

Collaborative Arts Resource Pack

A collective resource created
by and for socially engaged arts
and community practitioners

December 2020



create national development
agency for collaborative arts

heartofglass

A few days after the official COVID-19 lockdown began in early March 2020, Heart of Glass invited Associate Chrissie Tiller to become their temporary writer-in-residence: working together to explore ways to chronicle, and distil the learning, from the strange and disquieting crisis we were all entering. Part of what emerged over this time were a set of reflections and resources - for the heart, body and mind - generated by practitioners which were very relevant to the collaborative and social arts sector.

Working together Create and Heart of Glass wanted to build on Chrissie's initial list. At the Create Networking Day (9th December 2020) close to two hundred delegates came together in a facilitated interactive session, entitled "Connect" which offered a chance to meet, talk, share, and strategise together.

Everyone added their recommendations, collectively building a resource pack for the sector; talks, books, projects that have inspired, kept us going and which encourage our work as collaborative artists and cultural and/or community practitioners.

This resource, made up of everyone's recommendations, is reflective of a sense of collective wisdom, provocation and support by our field of practice at this time.

Thanks to all for their contributions.

Ailbhe Murphy, Patrick Fox,
Director Create Director Heart of Glass

“It is urgent, but keep it slow”

— Fiona Whelan



To listen

Music / Podcasts / Audiobooks / Stories

Nice White Parents

This podcast, by This American Life alum Chana Joffe-Walt, tracks the impact of “nice white parents” on segregation in New York high schools, from the 1960s onwards.

Thomas McCarthy

Thomas is a Traveller, singer and storyteller, who won a Gradam Ceoil TG4 Award in 2019.

Viriditas

Viriditas is a song cycle composed by acclaimed Irish artist and singer Ceara Conway in response to an extended process of engagement at Galway University Hospitals. Viriditas takes the listener on a journey through songs inspired by conversations with staff and patients, and recordings of hospital equipment, plants, and the tools of sound healers.

Blindboy Podcast

Hosted by Blindboy Boatclub of the Rubberbandits. An eclectic podcast containing short fiction, interviews and comedy.

On Being

A Peabody Award-winning public radio show and podcast. What does it mean to be human? How do we want to live? And who will we be to each other?

Poetry Unbound

Your new ritual: Immerse yourself in a single poem, guided by Pádraig Ó Tuama. Short and unhurried; contemplative and energizing.

The Almanac of Ireland

Manchán Magan investigates the quirks, conundrums and wonders of Ireland such as, how were the Irish able to make a cheese hard enough to kill the semi-divine leader of Connaught, Queen Maeve?

The Echo Chamber Podcast

A music podcast that takes a closer look at music and its effects on history and culture

Bow Down

A Frieze podcast about significant female artists who deserve our attention

Podcast: Dolly Parton’s America

An inspiration because of ‘her persona as a grand unifier’

Women of the Hour

Lena Dunham hosts this podcast miniseries about friendship, love, work, bodies and more

Good Ancestor Podcast

Interviews with change makers and culture-shapers

Made of Human

Comedian Sofie Hagen chats to comedians, authors, actors, musicians, activists, medical professionals, podcasters, influencers and artists about how to do life



To listen

Music / Podcasts / Audiobooks / Stories

No Country for Young Women

Life, love and work in a white man's world.
Let's help each other figure it out!

How To Fail

How To Fail with Elizabeth Day is a podcast that celebrates the things that haven't gone right

Unlocking Us by Brené Brown

Conversations that unlock the deeply human part of who we are, so that we can live, love, parent, and lead with more courage and heart.

BBC 3 Slow Radio

An antidote to today's frenzied world. Step back, let go, immerse yourself: it's time to go slow. Listen to the sounds of birds, mountain climbing, monks chatting as you go about your day. A lo-fi celebration of pure sound.

An anthology of the Anthropocene

The archive of this podcast series explores climate crisis, colonial pasts/present, indigenous cultures from the perspective of the neoliberal late stage capitalist project.

**“What you are for is more
important than what you are against”**

—Avery Gordon



To watch

Films / Video / Documentaries / Digital Media

The pandemic is a portal (video)

Join the acclaimed author Arundhati Roy discussing this essay and other recent writings with Imani Perry. (See link to the essay under *To read*).

—

Traditional and Acoustic gigs

A collection of musicians & songsters, whose combined experiences of performing, locally and internationally, along with their diverse musical interests produce a vibrant, but easy going experience.

—

The Limits of the Web in an Age of Communicative Capitalism

Jodie Dean provides a counterpoint to the rush to the digital. In this video, Jodi Dean critiques neoliberal democratic “participation” as a moment of capture and diffusion of political sentiment.

