

Achill Heinrich Böll Weekend 2022

Friday April 29th.

St. Thomas' Hall Dugort.

18:30

Registration.

19:00



Exhibition **Samir Mahmood** *Inaugural MLB Bursary Award.*

Samir Mahmood is a Galway-based visual artist with a BA in Contemporary Art Practices degree. He is recipient of the Academic Achievement and the inaugural Mary Lavelle Burke Bursary Awards from GMIT Mayo (2020) leading to the artist residency at the Heinrich Böll Cottage, Achill. He worked as a medical doctor in Pakistan before moving to Ireland and completed his PhD in Health Promotion from NUI Galway in 2014.

Introduction **Dr John Mulloy**, Programme Chair of the BA in Contemporary Art Practices at the Mayo Campus of the Atlantic Technological University.

19:50

Official opening **Ambassador Cord Meier-Klodt** German Ambassador to Ireland.



Cord Meier-Klodt born 1958 in Hamburg, married, three children
1978 - 1984 Studied Romance Languages and Philosophy in Grenoble, Hamburg and Paris / 1985 - 1987 Diplomatic School of the German Foreign Service / 1987 - 1990 German Embassy Accra, First Secretary, Consular and Legal Affairs / 1990 - 1992 Federal Foreign Office, Political Desk officer, Central and Eastern Europe / 1992 - 1995 Consulate General Saint Petersburg, Deputy Head of Mission, Head of Economic Relations and Press / 1995 - 1998 Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York, Counsellor, Disarmament and Security / 1998 - 2001 Federal Foreign Office, Deputy Head of Task Force Global Issues / 2002 Nato Defense College, Rome / 2002 - 2005 German Embassy Moscow, Head of Press and Public Relations. 2005 - 2008 Federal Foreign Office, Head of Policy Planning of Foreign Cultural and Education policy / 2008 - 2011 German Embassy London, Head of Culture and Education / 2011 - 2014 German Embassy New Delhi, Deputy Head of Mission / 2014 - 2015 Federal Foreign Office, Director Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia / 2016 Special

Representative of the German OSCE Chair for the Transdnestrian Conflict Settlement / 2017 - Appointed Ambassador to Ireland in July 2021, previously German Embassy Bucharest (2017 - 2021).

20:30

Readings: **Mithu Sanyal** / **Hugo Hamilton** .



Dr. Mithu Melanie Sanyal, is a novelist, academic, literary critic, columnist and broadcaster. Her work has been published by international newspapers including The European and The Guardian. Her books include a cultural history of the Vulva“ and “Rape – from Lucrezia to #metoo“ (Verso Books). Her debut novel “Identitti“ (2021) was shortlisted for the German Book Award and will be published in English by Astra House in 2022.



The narrator of Hugo Hamilton’s dazzling new novel is a book itself: *Rebellion* - Joseph Roth’s masterpiece about a barrel organ player down on his luck. It tells the story of its own rescue from the Nazi book-burnings in May, 1933, and recounts the life of its Austrian-Jewish author, a writer on the run, of his love for his troubled wife Friederike, and the Nazi mental institutions where the Holocaust originated.

The book has now come into the hands of Lena Knecht, a young German-American woman who finds a small map drawn by hand on a blank page at the back, a thrilling mystery which leads her to Berlin, the book’s birthplace.

A novel told by a novel that reads like a thriller, *The Pages* carries profound echoes from the past into the present day. It is an inspiring story of the transformative power of art and the survival of literature over a hundred years.

Hugo Hamilton is the best-selling author of *The Speckled People* – a memoir of his German-Irish childhood in Dublin, growing up with his German mother and prohibited by his revolutionary Irish father from speaking English. His work has won many international awards, including the French Prix Femina Etranger and the DAAD scholarship in Berlin, as well as the prestigious *Bundesverdienstkreuz*, awarded by the German state for his understanding of cultural diversity. Hamilton is a member of the *Aosdana* and lives in Dublin. His latest novel – *The Pages* – is published by 4th Estate (Harper Collins) in London and Knopf in the USA.

