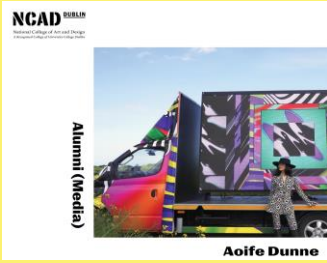


### In Profile – meet our alumni ↓



**We caught up with Aoife Dunne, NCAD graduate and visual artist, to chat about her career and current exhibition, the moving digital installation *Transcending Time*.**

Name: Aoife Dunne  
Current Career: Visual Artist  
Discipline: Fine Art Media (2016)

#### **What career path did you want to follow as a child?**

I trained as a dancer and performer as a child, which had a huge impact on my creative thought process, as well as educating me about the technicalities involved in making work from the perspective of both the performer and the observer. I started an online magazine when I was 12, which was my first real launch into entrepreneurship; and a web design business the same year. I won a scholarship to the Royal Irish Academy of Music and in 2008 made a short video which was shown at the Beijing Film Festival. I began my career in fashion in 2011, and soon began styling and art directing shoots. My experience in the fashion industry has been crucial to the development of my artistic practice, which is heavily focused on using costume as a vehicle to explore, express and define notions of identity. My practice is a fusion of all my experiences with sculpture, video, sound, performance and technology.

#### **How did you develop your career towards your current job / practice?**

The year I graduated from NCAD I was invited to exhibit my degree show work at the Royal Academy of Arts, London and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, and went on to win at the RDS visual art awards at the end of 2016. This set me up to continue creating large-scale installations.

#### **Tell us a bit about your current exhibition, *Transcending Time*.**

I have always been interested in the complex relationships that exist between the viewer, the artist and the context in which the work is made and exhibited. When lockdown began, I started reimagining what is possible given our current limitations.

I wanted to do something different and bring art to people. This is a moving digital installation that will come to your house upon request. It was inspired by my latest solo show in Paris - an open-air digital installation consisting of LED screens which surround the exterior of the gallery; and was viewed at a distance. I wanted to recreate this excitement in Ireland, whilst remaining innovative in our current climate and obeying the social distancing restrictions. As my work is a combination of sculpture, technology, sound and performance, I came up with a concept that fits within my practice but also offers a more exciting alternative to the online space. The exhibition was commissioned by Fingal County Council Public Art Programme and is available to residents of the Fingal area.

#### **What is the one experience – during your time at NCAD – that has informed you most in your career / work to date?**

In my core year, Philip Napier, Head of Fine Art, gave a great talk on what the course entails and the role of an artist. One thing that he said really stuck with me during my four years studying at NCAD: "If you're lucky, maybe one of you will make it." He was right. Pursuing art is an incredible challenge but incredibly rewarding, and this was exactly the kind of motivation I needed.

#### **If you were chatting with current NCAD students today, what is the one piece of advice you would offer?**

Say yes; and figure it out later.

#### **Given the global turmoil and change, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, what – in your opinion – are the opportunities for those in creative industries?**

When I got news that all my upcoming shows for the year were cancelled, I quickly decided to create from possibility, not circumstance. One great power of the imagination is to enable us to see an alternative future, where reason sees none. We need art to reawaken our sense of wonder, to remind us of our freedom, and to highlight the things in our cultures that enable us to withstand the dreaded visage of death. Art is needed now.

This summer we have been checking in with some of our NCAD graduates to reflect on their time at NCAD and to see how their careers have developed since graduating. [Explore the full series here.](#)

### What's Coming Up ↓

The **NCAD In Public** programme presents a digital talks series to focus discussion on the challenges and changes facing creative practice today. Beginning this month, the online programme will convene speakers from multidisciplinary backgrounds in industry, professional practice and academic fields. All talks will broadcast live on the NCAD Gallery & In Public YouTube channel. [Subscribe to our YouTube channel.](#)

#### **The Air We Breathe: Multiple Publics in Future Practice | Thursday, 30 July 2020 at 5pm**

The first digital talk in our series directs a discussion on social engagement in the age of social distance.

Our panelists **Ailbhe Murphy** (Director, CREATE), **Aoife Dunne** (Artist), **Georgina Jackson** (Director, Douglas Hyde Gallery), and **Sarah Glennie** (Director, NCAD, and Discussion Chair) will each speak to their individual perspectives on some of the immediate challenges they encounter in their professional daily lives'. [Find further information here.](#)



#### **Year 1 Exhibition | Currently online**

Each year we showcase the studio work of our Year 1 students. This year we celebrate the creativity and resilience of our students via an online exhibition.

