Recipient name: Dr Peter Kelly

Discipline and subject area: Humanities and Social Science

Amount and year awarded: €2,300 in 2022

Title of project: Ekphrasis in its Ancient and Contemporary Contexts Establishing New Connections between Research and the Arts through Practice Based Research.

Summary of findings:
The grant allowed me to host a series of symposia and workshops in both the University of Galway and Durham University. The Galway based events brought together a number of leading contemporary poets from Britain and Ireland, who discussed and demonstrated the use of ekphrasis in their work. This led to new insights on why ekphrasis has come to the fore in contemporary Irish poetry, and especially how this device functions to highlight the intertwining of politics and artistic practice in representations of diminishing landscapes. These events were well attended in person and online, while the recordings of the events are now available online: https://vimeo.com/734467539/0813e775c0 and will soon be published on major online platforms. The invited poets also delivered a workshop on how creative practices could be successfully integrated in teaching to staff and junior faculty in the University of Galway. The Durham based conference had world-leading academic experts deliver papers on their most recent research on ekphrasis over two days. A collected volume will also be published combining papers from both the Galway and Durham events. This volume will be innovative in bringing poetic and academic voices into conversation. A book proposal is about to be sent off to Bloomsbury.

Plans for continuing collaboration:
I am editing a volume with one of the poets who co-organised and participated in the conference.
Published work and publication plans:
A collected volume bringing together the poetic and academic papers from both events.

Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:
In addition to the conference, workshop and symposia outlined above, elements of this research were disseminated during guest lectures at Durham University and Princeton University.

Collaborations and planned collaborations:
A fruitful collaboration was formed with Durham University and especially Professor Roy Gibson, which will lead to further collaborations in the future.

Outreach and engagement activities:
The Galway based events were promoted through RTE’s Poetry Program and on Twitter, while live streaming the events attracted an international and varied audience.