Saturday April 30th

10:00

Dooagh Bog Road Walk

Guided Walk in Landscape **Eoin Halpin.**

Meet at Dooagh Beach Car Park.



The walk will provide the opportunity to look at the effect of ice on the Achill landscape, and how sculpted mountains and valleys. We will also look at the post-glacial period, the arrival of the fir inhabitants and the changes they wrought.

The walk will allow us to look at the development of peat on the island and we’ll discuss the stories locked away in these deposits.

Finally we’ll discuss the evidence for a 8000 year old tsunami which originated in Norway, known as the Storegga Slide, and discuss what effects this may have had on Achill.

Eoin is the Operations Manager with AHC, which has been in operation since 2014. He previously was director of Archaeological Development Services Ltd which he helped establish in 1989. Eoin’s main role involves working on all aspects of development led archaeological projects and has extensive experience in both the planning phase and the archaeological resolution phases. He has worked as the archaeological consultant on numerous large infrastructural schemes.

Since 2007, Eoin has lead guided archaeological and geological themed walks for the Heinrich Boll Weekend which is held annually on Achill Island. He has also lead guided walks in and around the Mourne and Slieve Croob in Co Down, Carlingford in Co Louth as well as numerous guided walks for local cultural heritage societies. In 2016 he gained a Level 2 qualification in Tour Guiding in association with the Open College Network in Northern Ireland. Eoin regularly gives public talks to local Historical and Archaeological Societies where the relationship between geology and archaeology regularly features. He is a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and a member and former chair of the Institute of Archaeologist of Ireland. His work has appeared in numerous publications in academic journals, historic society journals and monographs.

Lunch Pure Magic

13:00

14:00 - 18:00

Heinrich Böll Cottage – open to Public .

14:00

Writers Seminar **Hugo Hamilton.**

St. Thomas’ Hall Dugort.



Making Waves is a sonnet sequence based on the life of the Austrian Nobel Laureate and physicist Erwin Schrödinger (1887-1961). Growing up in the last quarter-century of the Austro-Hungarian empire, he served on the Italian Front in WW1 and experienced the hunger of post-war Vienna; he held positions at some of Europe's major universities before returning to Graz, but was forced to flee Austria after the Anschluss; he found refuge in Ireland as the first Director of The School of Theoretical Physics at the fledgling Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, returning to Austria in 1956. Erwin Schrödinger made major contributions to the development of Quantum Theory, including the eponymous wave equation and the thought experiment commonly known as Schrödinger's Cat. Poetry, Hindu Vedanta and an unconventional marriage added colour to the professional life, as told here in the voices of relatives, colleagues, friends and lovers.

Iggy McGovern was born in Coleraine and lives in Dublin, where he is Fellow Emeritus in Physics at Trinity College. He has published three collections of poetry with Dedalus Press, *The King of Suburbia* (2005), *Safe House* (2010) and *The Eyes of Isaac Newton* (2017). Awards include the Hennessy Literary Award for Poetry and the Glen Dimplex New Writers Award for Poetry. He edited the anthology *2012: Twenty Irish Poets Respond to Science in Twelve Lines* (Dedalus / Quaternia Press 2012). *A Mystic Dream of 4* (Quaternia Press 2013) is a sonnet sequence based on the life of 19th century mathematician, William Rowan Hamilton. *Making Waves*, a sonnet sequence based on the life of physicist Erwin Schrödinger, was published by Quaternia Press in 2021.