Night Refuge

On 20 May 2020, under the constraints of the global Covid-19 lockdown, poet Caroline Bergvall hosted a 3 hour long collaborative public writing event with four UK-based poets: Vahni Capildeo, Will Harris, Leo Boix and Nisha Ramayya. Stanzas of the poem replicated the stages of the night: Civil, Nautical, Astronomical Twilights, Night.

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Chaila

Denise Chaila performs in the National Gallery of Ireland for Other Voices 2020, simply asking that we “Say my name”

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The Textual Trace

Fiona Whelan and Gretchen Coombs in conversation about writing, discussing ‘the textual trace’ of socially engaged practices. This was part of Create’s Conversations for Change series with leading practitioners, thinkers and activists.

Whiteness

University of Washington professor Dr. Robin DiAngelo reads from her book “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism,” explains the phenomenon, and discusses how white people can develop their capacity to engage more constructively across race.

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Inclusivity in the Institution

Jonas Staal and the ex-Director of Queens Museum, Laura Raikovich discussing building lateral institutions. Rather than a return to normal, how might our current situation compel the creation of more inclusive institutions?



To watch

Films / Video / Documentaries / Digital Media

Decolonizing as a verb. Reinterpreting Collections and Collecting

A conference in response to a growing demand from society that museums should face their historical selves and their inherited practices, acknowledge their past and act on it today for a different time

Set the Night on Fire

Mike Davis and Jon Wiener discuss Set the Night on Fire: L.A. in the Sixties with Tom Lutz, addressing its many resonances for urban communities today, the recent effects of COVID-19 on Los Angeles, and take questions from the YouTube audience

Aleppo Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

A documentation project directed by Dr. Mahmoud Zeyin El Abidin. Presented at the Places of ARcture online event which was held on June 2020 as part of the digital program of the London Festival of Architecture

Beyond the Breakdown

In Beyond the Breakdown: Three Meditations on a Possible Aftermath, Franco Bifo Berardi draws a clear line between connection (digital domain) and conjuncture (bodies in proximity) and how the first can never 'stand in' for the second

Survival is Not Enough!

Drawing from historical and recent examples of civil resistance and artistic disobedience, artist and curator Megs Morley and New York based artist, activist and writer Gregory Sholette reflect on what moments from the archive act as potential disruptors to our understanding of the now, whilst considering the role that artists might play in the radical reimagination of the world.

Histories that Disturb the Present

Keynote Presentation by Gregory Sholette for Arts and Society Conference (online) Galway 2020

“How can radical thinking contribute to new ways of production that allows people to channel their voices?”

— Khaled Barakeh



To read **Part 01** Novels / Short Stories / Poetry

Sister Outsider

Presenting the essential writings of black lesbian poet and feminist writer Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider* celebrates an influential voice in twentieth-century literature.

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Your Silence Will Not Protect You

This edition brings Audre Lorde's essential poetry, speeches and essays, including 'The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House'.

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Americanah

This novel by the Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie touches on the complexities of race relations in America and the black experience there and also in Nigeria.

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Why the Moon Travels

Written by Oein De Bhardúin with illustrations by Leanne McDonagh, this short story book collects the folklore and tales of the Traveller community, of which both Leanne and Oein are members.

The Heavens

This book, by Sandra Newman is a dizzyingly audacious and in some ways wildly depressing read – definitely for the present moment. But wrapped in its structural pessimism is a nugget of hope, strength and defiance.

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The Road

Many people sought out post-apocalyptic narratives to put 2020 into perspective. Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, is a classic of the genre.

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The Power

What if women were the dominant gender? In *The Power* by Naomi Alderman, 2017 Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction winner, women develop the ability to release electricity from their fingers, upending the physical and societal dominance of men.

—

Apeirogon: A novel

This novel by Colum McCann is based on the true-life friendship of two men whose daughters were killed in the Middle East.

Hamnet

A fictionalised telling of the short life of Shakespeare's son who died aged 11. This novel by Maggie O'Farrell, winner of the 2020 Women's Prize for Fiction, interweaves multiple storylines and life stories.

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I will betray my homeland

"Sa akhoun watani" written by Muhammad al-Maghut, the father of the Arabic free verse poetry. A bestselling collection of essays that transcends time and location

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Girl Woman Other

A Booker Prize winner (2019) for a reason – Bernardine Evaristo deals with race, gender, class beautifully, with wittily drawn characters whose stories subtly interweave throughout the book, culminating in a striking final chapter.

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Children of Blood and Bone

One of the Legacy of Orisha fantasy series that draws inspiration from West Africa, by Tomi Adeyemi



To read **Part 02** Non-fiction / Journalism / Academic

A Paradise Built in Hell

The most startling thing about disasters, according to award-winning author Rebecca Solnit, is not merely that so many people rise to the occasion, but that they do so with joy. *A Paradise Built in Hell* is an investigation of the moments of altruism, resourcefulness, and generosity that arise amid disaster's grief and disruption and considers their implications for everyday life.

