

#LIF2024 EXHIBITIONS

IN THE WINDOW: MEET THE ARTIST - MICHAEL **'MUCK' MURPHY**

Open during gallery hours, Tue 1 Oct-Sat 2 Nov, *Bluecoat Display* Centre, Free, just turn up.

As part of Liverpool Irish Festival 2024, the artist Michael Murphy will display his work at Bluecoat Display Centre. Michael's practice is rooted in the use of traditional forms in both furniture and sculpture. His current body of work aims to immortalis ash trees in sculpture, exploring the limits of their form, having them drift into a liminal space between existence and non-existence which is the state of their species. The works have a sense of ritual about them. The artist likes to think of himself as exhuming the tree gathering up its limbs and allowing them to be reborn as tactile objects.





BRAVE MAEVE

Open during library opening hours, Mon 7 Oct-Sat 30 Nov, St Helen's Library at World of Glass, Free, just turn up

Brave Maeve is a Liverpool girl. In 2023 she was taken on an amazing adventure, through Irish folklore, when something was stolen from her Grandad Mac by a pesky púca. Now she's back, returning an item from the Famine to an Irish King, lost in the annals of time!

To complement the richly illustrated (second) book, this exhibition for children offers a fun way to pass some time with the child in your life. Aimed at 7-11-year-olds, the book and accompanying exhibit, will allow children to take selfies with characters from Irish folklore, so bring your cameras and phones.

Gael Linn, An tUltach and Gaelbhratach



CELEBRATING IRISH CRAFT

Open during gallery hours, Tue 1 Oct-Sat 2 Nov, *Bluecoat Display* Centre, Free, just turn up

Having partnered with the Liverpool Irish Festival over years, to celebrate and share the work of Irish makers, Bluecoat Display **Centre** hosts a retrospective of those artisans including more that are seen through their annual portfolio of creatives. With silver, ceramics, glass, paintings, textiles and more besides, there is something to suit every budding creative, interest and price point. Whether you're just looking for the sheer fun of it or searching for a unique gift, this is an exceptional display of contemporary talent in one of the longest serving in the country





online prior to travelling.

Event details may be subject to change. Please check all dates and times

Famine Trail's plaque sites, telling rich stories.

liverpoolirishfestival.com

REVEALING TRAILS

10am-5pm, Sun 20 Oct and Sat 26 Oct

This exhibition documents Liverpool's role in

The first section briefly tells the story of *The* Pam Sullivan and Nicola McGovern — the creations respond to the *Liverpool Irish*

These share how people connect with this history, their heritage and how what happened maintains a connection with what is happening in our world today.

The Docklands Trail is a volunteer led organisation that have loaned us these spaces. We are very grateful.

Funded by *The National Lottery Heritage* Fund, this exhibition includes art works, artefacts and memories. Everything presented was created in 2024, though items may have roots and references going back through the generations.



SATURDAY GIRL: FIVE-YEARS

#LIF2024 EXHIBITIONS

Open during building opening hours (subject to building use), Mon 7-Sun 27 Oct, *The Shed* at *Baltic Creative*, Free, just turn up. To ensure the gallery is open, visit between 9am-5pm Fri 18-Sun 20 Oct or Fri 25-Sun 27 Oct. These times have been reserved for Festival visitors. This is a self-guided exhibit.

Saturday Girl is a brave body of work that — in its entirety — spans thousands of portraits, many cities and a colossal number of shows. The brainchild of Casey Orr, the portraits began when Casey realised how hair was being used to reflect and project identity. Aspects of the work were first made and shown in Liverpool during *LOOK/15*. Five-years ago, we revisited this work at *TATE*, as part of the *TATE* Exchange programme.

Printed on blue-back paper — a staple of the music and entertainment industry — they are impermanent, time-specific and time-limited. They're expected to depart, degrade, devalue and yet here they are, five-years on. Is there something subversive about using a temporary material to produce an artwork or document a life?

Shot in Liverpool and Belfast can you guess which is from where? What do these images say to us about leaving our youth; did COVID change how we get ready to go out and is the term 'girl' ok in today's woke world?

Find out more about Saturday Girl and Casey's work at caseyorr.com



POSTCARDS FROM A PILGRIMAGE

9am-4pm daily, Mon 7-Sun 27 Oct, Northern Lights (5 Mann Street, L8 5AF), Free, just turn up This is a self-guided exhibit.

In May 2024, the Festival's Artistic Director and CEO, Emma Smith, and the *Liverpool Irish* In time, they will find a permanent home, but right John Maguire, teamed up with 10+ walkers to bring a pair of bronze shoes from Strokestown to Liverpool. Walking along the *National* Famine Way and helping to forge a new Global Famine Trail, should visit the Revealing *Irish Famine Way*, the shoes are the emblem of the Strokestown National Famine Museum, Estate and Way.

