



Art Connects

is an exhibition of paintings created by young people in Oberstown Children Detention Campus. The works were first shown to the public at IMMA (the Irish Museum of Modern Art) in the ground-breaking exhibition “The Ride Away from the Storm” in April-May 2022.

Each of the artists created their work for a collaborative project between Oberstown, IMMA (the Irish Museum of Modern Art) and Gaisce – The President’s Award. The project fulfilled the Community Involvement challenge of the Gaisce Award for the young people involved. Exhibiting these works of art in Lusk is a further extension of community engagement for the project.

The young people chose subjects that depict their own personal history or that express their connection with Irish history, heritage and culture. Art teachers guided the young artists, who also took part in workshops facilitated by the IMMA SPICE project – a citizen curation initiative to help groups with limited or no access to art galleries to connect with and draw inspiration from the IMMA collection.

“The reason why I’m making this art is to show the world to look forward”

Young person involved in the exhibition.

The works in Art Connects highlight the positive value of engagement in the arts and shared creative processes for young people and give voice to their experiences. The partnership behind the artworks illustrates the vital role of building relationships and making connections with wider society and stakeholders. It is also a public demonstration of the positive value of the Gaisce Awards in terms of supporting the personal development of all young people, from all kinds of backgrounds and circumstances.

A key focus of Oberstown’s service is to help young people in detention to discover and develop the skills and talents that will help them maximise their potential to succeed in society. Young people at Oberstown regularly engage in activities focused on building connections with the local community. Examples include making seasonal gifts and care packages for senior citizens’ groups, helping to prepare food for the Meals on Wheels service provided by Oberstown’s catering team, and contributing to Fingal County Council’s environmental initiatives.

The Board of Management of Oberstown Children Detention Campus, its Director, staff and young people are delighted to work with Lusk Community Council to bring the work of these young artists into the heart of the community in Lusk. It is especially fitting that this should occur during Fingal Inclusion Week in the newly developed Lusk Community Cultural Centre.

A letter of congratulations to the young artists from Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D Higgins, includes the line...

“...BY ARTICULATING AND SHARING YOUR PERSPECTIVES, ON ART, ON CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND ON ISSUES IMPACTING YOU, THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF ART, YOU ARE ENGAGED IN A MOST IMPORTANT FORM OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP.”



OBERSTOWN
CHILDREN
DETENTION
CAMPUS

CARE
EDUCATION
HEALTH
WELLBEING



Oberstown Uncovers

Acrylic on canvas, mixed media (cloth)

162 x 242 cm

“Pulling back the curtain to reveal words of positivity, colour and brightness. I could barely read and write when I got in to Oberstown. I got my Junior Cert in there. I still paint now but not as much.”

On loan, courtesy of Oberstown Children Detention Campus



Damage

Acrylic on canvas

198 x 176 cm

“The damage rubbish is
doing to the world.”

On loan, courtesy of
Oberstown Children
Detention Campus



The Ride Away from the Storm
Acrylic on canvas, mixed media
(metal)
155 x 198 cm

“Two cobs. Behind them, a storm is about to break. I started painting one horse then I realised he needed a friend.”

On loan, courtesy of
Oberstown Children Detention Campus



Untitled
Acrylic on canvas
137 x 165 cm

“This is an image of a vintage travelling wagon. This wagon was hand crafted and drawn by horse through the country roads. These wagons are becoming really scarce.”

On loan, courtesy of Oberstown Children Detention Campus



Desert Campaign Acrylic on
canvas 137 x 167 cm

"My nan asked me to paint this. It's a painting of my great-grandfather. He fought in Tunisia during World War 2. I have a photo of him in his army uniform. I started with a historical black and white photo, then added the Sherman Tank and other details in photoshop. Then I added colour and painted it."

On loan, courtesy of Oberstown Children Detention Campus



Don't look back in anger

Acrylic on canvas

130 x 166 cm

“The reason why I’m making
this is to show the world
to look forward”

On loan, courtesy of Oberstown
Children Detention Campus



Nice set and forget
Acrylic on canvas
143 x 162 cm

"To go out look at the sun set
and forget about everything
that you're worried about."

On loan, courtesy of
Oberstown Children Detention Campus



Silver Stream

Acrylic on canvas

122 x 156 cm

"I love everything about cars, even though I've never driven one. This is a painting of the Silver Stream car, the first car ever to be made in Ireland. First produced in 1908 in Co. Kildare, it is the only one ever made and was considered on the same level as Rolls Royce at the time."

On loan, courtesy of Oberstown Children Detention Campus



The Diamond Bar

Acrylic on canvas

137 x 165 cm

“Although Michael Collins and De Valera were on the same side once, they had severe differences of opinion about Ireland. This is prevalent in today's world still, as everybody seems to be playing a metaphorical game of wits with themselves and each other.”

On loan, courtesy of Oberstown
Children Detention Campus



The Potion of Knowledge Acrylic on canvas
158 x 130 cm

“As a young boy I have always had a fascination for computer games based in medieval times. The values in that time were relatively straightforward and unmaterialistic. I feel that these values are hard to find in today’s world. And so I put them in a container to preserve them.”

On loan, courtesy of Oberstown Children Detention Campus



Shakey Bridge

Acrylic on canvas

137 x 165 cm

“This is a painting of the Shakey Bridge in Cork City. I did this painting because I used to go swimming down there when I was younger. This painting brings back good memories.”

On loan, courtesy of Oberstown
Children Detention Campus