Courting the Wild Twin

Master mythologist Martin Shaw uses timeless story-wisdom to examine our broken relationship with the world

How to Do Nothing; Resisting the Attention Economy

In a world where addictive technology is designed to buy and sell our attention, and our value is determined by our 24/7 data productivity, it can seem impossible to escape. But in this inspiring field guide to dropping out of the attention economy, artist and critic Jenny Odell shows us how we can still win back our lives.

Power Up

This think-piece by Chrissie Tiller unearths and explores some of the complexities and challenges of sharing power. Some of the big questions that underpin many collaborative practices are unpicked: power, reciprocity, cultural capital, participation, values, ethics, collaboration, and politics.

On Connection

Drawing on twenty years' experience as a writer and performer, Kae Tempest explores how and why creativity – however we choose to practise it – can cultivate greater self-awareness and help us establish a deeper relationship to ourselves and the world

Decolonising Multilingualism

What if my own multilingualism is simply that of one who is fluent in way too many colonial languages? *Decolonising Multilingualism* by Alison Phipps is a beautifully written, deeply personal and intimate account of what it means to de-centre and give up power.

Staying with the Trouble

In the midst of spiraling ecological devastation, multispecies feminist theorist Donna J. Haraway offers provocative new ways to reconfigure our relations to the earth and all its inhabitants.

FIELD: A Journal of Socially-Engaged Art Criticism

The title of issue 15 of *FIELD* is taken from the eponymous "Reflection Cycle" organized in October and November 2018 at the Sullivan Galleries of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

The Pandemic is a Portal

Written in the early days of 2020 - Arundhati Roy writes about the pandemic as a portal to a new world, and how we should travel lightly through it.

Affect Theory and the New Age of Anxiety

How Lauren Berlant's cultural criticism predicted the Trumping of politics.

White Privilege:

The Myth of a Post-Racial Society

A brilliant read by Kalwant Bhopal that takes a look at white privilege and even addresses its presence in the UK.



To read **Part 02** Non-fiction / Journalism / Academic

The Radical Imagination: Social Movement Research in the Age of Austerity.

This book by Max Haven and Alex Khasnabish reminds us that our imagination is a social and political tool of change.

Playing for Time

Playing for Time by Lucy Neal is a resource for artists, community activists and anyone wishing to reach beyond the facts and figures of science and technology to harness their creativity to make change in the world.

The Mushroom at the End of the world

This book by Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing is subtitled: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins. It explores what a rare mushroom can teach us about sustaining life on a fragile planet.

Book of Migrations

A Book of Migrations by Rebecca Solnit portrays in microcosm a history made of great human tides of invasion, colonization, emigration, nomadism and tourism.

Weeds - The Story of Outlaw Plants

A lively and lyrical cultural history of plants in the wrong place by one of Britain's best and most admired nature writers Richard Mabey.

Making Kin

An Interview with Donna Haraway, ecofeminist scholar

Feral : Rewilding the Land, Sea and Human Life

In Feral, George Monbiot offers a riveting tale of possibility and travel in the wild. Feral is the lyrical and gripping story of George Monbiot's efforts to re-engage with nature and discover a new way of living.

Essays from Paul B Preciado on 2020: as statues fall and virus grips

When Statues Fall

The Losers Conspiracy

Learning from the Virus

The Impossible Dedication

The In Between Spaces of Asylum and Migration

Based on ethnographic research with asylum seekers living in a Direct Provision centre in Ireland, and comprising participatory visual methods, this work by Zoe O'Reilly offers a unique examination of the Direct Provision system that analyses the tensions between exclusion and marginalization, and involvement and engagement with local communities.

All About Love:

"The word "love" is most often defined as a noun, yet...we would all love better if we used it as a verb," writes bell hooks in All About Love. Here, at her most provocative and intensely personal, the renowned scholar, cultural critic, and feminist skewers our view of love as romance.



To read **Part 02** Non-fiction / Journalism / Academic

Braiding Sweetgrass

Robin Wall Kimmerer- botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation - brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.

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Thoughts of a musician in the wilderness

Part of artsandhealth.ie's Covid Chronicles, musician and sound artist Philip Fogarty shares his experiences during Covid 19

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The Second Body

In this timely and elegant essay, Daisy Hildyard captures the concept of the second body by exploring how the human is a part of animal life.

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On Drawing

Berger On Drawing is an exciting anthology of essays in which John Berger explores that most primary and most primal of all art activities: drawing.

Ghostly Matters

Subtitled Haunting and the Sociological Imagination, this brilliant book by Avery Gordon questions contemporary methods of examining the relationships between knowledge, experience and power.