16:00

Poems by Heinrich Böll. Translated *Michael Augustin / Sujata Bhatt.*

17:00

Poetry Reading. **Kerry Hardie / John F Deane .**

Kerry Hardie's eighth collection *Where Now Begins* was published by Bloodaxe Books in November, 2020. This is the second collection she has published with Bloodaxe, the previous one, *The Zebra Stood in The Night*, was shortlisted for the Irish Times Award. There are also six previous collections published by the Gallery Press, as well as 2 chapbooks published by H.U. and the Templar Press. She has won many prizes (including the Michael Hartnett Award, a Patrick Kavanagh Award, The Suspended Sentence Award, The Laurence O'Shaughnessy Award, the IOTA chapbook award, The Irish National Poetry Prize.) She has written two novels: *A Winter Marriage* and *The Bird Woman* [Harper Collins UK; Little, Brown US], and a voice play broadcast on (RTE) which has also been performed live. Her short stories have been published in Ireland, Switzerland, France and the US, and she has just completed another novel which she hopes to publish shortly. Her work has been widely translated and has been much anthologized in Ireland, the U.S. and the U.K.

She will be among the judges of this year's Michael Hartnett Award, and for the Heinrich Boll Celebration Weekend she will be reading from her new chapbook *A Lucky Woman*, from her latest collection *Where Now Begins* as well as two previously unpublished poems. She lives in Kilkenny with her husband Seán, and is a member of Aosdána.



John F. Deane's poems in *Naming of the Bones* touch on Christian values and work towards a significant faith, at the same time focusing on the wonders of an evolving cosmos. The poems delight in the things of the earth, suggesting a secular Christianity. They hope justice will overcome human greed and violence, while they assent to the seasons developing of our landscapes and the beauty and dangers of our place in creation. The sequence 'Like the Dewfall' works with the music of the French composer Olivier Messiaen and his double piano masterpiece, 'Visions de l'Amen', a suite of seven pieces for two pianos, composed in 1943 during the Nazi Occupation of Paris. Other poems connect the 'landscape, sea-scape and sky-scape' of the Achill of Deane's formative years to the 'wonders of the Christian faith' with a sacramental awareness that is a striking feature of many of the poems. Fiona Sampson wrote in the *Financial Times*, 'The poetry here is always beautiful, and always high stakes because infused with spirituality.' And the theologian Cyril O'Regan comments, 'if Deane is not a prophetic poet by most modern standards – that is, we have to strain to hear denunciation – nonetheless, precisely as a poet he understands himself to be a witness: Poetry tells the truth that we would not tell. lifts the veil on the human condition that we would prefer not to be lifted.'

John F. Deane was born on Achill Island off the west coast of Ireland. He is founder of Poetry Ireland, Ireland's national poetry society, and its journal *The Poetry Ireland Review*. He has published many collections of his poetry, in Ireland and in the UK and been translated into several languages. He has been the Burns Scholar in Boston College in 2008, distinguished Visiting Scholar in Suffolk University, Boston, in 2012. A collection "Dear Pilgrims" appeared from Carcanet in 2018 and a collection of poems set on Achill Island with paintings by John Behan, "Achill: The Island" published by Currach Press also appeared in 2018. In 2016 Deane was the Teilhard de Chardin Fellow in Catholic Studies in Loyola University, Chicago and taught a course in poetry. In 2019 he was visiting poet in Notre Dame University in Indiana In 2021 Carcanet published his new collection of poems, "Naming of the Bones". Irish Pages Press published a collaborative book of poems and dialogue with the poet James Harpur, called "Darkness Between Stars" in the spring of 2022.

20:00

Readings; **Claire Keegan / Mithu Sanyal.**

St. Thomas' Church Dugort.



Claire Keegan’s stories have won numerous awards and have been translated into thirty languages. Her works are published in *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, and the *Paris Review*. *Antarctica* won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and was a *Los Angeles Times* Book of the Year. *Walk the Blue Fields* won the Edge Hill Prize, awarded to the strongest collection of stories published in the British Isles, judged by Hilary Mantel. *Foster* won the richest prize in the world for a short story and is now part of the school syllabus in Ireland. Her latest work, *Small Things Like These*, was recently published to huge international acclaim. She was brought up on a farm on the Wicklow/ Wexford border. The critic, Declan Kiberd, has written that she is “a writer already touched by greatness.”

