

# Print Studios Partnership Building

Arts Council Capacity Building Support Scheme

12 May 2022

# Print Studios Partnership Building: Overview

Black Church Print Studio, Dublin, Cork Printmakers, Graphic Studio Dublin and Limerick Printmakers are four professional fine art print studios with a shared ethos that supports and promotes the development of contemporary art practice through the medium of printmaking. We provide facilities and specialist equipment to create new work. We generate opportunities for exhibitions, professional development and international networking through residencies. We use print as a medium for engagement with diverse communities and our public programmes promote the enjoyment of print as an artform.

Our proposal is to support the development and formalisation of the Print Network of Ireland: a network of professional print studios spanning the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. We have identified and connected with a number of other organisations to form the Print Network of Ireland: Belfast Print Workshop (NI); Seacourt Print Workshop, Bangor, Co. Down (NI); and Creative Spark Print Studio, Dundalk, Co. Louth.



Print Studios Meeting 2021

# Black Church Print Studio

Black Church Print Studio is an artists' collective that supports and promotes the development of contemporary art practice through the medium of printmaking. Located in the heart of Temple Bar – Dublin's cultural quarter – Black Church Print Studio pushes the boundaries of contemporary print. We are the lifeblood of over 75 print artists. Established in 1982, the studio fuels the professional practice of artists by providing physical studio space and specialist equipment to create work – from the traditional to the innovative and cutting edge- while also generating opportunities for exhibition, professional development and national and international networking.

Black Church Print Studio also offers opportunities for the public to experience contemporary printmaking through printmaking courses, demonstrations, tours, and talks. In addition to its core work, the studio runs five critically acclaimed programmes:

- International Artist in Residence Award
- Black Church Process Residency Award
- Student & Graduate Award
- Emerging Curator Award
- Exhibition & Events Programme



# Cork Printmakers

Cork Printmakers is a professional print studio and resource organisation providing artists with facilities and equipment to create artwork through the medium of print. Our purpose is to support and promote the creation and development of new work through our studios, exhibitions and events programme, promoting the highest standards of practice in printmaking. Our mission is to advance the understanding, interest and appreciation of printmaking by developing and implementing high quality, accessible education programmes and events for members of the public. Our public programmes are focussed on contemporary printmaking practices, education and community building through the arts.

Cork Printmakers has a vibrant and diverse range of programmes:

- professional development for artists through residencies, masterclasses, courses, workshops
- learning and education opportunities for the general public, children and older people
- community and outreach programmes to support artists, individuals and groups in a supported learning environment
- opportunities to support printmaking for graduates and emerging artists
- public events and promotion of cultural engagement through printmaking through exhibitions, talks and public activities
- collaboration and partnerships with cultural organisations, community, civic and business groups in Cork City, nationwide and internationally





# Graphic Studio Dublin

In 1960, in response to the lack of Fine-Art Printmaking and teaching facilities in Ireland, Graphic Studio Dublin was founded by artists Elizabeth Rivers, Anne Yeats, Pat Hickey and Leslie McWeeney and the Fine Art Editions publisher and founder of Dolmen Press Liam Miller. With an artist-led ethos since its inception, Graphic Studio Dublin has protected the traditional skills of etching, stone lithography, wood and linocutting and now embraces contemporary techniques including photo intaglio and screenprinting.

Hundreds of artists have passed through the doors of the Studio, from the first basement premises in Lower Mount Street, through its long and productive sojourn in Green Street East in Dublin's Docklands to its present home in a spacious four storey former brewery on the North Circular Road. Graphic Studio Gallery was established in 1988 as an outlet to display and sell original fine-art print in Dublin. It is currently the only gallery in Ireland selling only fine-art print, through the gallery and an online website. It promotes printmaking through 8-10 annual exhibitions a year, often inviting external curators to work with gallery staff, through the website and through national and international art fairs.



# Limerick Printmakers

Limerick Printmakers is a vibrant printmaking studio and creative space located in the heart of Limerick City's cultural quarter. Established in 1999, LP is a leading Irish fine art print studio that supports artistic development and innovation through the provision of high quality facilities in printmaking and photography, while also promoting additional learning and career opportunities for printmakers.

Limerick Printmakers are committed to promoting printmaking as an art form and supporting Print Makers by providing a professional open access printmaking studio, exhibition opportunities and education programme. Our vibrant education and community programmes are widely recognised in the region for their promotion of print as an accessible and diverse medium.

We are committed to organising, supporting and exhibiting with our studio members. Collaborative print projects aim to explore the diverse possibilities of contemporary printmaking and present them to a range of audiences in an accessible manner while also striving to encourage and champion local, national and international collaboration, best practice, experimentation and innovation within the artform. LP is dedicated to forging links with printmaking studios and institutions both nationally and internationally by working closely on joint projects that support the sharing of skills while raising the visibility of printmaking as an exciting and relevant medium.

We maintain and develop our modern, accessible studios that facilitate printmakers, those that utilise print in their work, and photographers alike by hosting a range of high quality printmaking equipment from its spacious studio in Johns Square, Limerick city. LP supports a wide variety of printmaking techniques including intaglio, relief, silkscreen, lithography, alongside digital printmaking plus a darkroom, and cyanotype.





# Print Network of Ireland – Supporting Partners



Belfast Print Workshop  
Belfast, Co. Antrim



Seacourt Print Workshop  
Bangor, Co. Down



Creative Spark Print Studio  
Dundalk, Co. Louth

# Print Studios Partnership Building: Aims

This proposal intends to develop the opportunity for organisations to build their capacity to offer more peer/organisational/collegiate exchange, assistance and access to facilities/skills/knowledge and expertise by developing a culture of support through a formalised network.

While the network is open to organisations who identify as professional fine art print studios, an artist-centred not-for-profit ethos is the main criteria. Four of the print studios (Black Church Print Studio, Cork Printmakers, Graphic Studio Dublin and Limerick Printmakers) have taken leadership of the network development with the following objectives:

- Promote leadership in the sector, by taking an approach to consolidate mobility, peer networking and knowledge exchange
- Examine and build upon cross-border relationships with NI and border organisations
- Consolidate support for artists by building an artist-centred strategy for professional development, diversity & inclusion, and an inter-studio mobility policy that promotes accessibility
- Research, explore and lead new ways to promote printmaking as an artform, within the greater context of contemporary visual arts culture

We will achieve this through:

- Coordinating regular meetings, dialogue and stakeholder engagement through professional facilitation and actions
- Accessing expert advice through consultations and training on best practice in network building, identity strategy, and cross-border, inter-organisational collaboration
- Undertaking ongoing review and reflective critique of progress to ensure actions and methodologies are sustainable and within strategic aims for the network
- Communicating our work and attracting further support and network opportunities through EU and global reach.

**We will activate this process in September 2022 with scheduled actions every 4 weeks.**