

PRESS RELEASE

Emerging Practice

BLACK CHURCH PRINT STUDIO 1982 - 2022

40th anniversary exhibition curated by **Donna Romano, Head Librarian**
at the **National College of Art & Design**

8–25 September 2022

Gallery hours:

Monday – Friday: 11 am – 6pm,

Saturday & Sunday: 12 – 6 pm

Project funded by Dublin City Council.

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Black Church Print Studio is celebrating its 40th anniversary with an exhibition titled *Emerging Practice*, curated by Donna Romano, Head Librarian at the National College of Art & Design.

For the past four decades, Black Church has provided support for professional artists and practicing printmakers and strives to maintain and develop contemporary printmaking in Ireland. A member-centred organisation, the studio was established by artists, and is run by artists, for artists. Innovation and the inclusion of emerging media are founding principles of the studio.

Emerging Practice considers the Studio's progressive origins and vibrant legacy, exploring themes of chronology and change, blank space and mark making, experiment and discovery. The exhibition pays tribute to the achievements of the Studio with an interactive timeline of historic material from the archives at NIVAL: National Irish Visual Arts Library and features a digital gallery of original prints from the BCPS archives.

New and dynamic work by current studio members exemplifies the diversity and ambition of contemporary practice. The works on view make visible the decision-making inherent in the printmaking process and the impulse to innovate. Traditional methods and new technologies sit in parallel or overlap. Inquiry and experimentation are everywhere in evidence. The potential of the medium to mark, colour and construct appears limitless.

Humanity's complex relationship with nature is a common concern, manifest as an exploration of the spectrum of human endeavour, from traces, marks and scaring to personal, subliminal and the collective development. Manipulation, generation, disassociation and recovery are related themes, reflecting the artist's physical engagement with materials as well as with history and society. It is not surprising that in these times of COVID receding, there is a preoccupation with impermanence – transience, chance and the accidental. Yet in much of the work, vulnerability is equivalent to opportunity.

Vanessa Donoso López, Process Residency artist in 2019-2022, is exhibiting a new body of work, as yet unfinished, resulting from the use of her customary materials in new and experimental ways. Her practice explores aspects of contemporary migrant life and seeks to negotiate the tension between cross-cultural identities and narratives. The Process Residency Programme is aimed at promoting collaboration between an invited non-printmaking artist and a team of master printmakers at BCPS.

For more information & sales enquiries: Black Church Print Studio, 4 Temple Bar, Dublin 2

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Also included in the exhibition is pop-up book by Belgian artist, Gosia Olchowska. This was printed during an International Residency at Black Church Print Studio in 2018, and finished at Atelier Hans Van Dijck, Antwerp, BE. There is also a video conversation with Belle-Pilar Fleming, a screen-print artist from Colorado, and the studio's most recent International Artist-in-Residence. Belle-Pilar's work aims to catalogue experiences of identity, investigating the emotional realities of sociocultural landscapes and the ways in which people navigate them.

For Culture Night as part of Emerging Practice, BCPS presents an experimental immersive event of music by alt-indie band Akrobat and electronic imagery visualisations by artist Fiona McDonald. Responding to themes of experimentation and innovation, the collaboration is inspired by music rooted in electronica and coded visuals that can be generated from sound. The music played by Akrobat will be lo-fi in nature and consists of synth/keyboard, electric guitar and jazz-vocal. The electronic generative drawings on display will be dynamic and guided by a live performance. The performance will take place for a duration of 20 minutes three times over the course of the evening. Starting time is 7pm.

BCPS Artists included in the exhibition.

Aïda Bangoura	Eimhin Farrell	Mo Levy
Ella Bertilsson	Mary A. Fitzgerald	Fiona McDonald
Nick Boon	Belle-Pilar Fleming	Emily Mc Gardle
Margaret Bradish	Gerhardt Gallagher	David McGinn
Chloe Brenan	Margot Galvin	Margaret McLoughlin
Maureen Burke	Joan Gleeson	Muntsa Molina
Caroline Byrne	Rebecca Gleeson	Mary O'Connor
Siobhan Cox	Jane Glynn	Gosia Olchowska
Aileen Crossley	John Graham	Louise Peat
Janine Davidson	Ann Kavanagh	Tracy Staunton
Vanessa Donoso López	Robert Kelly	Derval Tubridy
Aoife Dwyer	Tomasz Knapik	Linda Uhlemann
Hazel Egan	Dorota Konchevska	

Digital gallery selected from BCPS Archive Collection.

Jorn Arko	Nicki Hayden	Tom Moore
Ailbhe Ni Bhriain	Catherine Hehir	Rose Mary Murray
Lucy Braddell	Raymond Henshaw	Margaret O'Brien
Caroline Byrne	Margaret Irwin	Siobhan O'Donnell
Clare Carpenter	Catherine Kelly	Alison Pilkington
Jonathan Cassidy	Elaine Leader	Connor Regan
Cora Cummins	Roisin Lewis	Pia Rossi
Phoebe Donovan	Anthony Lyttle	Naomi Sex
Barbara Dunne	Fiona McDonald	Jacqueline Stanley
Taffina Flood	Christy McGinn	Rose Stapleton
Dermot Finn	Colin Martin	Stephen Vaughan
Andrew Folan	Mary Louise Martin	Annraoi Wyer
Mary Fraser	Louise Meade	
Jane Garland	Maurita Moore	