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Social Housing - Housing the Social

This book, edited by Andrea Philips and Fulya Erdemici, examines ongoing transformations in social housing and asks how these transformations are reflected in the aspirations and practices of artists.

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Syria Cultural Index

An interview between Khaled Bharakeh, Berlin-based artist and cultural activist whose work explores issues of identity, culture, and history, and Julie Reintjes in the Justice for All journal.

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Ten Things to Consider

From Rise Refugee: Ten things you need to consider if you are an artist not of the refugee and asylum seeker community looking for work with this community.

“I found online webinars by arts organisations personally very helpful in connecting with fellow artists and being reminded that we’re not in it alone. Hearing different people’s perspectives I always find inspiring.”

— Susan McManamon



To browse

Websites / Blogs / Online Resources

We Create Change

We Create Change features a useful reading list on racial inequality and articles to get you started on understanding where this deep-rooted systematic oppression comes from and how it's still affecting people today.

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Future Makers Collective

FMC is a group of students, educators, researchers, industry experts, creative professionals and cultural and professional institutions coming together to explore and support creative practice in the field of media and emerging technologies.

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Mother Tongues Festival

Mother Tongue's mission is to showcase Ireland's rich artistic and cultural tapestry through the use of the many languages spoken in the country, enabling people to connect through language and diversity and illustrating how multilingualism is not a barrier, but rather a reason to get together and celebrate.

Unidee Residency Programmes

Cittadellarte is a vibrant international network of cultural and social innovators, individuals actively interlaced with their social contexts where they often act as catalyst of change.

—

F**K It

John C. Parkin and Gaia Pollini wrote the international bestselling Fuck It / F**k It books. This is their blog about learning how to live the fuck it life with John and Gaia.

—

Creative Frame

Creative Frame is a free membership network for artists and creative practitioners based in Leitrim and the surrounding areas.

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#CovidCreativesToolkit

A set of carefully-curated mutual aid resources, ideas and pathways for creative practitioners who find themselves needing to migrate their practice onto digital spaces and places.

Creativity and Change

An accredited award at Crawford Collage of Art and Design, the programme targets change-makers, educators, activists, artists, community workers, adult educators, youth workers, volunteers and anyone who is interested in how creative engagement can nurture global citizenship and empathic action around local and global justice themes.

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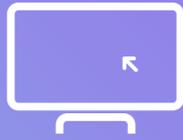
Ecoversities

Learners and communities reclaiming diverse knowledges, relationships and imaginations to design new approaches to higher education.

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Theatrum Botanicum

A major new body of work and ongoing research by Uriel Orlow, which looks to the botanical world as a stage for politics at large through film, photography, installation and sound.



To browse

Websites / Blogs / Online Resources

Writings of Jeannette Armstrong

Jeannette Armstrong was born and raised on the Penticton Indian Reserve, one of eight Syilx (Okanagan) reserves located in both Canada and the United States. She is a writer, poet, teacher, and artist, and is a strong voice in Indigenous environmental ethics.

HAUMEA Online

Ecoliteracy and ecophilosophy self-paced courses for creatives and art professionals.

urban★react

Urban React is a collective from Bern, Athens and Cork and includes independent artists, architects, researchers, activists, workers and scientists with a common interest in finding alternative models of teaching, application and processes in architecture with the objective of enabling people to gain control of their own living environments.

Living Commons

The Living Commons is an inclusive communal living model that works with existing local neighbourhoods, creating a strong sustainable supportive community whilst simultaneously building and providing the infrastructures and services to support the living and working environment for that community.

Save our Sperrins (SOS)

In this present Covid-19 crisis, we are stepping back to consider environmental impacts and the possible creation of new systems based on our living landscapes. This work considers the rights of individuals and communities over the natural environment they live and work in and the political and economic force of mining companies.

Beyond the Now

Social Art Practice For A Post-Pandemic World. Beyond the Now is a syndicated social practice platform, founded by partners based and working in locations across the globe, which aims to open up new creative, cultural and political affinities for a post-pandemic world.

Create is the national development agency for collaborative arts. Our mission is to lead the development of collaborative arts practice by enabling artists and communities to create exceptional art together.

Create believes that by working together, artists and communities can purposefully explore how collaborative arts engage in distinct, relevant and powerful ways with the urgent social, cultural and political issues of our times.

www.create-ireland.ie

Heart of Glass is a collaborative and social arts agency based in St. Helen's, Merseyside, UK. We believe that art has the power to bring us together and create real change, for the people of our community, and the place we call home.

We unlock stories, reimagine public spaces, ask awkward questions and forge new connections. Why? Because we know that art can transform lives and deeply affect our relationship with the world around us. Art is the starting point for each and every journey.

www.heartofglass.org.uk



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