

CCA DERRY~ LONDONDERRY

DeMo Reciprocal Residency 2020

Interview with artists Niamh Seana Meehan (NI) and Gintė Regina (LT)

Watch the video on our YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/yxou4nzi>

NSM Niamh Seana Meehan

GR Gintė Regina

Time code	Speaker	Text
00:00:00	GR	My name is Gintė Regina and I am an artist from Lithuania. I took part in the first Reciprocal Residency between CCA Derry~Londonderry and Kaunas Artists' House. I'm the Lithuanian artist who travelled to Derry to have a residency here and then the Northern Irish artist, Niamh, went to Kaunas.
00:00:27		And the final result is that we are both going to have two solo shows alongside each other at CCA Derry~Londonderry.
	NSM	My name is Niamh Seana Meehan. I'm a visual artist and I predominantly work in performance art, but I also work in signed, written matter and sculptural works as well.
	GR	I work in film and text.
00:01:00		And my films live in between narrative cinema and more gallery based video. They most often feature female characters who are exploring various landscapes and trying to find their place in the world.
00:01:30		My interest in the Residency came from the fact that I was already planning a trip around the Island of Ireland and in the footsteps of the author, Heinrich Böll, who had done the trip in the 1950s and had written about it. And so then once the Residency came up, I thought that would be a really good way to solidify all the research and filming that I would do throughout my trip.
00:02:02		And work with the material and just be able to be immersed in the city and in culture, and have the time to extrapolate things and make new work.

00:02:25	NSM	My motivation for applying for the Reciprocal Residencies programme was the language that was used within the open call. There were words used like, dialogue, demo and pilot programme. And within my practice, I'm very interested in how I encounter language. It was a hold on something.
00:02:59	GR	During the Residency I had a studio space, which I don't normally have. That was really nice to be able to write, but also do some drawing, do some works that aren't necessarily the final products of my practice, but they [?] just allowed me to think wider and experiment.
00:03:25		But I also, exploring the city itself was a big part of it for me as well. And I ended up writing about either characters that I met or places that I visited.
	NSM	For the first few days, I just walked around. I got lost a number of times.
00:03:59		I'm interested in the process of wandering and trying to wander to find your way to something even though you may not know what it is. As well as that, there was the language barrier that I also find intriguing and the signage of how to get to the space that I was working in.
00:04:25		And stumbling across signs that I didn't necessarily know the meaning of, but I followed them anyway and ended up somewhere. It was the process of looking away [?]. I think my studio space was extremely helpful or aided this work because it was a quiet space and it was a space for reflection.
00:04:59		And it was a space that was used for rehearsals that it presented me with like an environment to really think about making work and thinking about making work for others to read or to activate [?]. But overall, the Residency programme was a great experience for me.
00:05:29		And experience to learn more about my practice and how I make work as an artist.
