

BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE OPEN SUBMISSION EXHIBITION



Birr Theatre
&
Arts Centre

Common Ground 2024 Mother Earth

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre are calling for submissions for the 17th Annual Common Ground – an exhibition of work by artists living in the Midlands to be held from December 2024 – January 2025.

This year the theme for **Common Ground 2024** (*referring to a group of artists coming together to exhibit*) will be
Mother Earth

*Mother Earth is a metaphor, a name to focus on the nurturing and life-giving aspects of nature. The UN website explains that the idea of 'Mother Earth' is used because it 'reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit'.
(all mediums considered).*

The exhibition will be selected by artist, Jock Nichol

Jock grew up in the Scottish borders showing a great interest in art from an early age. He attended Edinburgh College of Art gaining a B.A. and postgraduate Diploma in Drawing and painting. After a time working and living in Edinburgh Jock, and his artist wife Caroline Conway, moved to Ireland in order to pursue their respective practices.

Landscape and a sense of place has always been central to Jock's art, from the Cheviot hills of his childhood to the forests and bogs around his adopted Midlands home. Though he relishes visits to the wilder parts of the country it is the experience of the everyday engagement with his local environment that gives him inspiration.

Jock Nichol has exhibited widely both in Ireland and abroad and has work in private and state collections and is a board member of Damer House Gallery, Roscrea. He has completed several residences in Hospitalfield House Scotland, Cill Rialaig Kerry, Tyrone Guthrie Centre Monaghan and Stradbally Arthouse Laois. Jock has also been an invited artist/tutor at plein air painting festivals in Wexford, Dublin and Laois.

It is intended that the resulting exhibition will showcase the exceptional talent and diversity of Visual Artists in the Midlands today. We would like to encourage you to make a submission. This process is not intended to place any artist over another, but to offer a professionally selected exhibition opportunity for all artists in the area. This exhibition allows artists the opportunity to interpret the theme in their own unique way, resulting in creative harmony that nourishes the mind, body, and spirit.

This selected show is open to all media including painting, drawing, print, photography, sculpture etc.

With this in mind we invite artists to submit a max of 2 pieces for consideration.

€10 ENTRY FEE PER ARTIST

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
Oxmantown Hall, Birr, Co. Offaly
Box Office (057) 9122911
Email: info@birrtheatre.com
www.birrtheatre.com



Registered Chy No: 20026677

Venue Manager: Emma Nee Haslam

Directors Birr Stage Guild CLG: Hazel Greene (Chair), Marcella Corcoran-Kennedy, Maureen de Forge, George Manzor, Mary Kennedy, Enda O'Connor, John McArdle, Paul Smith

**CONDITIONS OF ENTRY FOR BIRR THEATRE AND ARTS CENTRE'S
ANNUAL COMMON GROUND EXHIBITION ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- Media: **All media considered.**
- Please deliver **two** (max.) items of work to Birr Theatre & Arts Centre on **Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th November between 1pm and 5pm.**
It is advised to submit two pieces to give the guest selector scope to include as many artists as possible.
- Pieces that have been exhibited in Birr town previously will not be selected.
- Please submit original work only. No copied works will be accepted!
- NOTE: Any work that is determined not to meet the spirit/theme of the exhibit will not be accepted.
- Artists must be living in the Midlands region or have immediate Midland connections.
- All work **must** be professionally presented ready for exhibit. It is not necessary that works on canvas are framed, but the canvas must be approx. 1 inch deep and not bowed or warped in any way. Thinner canvases will need to be framed. Works not presented appropriately will not be considered.
- **Work that is not ready to hang (i.e. picture hooks etc in place with cord) will not be included.**
- Artist must insure that their work is dry before submission. Wet work will not be accepted.
- Sizes of work may vary, however artists are reminded to consider the size of the exhibition space at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre. Artists are welcome to visit the space in advance or contact the Theatre who will e-mail details of the exhibition space.
- All items delivered must be clearly marked with **name, contact phone number, title, medium and price.**
- A completed Submission Form must be submitted from each artist. Forms are attached below. Work will **not** be accepted without a completed Submission Form.
- All artists must submit a **short** biography with their submission.
- The guest selector's decision is final.
- Artists will be notified if their works have been selected /unselected by email or phone and arrangements made for collection of non-selected work. Due to the lack of storage facilities prompt collection of unselected works is expected by **Friday 29 November 5pm.**
- Birr Theatre & Arts Centre will handle any sales and a 15% commission charge will apply to all sales.
- Works will only be insured while they are in the building and up to the date artists have been asked to collect them. Work will not be insured in transit to and from Birr Theatre & Arts Centre.
- The exhibition will be officially opened on **Saturday 30 November, 2.30pm** and will run until the end of January 2025.

**For further information please contact:
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre / phone: 057 9122911 / email: info@birrtheatre.com**

Common Ground 2024

Mother Earth

Submission Form ~ Two pieces max to be submitted +
€10 ENTRY FEE PER ARTIST

*Pieces **must** be accompanied by a completed Submission Form.*

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
No of works	
Title 1	
Title 2	

Short Biography

✂-----

Entry 1	Artist Name	
	Title of Artwork	
	Medium	
	Price	(incl 15% commission) €

Please label clearly and attach on back of each work.

✂-----

Entry 2	Artist Name	
	Title of Artwork	
	Medium	
	Price	(incl 15% commission) €

Please label clearly and attach on back of each work.