 

**GUIDELINES & APPLICATION FORM**

**Visual Artist Mentoring**

with Kevin Kavanagh

This mentoring opportunity is available to all artists working in Laois to support you to focus on a specific area of professional development in terms of your ambitions and arts practice.

The aim of this opportunity is to support you with a specific point of enquiry related to your arts practice and/or a desired progression pathway into a new practice/area of interest.

The mentor will consider your enquiry and within a 1 hour session engage with you in relation to your work; challenges; development requirements and professional support needs.

**About the mentor:**

**Kevin Kavanagh native of Mountrath is owner of the Kevin Kavanagh Gallery** situated in Dublin’s City Centre just south of the River Liffey. The gallery represents Irish & International artists at home and abroad and is considered one of Ireland's most dynamic contemporary visual art galleries:

Robert Armstrong, Michael Boran, Gemma Browne, Elaine Byrne, Margaret Corcoran, Diana Copperwhite, Gary Coyle, Cecilia Danell, Stephanie Deady, Nevan Lahart, Stephen Loughman, Vanessa Donoso Lopez, Sean Lynch, Alice Maher, Aileen Murphy, Paul McKinley, Sinéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Paul Nugent, Lesley Ann O’ Connell, Geraldine O’Neill, Richard Proffitt, David Quinn, Dermot Seymour, Sonia Shiel, Sheila Rennick, Mark Swords, Kathy Tynan, Ulrich Vogl.

It started as Jo Rain Gallery in February 1994 in Dublin's Temple Bar before moving to Great Strand Street in 1998. In 2008 it moved to its current location on Chancery Lanedesigned by MCO projects in Dublin. The gallery has participated in many international art fairs including, London Art Fair, VOLTA NY New York, Aqua Miami, ARCO Madrid, Art Brussels, Art Cologne, Preview Berlin and Volta Basel. It has also published several catalogues and books. kevinkavanagh.ie

**What is Mentoring?**

Mentoring offers professionally focused development for artists. It opens the potential for knowledge sharing and gives artists the opportunity to observe and formally review aspects of their own practice in action. Mentoring can involve a mentor/ mentee relationship which brings an expert together with an emerging or mid-career artist, to guide and support their creative process.

The following guidelines were drawn from other mentoring models. They are merely intended to be loose guidelines and are by no means definitive. Each mentoring relationship is unique and must be driven by the needs as defined by the participants.

There are three basic guidelines, which apply to mentor and mentee:  
1. That there is a shared desire to be in a mentoring relationship.  
2. That the boundaries between mentor and mentee are clearly set and understood. 3. That there is honesty, confidentiality and trust on both sides.

**Mentee’s Responsibilities**

The onus is on the mentee to drive the relationship in order to feed the mentor with current issues/questions/material to which s/he can respond. Therefore, the mentee should clearly define the parameters of their professional ‘need’. Other responsibilities include:

-To adhere to any deadlines agreed and set.

-To ensure that any necessary material to be considered at the meeting is with the mentor at least 5 days prior to the meeting to allow the mentor space to formulate a meaningful response.

-To be respectful of the mentor’s time and obligation.

-To be flexible in terms of scheduling the meeting with the mentor.  
-To be open to coming out of one’s comfort zone and to take risks.  
-To have the desire and ability to learn new things about your practice and yourself.

-To be willing to take constructive criticism.

**Mentor’s Responsibilities**

A mentor bears witness in the development of the mentee’s vision and shares in certain elements of it. Other responsibilities include:  
• To act as a sounding board, advisor and ally to the mentee.  
• To help define the goals and strategies that will help and challenge the mentee.

• To act as an objective eye and to encourage independence.  
• To vary styles of relating to the mentee according to their needs, ranging from directive to non-directive, encouraging the mentee “to become the artist they want to be”.  
• To provide a sense of support and affirmation to the mentee.  
• To give a constructive critical response to the mentee.  
• To monitor that the relationship is resulting in meaningful development – is the mentee making progress?  
• To be flexible in terms of scheduling the meetings and taking into consideration at all times the mentee’s requirements.

**Connect Mentoring Programme**  
These guidelines have been distilled from a document drawn up by ADI and Fire Station Artists’ Studios using resources drawn from Connect Mentoring Programme which was funded by the Arts Council and delivered by Create and Common Ground in 2009-10.

**APPLICATION FORM**

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| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Address |  |
| Postcode |  |
| Age |  |
|  |  |
| Art Discipline /Genre |  |
| Years in practice |  |
|  |  |
| Describe your current practice (max 100 words) | |
| What aspect of your practice would you like to explore with the mentor? (max 100 words) | |
| Include your CV as an attachment – no long than 2 pages | |
| Compile examples of your work (up to 5 pieces) whether online or as a pdf. If as text and images, your attached pdf file should be no larger than 2MB.  Please also include any website links to your work | |
|  | |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |

**Submit your application to** [**alawlor@creativelaois.ie**](mailto:alawlor@creativelaois.ie) **by midnight on Monday October 10, 2022. Your application will be acknowledged within a number of days of receipt. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 3 days please follow up with an email.**