Presentations Student Essay prize **Ambassador Cord Meier-Klodt**

21:00

Laurels for the Laureates. Music Laoise Kelly.

On the 50th anniversary of Heinrich Böll winning the Nobel Prize for Literature, we salute his achievement, alongside that of our four Irish Nobel laureates. The Nobel Prize is the supreme accolade bestowed on writers, not only in recognition of the quality of their work, but also of the beneficial effect their work has had on the world we share. Böll was awarded the Prize "for his writing which through its combination of a broad perspective on his time and a sensitive skill in characterization has contributed to a renewal of German literature." These are the citations for the four Irish Nobel Prize winners:

William Butler Yeats, 1923 "For his always inspired poetry, which in a highly artistic form gives expression to the spirit of a whole nation."

George Bernard Shaw, 1925 "For his work which is marked by both idealism and humanity, its stimulating satire often being infused with a singular poetic beauty."

Samuel Beckett, 1969 "For his writing, which - in new forms for the novel and drama - in the destitution of modern man acquires its elevation."

Seamus Heaney, 1995 "For works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth, which exalt everyday miracles and the living past."

Our event celebrates these great writers in the most appropriate way - by revisiting their work.

Features; Jack Harte / Marianne Fahy / Ultan de Burca.



Sunday May 1st.

Guided walk **Kevin Toolis** Colony Tour.

Meet outside the Strand Hotel.

10:00



In the Year of Our Lord 1831 a young Irish Prophet came into the West to save the heathen native Irish from the errors of Popery and found a new Protestant Zion in the most miserable wilderness of the Irish nation, Achill Island. The arrival of Edward Nangle on Achill ignited a 50 year long religious war waged with guns, Bibles, famine and starvation and ultimately shaped the entire destiny of the Irish nation. The Colony Tour is a two hour walking Tour around the ruins of the Achill Mission with BAFTA winning writer and Achill Islander Kevin Toolis. www.thecolonytour.com

13:00

Lunch Valley House.

14:00

Talk Professor **Kerstin Mey** Uachtarán Ollscoil Luimnigh. *Visual Arts*- illustrated talk taking as point of departure Böll's famous essay 'Einmischung erwünscht' on contemporary artists from Ireland, Germany and Ukraine who have raised their voices through the art they make in defence of human rights and democracy.

Kerstin Mey studied for an MA equivalent in Art, and German language and literature at Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany, and obtained a PhD in Art Theory and Aesthetics there. She held academic positions in universities in Germany and the UK before she joined University of Limerick (UL) as Vice President Academic Affairs and Student Engagement and Professor of Visual Culture in 2018. She was given responsibility as Interim President of UL in September 2020 and was appointed to the role of President in October 2021. Over the past 30 years, Kerstin Mey has built a track record of successfully initiating and implementing pioneering academic and research initiatives and cultural projects in higher education.



15:00

Böll Cottage Readings/Talks

Valley House

30 Years Residency Iggy McGovern / Claire Keegan / John F Deane / Kerry Hardie / Jack Harte .



Inaugural meeting of the Achill Heinrich Böll Committee. January 26th –1992 – Sunday night in the Village Inn Bar in Keel. Left to Right; John Coll, Arts Officer Mayo County Council, John F Deane, Clodagh King, Tom Mc Namara, Jack Harte. (Missing from photo Camille Souter).

16:00

Members of Achill Writers Group will present their own work.

With music by *Laoise Kelly, Diarmuid Gielty and John Butler.*

Bookings online : www.heinrichboellcottage.com

Full Weekend €100

One Event €20 or €30

<http://www.achilltourism.com/artswEEKend.html>

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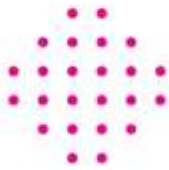
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