeer, Kevin Scully, Eugene Walsh, Fanny Leenhardt, Lorraine Comer, Clodagh Doyle, Michael Fortune, Dr Jenny Butler, William Maloney, Karen Barry, Pádraig Óg ÓRuaric, Timmy O'Connor, Lisa O'Sullivan, Dr Billy Mag Fhloin, Juliette Hamilton, Liadain Butler, Lucia Pola, Eugene Trindles, Matt O'Connor, Jim O'Donovan, Joseph Sheehan, Pat O'Sullivan, Jessie Keenan, Siobhán Ní Dhuinnín, Sarah Ryan, Harry White, Moss Russell, Sadbh Grenham, Hannah Ryan, Ellie Sherwood, Stevie Wilson, Ardan Preteau, Teresa Galvin, Lisa O'Sullivan, Nicola Stathers, Clodagh Piper, Tomás Malone, Julí Ní Mhaoileóin, Róisín-Mya Connolly, Lee Behegan, Erin Clarke, Stephen Doughton, Oscar McCullagh, Stu Murphy, Kate O'Shea, Evelyn Broderick, Vicky White, Nic Piper, Siobhán Kavanagh, John Linnane, Ultan O'Brien, Robbie Walsh, Chris Barry, Seán Mac Erlaine, Colm Mullen, Chris Garrett, Jay Peter Javeri.



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Photo credit: Fiona Morgan