Whilst on their pilgrimage, Emma and John created a series of daily postcards, taking photos and writing messages, to document their journey.

Famine Trail's History Research Group leader, now – just like the 1,490 migrants forced from Strokestown in 1847 — that home is yet to be found. Visitors interested in seeing the shoes up close, and learning more about the *Liverpool Irish*

Shown in **Northern Lights**, where the Festival

bronze shoes coming to Liverpool.

Trails exhibition.

has an office, these postcards document 220km+

walked over nine-days and the full journey of the

Visitors may also be interested to note that a documentary about the walk, funded by the Irish Government, will be released in 2025.

Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Here, the nine postcard fronts and backs are enlarged, reproduced and transcribed, detailing the walkers' experiences, feelings and events.

10am-1pm, Wed 9 Oct, Sun 13 Oct, Wed 16 Oct and Sun 27 Oct

at *The Docklands Trail* containers at Collingwood Dock, Free, just turn up (donations welcome)

the foundation of the **Global Irish Famine** Way and how it came to be involved.

Walk of the Bronze Shoes, whilst the second considers the resilience of Liverpool's people through the research and expressions of contemporary participants. Featuring collaborative community artworks — led by local artists Lydia O'Hara, Tadhg Devlin,

verpoolirishtaminetrail.com/app ** 98 68 JIAA.

theme. Next year it'll be 'arrivals'. the linkages we've made with this year's We hope you'll enjoy #LIF2024 and all continue to present their stories today. thanks to all those that survived and that home for our bronze shoes, lets give to the satellites and find a permanent documentary (2025); get our app to talk for Revive) and prepare to release our As we develop our new book (a sister

the Irish Famine still has stories to reveal. harm, diaspora lives, legacy and resilience, nostalgia, host communities, loss and to #LIF2024. Touching on migration, its provided significant depth and breadth Bronze Shoes epitomizes it best. Certainly, 'departures', but perhaps The Walk of the In 2024 there aremany connections with

between us, rather than a just an absence. Famine Museum, creating an exchange in the reflection room at the **National EPIC** to present the work. It now resides Sullivan, Pam joined us on the stage at Commissioned from local artist Pam

stayed in during their time in Liverpool. of the sort of dwelling the 1,490 may have a porcelain courthouse, representative the **Strokestown Estate** team with When we reached Dublin, we presented removing another Strokestown belonging. of Liverpool's pair of bronze shoes, thus left Strokestown, we took on the weight when we got to Dublin or Liverpool. As we know what would be ahead or how we'd feel Leaving Strokestown in May, we couldn't

from a Pilgrimage (Northern Lights). Trails (Collingwood Dock) and Post cards exhibitions as part of #LIF2024, Revealing about departures, will help to populate two Heritage Trust). The walk, and our thinking University) and Dr Jason King (Irish Professor Christine Kinealy (Quinnipiac



Poor (Mon 28 Oct), from fellow walkers Festival a talk on The Poor Helping the Choir. The walk has also brought this year's performed by the Liverpool Irish Centre by local lads, lan Cantwell and Marty Snape, commissioned song – The Ullaloo – written listings). This year, we'll share our newly Irish Famine Memorial (Sun 27 Oct, see us to host a vigil, ahead of our annual sailed to Canada! The walk has promted In the end, 15 pairs of bronze shoes were

and this journey? and imbue the shoes with their presence these people be available to walk together and issued... because, when else, would set up; press releases were hastily drafted accommodation; Just Giving pages were scraped together to pay for travel and gave their time; pots of money were turnaround and a lack of funding. Our team drove our involvement, despite the quick Liverpool to Canada. This deep link 'assisted passage' from his home via - Denis Mahon - arranged for their Strokestown Estate, when the land owner Irish Famine poor, from their homes on the to mark the eviction and departure of 1,490 The National Famine Way was devised

press and many more. This heralded the Irish Heritage Trust, schools, politicians, and National Famine Museum and members of the **Strokestown Estate** Ambassador to Ireland, Nancy Smyth; to Canada, Dr Eamonn McKee; Canada's They'd walked with Ireland's Ambassador pair of the bronze shoes between them. the **National Famine Way** carrying a 3kg strong group of walkers, they completed Commemoration Committee), and a 10+ (founder of the Liverpool Great Hunger them. Accompanied by Greg Quiery the walk and 1,000km+ training between By June, two of our team, had completed

beginning of the Global Irish Famine Way.

nice to make sure Liverpool was involved. to Canada. We all thought it would be really of their famous bronze shoe markers out walk (165km) and send a couple of pairs to undertake the National Famine Way us in Liverpool. It turned out, he was going to make connections there and with a Canadian Ambassador who was keen trip the previous May), started to talk about (with whom we'd undertaken a research break, when our friends in Strokestown We'd just returned from the Christmas

early app for the Trail. Then some funny things happened... some creative projects, generating digital assets and launching an to grow work on the Liverpool Irish Famine Trail. This would include nailed down. We'd been awarded National Lottery Heritage Funds We knew our theme - departures - and had some key events At the end of 2023, we had a great work plan blocked out for 2024.