These images, made in the time of COVID, are a small example from each of the pathways available to our students.

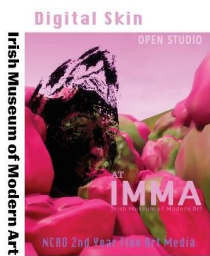
[Explore the students' work here.](#)

### Opportunities ↓

Chatham House and London Design Biennale have announced full details of **Design In An Age of Crisis**, a global open call. The deadline is Monday, 31 August 2020. [Find out more here.](#)

Professor Alex Milton and Dr Caoimhe Mc Mahon are joining judging panels at this year's **IDI Awards**. The competition is open to designers based in Ireland or Irish designers working abroad. [Find out more about the IDI Awards here.](#)

## In Action ↓



MEDIA

Second year Fine Art Media students showcased experimental virtual reality works, machinima video art, interactive video games and a live cyber performance at an open studio event in the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) in December 2019.

As part of an 11-week collaborative project between IMMA and NCAD, students were invited to critically respond to the exhibition *Desire: A Revision From the 20th Century to the Digital Age*, through the production and presentation of research and finished work.

Students took part in a series of workshops exploring virtual reality, machinima, live virtual reality cyber performance and video game art, while critically examining how desire is transformed by our relationship with contemporary technology. Student responses explored a wide range of related themes such as posthumanism, technocapitalism, hedonism and technological transcendence, and singularity.

The project culminated in a one-day open studio event at IMMA, during which students held a series of artists talks and shared concepts and processes involved in developing their work. Aisling Phelan, second year Fine Art Media student and project participant said: "We got first-hand experience of installing virtual reality and video-based work and we were given the chance to bring these works from existing only in the digital realm into something that can be exhibited and experienced by an audience."



## Staff / Student Achievements ↓

We are delighted to share the news that **Niamh McCann**, First Year staff member, is one of the artists shortlisted in the selection process for Ireland's representation at the *2022 Venice Art Biennale*. [More information can be found here.](#)



**Nicole O'Reilly**, NCAD Fashion Design Graduate, has been selected as an *International Feel the Yarn 2020* finalist. Congratulations Nicole! The 2020 winners will be announced in September. [More information can be found here.](#)

Congratulations to the **NCAD/MISA Creative Life, Studio + students** on their virtual showcase. The Art, Health and Well-Being module 2019-2020 based in NCAD and MISA in St. James's Hospital saw students respond to the hospital, its environment or services, and with patients and staff. [You can view the showcase here.](#)



We were thrilled to learn of the success of our graduate **Adrian Duncan** in winning the inaugural £5,000 John McGahern Book Prize for his novel, *Love Notes From a German Building Site*. The prize was set up by the University of Liverpool's Institute of Irish Studies.

## 40 years of degrees ↓

This month marked 40 years since NCAD awarded degrees for the first time. On 6 July 1980, 20 students received degrees after completing a four-year course. [To mark this, RTÉ shared this video.](#)

## Campus Reopening ↓

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to the NCAD campus from Monday 5 October.

Practice is at the heart of learning at NCAD. NCAD's reopening plans are centred on creating the best conditions for learning, in a safe environment for staff and students. We know that social distancing and significant health and safety constraints will be required for several months, and may well be required for some years to come - depending upon global success in combating the Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, we are working to develop teaching strategies that enable bold and curious learning for all of our students, meeting the needs of our disciplines and fostering the new thinking needed more than ever as society faces and shapes the world.

A close analysis of our campus shows that around half of our students can be on campus at one time in order to follow public health advice on social distancing. Therefore our teaching and learning environment is being re-framed to encompass on-campus and off-campus teaching and learning in equal measure.

Programmes will be adopting a 'flipped classroom' approach; a model of teaching in which introductory material is shared and early-phase work conducted remotely and then 'tested' in class and completed on campus. Wherever possible, content will be delivered in a way that can be accessed remotely and available asynchronously. Supporting peer-to-peer learning is vital to the kind of creative practice that students undertake at NCAD and will be built into our on-campus and off-campus teaching and learning structures.

Under the blended learning model being developed at NCAD, students can expect to be on campus for at least two days every week, with additional time on a third day in some weeks. All time on campus will be scheduled time.

Detailed plans are being put in place to support the induction of students, addressing health and safety, learning and teaching, student support services, learning support, learning-to-learn in a blended environment, the NCAD library, student life, and Smart Consent. [Keep an eye on the website for more info.](#)