BEONZE 2HOE2 THE WALK OF THE **DEPARTURES AND**

#LIF2024'S THEME: WHO ARE WE AND

Ireland closer together using arts and culture. We provide access to Irish culture, using an all-Ireland

approach, through participation, creative ingenuity and value for money. Our Festival is accessible, fun and high quality; taking you to many parts of the city. Our aim is to start interesting conversations by showing you new things, rather than replicating what happens in Irish Services across Liverpool throughout the year.

#LIF2024 provides artful, cultural storytelling via traditional and contemporary creative practices. We involve you, your friends and family in activities that reflect and share Ireland's history and its influence on Liverpool.

As a commissioner; a showcase for diverse expression and as international collaborator, we build a dynamic, inclusive and affordable programme. We proudly challenge assumptions and celebrate Ireland's multifaceted life.



WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

Liverpool Irish Festival brings Liverpool and

Join us during #LIF2024 as we consider 'departures' Departures can mark the end of one project and the start of another. They can symbolise new ways of thinking or make you reflect on your mortality.

Across this year's programme, the Festival discusses how migration has created new communities and left indelible marks on peoples' heritage.

Departures from Ireland created the many generations of Irish people here on Merseyside. Whether led by canal building (1800s), the industrialisation of Britain's trainlines (1830s), the Famine (1840s and 50s), political divide or social disharmony, leaving Ireland — or Liverpool has created diaspora communities globally

These historical departures have imported Irish stone have built churches, chapels and homes here. During the Irish Famine, it meant Liverpool built fever sheds and relief stations and today, Irish people continue to have multigenerational families here; populate schools and universities; feed the economy and atmosphere of the city and leave traces of themselves in the city's accent. We're here to reveal all of this.

We see our role as helping to share these stories, creating visibility. We need to depart from what happens day-to-day to showcase the extraordinary' and add value to the services that already exist.









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Liverpool 19, Saturday Girl © Casey Orr



FESTIVAL INFORMATION

ACCESSING TICKETS

All events are in 2024. Where we stipulate that 'booking is required' you can access ticket sites via the Festival's website liverpoolirishfestival.com/events

(or clicking 'Events' in the menu.) We work in lots of venues so booking links may take you to venue websites or *Eventbrite* booking pages. This is normal.

Search our event pages for the event you're looking for. Use the 'book now' button to go to the official ticket vendor. Events are listed chronologically. Use this link to access all booking pages: liverpoolirishfestival.com/events.

Bursary tickets

The Festival knows ticket prices can prevent people from attending. We've kept prices to a minimum. However, if you'd be unable to attend, based on cost, please request a bursary (free) place. Label your email 'Bursary request' (or similar) and send it to emma@liverpoolirishfestival.com.

Your request will be treated with confidentiality. When we can offer you a free ticket (based on lead-time and availability) you'll be notified how you can redeem it. This is an honour system, to help those who need it most.



liverpoolirishfestival.com

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

Clarence Dock Gates (Regent Road,

The Cunard Suite, Cunard Building

Lister Steps and The Old Library, Old

opposite Cotton Street junction)

Bluecoat Display Centre

The Docklands Trail

John Mitchel's GAA pitch

Liverpool Central Library

suites and Hornby Rooms)

Liverpool Medical Institute

Liverpool Irish Centre

Futureyard CIC

The Bluecoat

We ask people to be respectful of this. Your support in ticket buying helps us deliver a generous Festival, with reduced barriers.

Strands of work to look out for The #LIF2024 programme crosses artistic disciplines, from niche to popular. Throughout the Festival we're making links to *departures*, from memorials to bidding people adieu. We hope you'll find something to please and surprise, entertain and challenge you across lots of different art forms. To help quickly

find art forms, use our colour key, below.

EVENTS KEY

FILM, ARTS AND ANIMATION

PERFORMANCE, LITERATURE AND POETRY MUSIC & SONG

TALKS AND TOURS

COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND SPORT

Lucem House, St Helens

Peter Kavanagh's (PK's)

University of Liverpool

Sefton Park Palm House

The Shed, Baltic Creative

Museums Liverpool)

Northern Lights

The Unity

Zoom – online

Museum of Liverpool (part of National

Netherley Valley Community Theatre

The School of Social Justice and Law,

St Helens Library at St Helens World

St Luke's (Bombed Out) Church

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Visit our site for GPS site interactivity, and new rich content and print-at-home maps to help explore the Trail.

POST CARDS FROM A PILGRIMAGE

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liverpoolirishfaminetrail.com

Liverpool Irish Famine Trail is funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund



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