

SPRING26

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



An exhibition presenting new work from 26 graduate visual artists & early career artists with a Fingal connection to mark Draíocht's 25th Birthday

04 March—02 May 2026
Ground & First Floor Galleries,
Draíocht, Blanchardstown

Curated by Aisling Prior

Participating Artists:

Maria Atanacković | Maya Brezing | Lucy Carrick | Matthew Coll | Michael Shane Cox | Alex De Roeck | Aideen Farrell | Chris Forrester | Andrew Grace | Elizabeth Hogan | Uisce Jakubczyk | Sinead Kampff | Paula Leimane | Nathan Lowry | Nicole Manning | Justine McDonnell | James McLoughlin | Sorca O'Farrell | Kerrie O'Leary | Eileen O'Sullivan | Jack Pierce | Eileen Leonard Sealy | Annette Treacy | Aoife Ward | Catherine Ward | Diarmuid Woodcock.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY SURNAME



Maria Atanacković

Maria is an emerging visual artist working across printmaking, assemblage, textiles, and digital making. She originally studied Surface Design at the London College of Communication, specialising in printed textiles. She is currently the artist in residence at Ardgillan Castle, a residency awarded by Fingal Arts Office. Previous residencies include Creative Spark (2025), Draíocht (2025), and the Clifden Arts Festival (2024). Her first solo exhibition, *Navigating Space*, took place at Draíocht in 2025, followed by *Taobh le Taobh* at Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich (2025). She has represented Ireland at Collect, London (2025), and in *Not About the Rain*, a printmaking exhibition in Lithuania (2025).

Although her practice is still in its early stages, her work has already received significant support through awards including the DCCI Future Makers Award (2024), Arts Council Agility Awards (2022, 2023), and the Fingal Artist Support Bursary (2023, 2024). She is a studio member and screen-print tutor at Graphic Studio Dublin. Alongside her studio practice, she has extensive experience as an arts facilitator, leading workshops in schools and community settings. She is currently developing the digital fabrication side of her practice, having completed the Professional Diploma in Digital Making with NCAD and Creative Spark Fab Lab (2025), integrating CNC routing, laser cutting, and 3D printing into her work.



Maya Brezing

Maya Brezing is an emerging Irish artist working and living in Dublin. She graduated NCAD in 2022 with a BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Art specialising in printmaking. She was awarded the Black Church Print Studio Graduate Award 2022 and the Fingal Recent Graduate Residency at MART Gallery and Studios 2023. Since Graduating, Brezing has exhibited in numerous shows nationally and internationally including *The Ladder is Always There* with Shell/ter collective in Draíocht 2023, *Unlimiting the Edition* in The Library Project 2024, *Flesh and Roots*, Ardgillan Gallery 2024 and the RHA Annual Exhibition 2025. Her practice incorporates expanded print, painting and installation.

Recently Brezing received the Agility Award, the K&M Evans Painting Prize and has been shortlisted for the Hennessy Craig and Homan Potterton Award. Her work is held in the Office of Public Works (OPW), St. Vincent's University Hospital and the DCU Art Collection.



Lucy Carrick

Lucy is an early career multidisciplinary artist from Swords, Co. Dublin. In 2021, she graduated from Fine Art Media and Critical Cultures at NCAD, where she focused on photography and video, blending performance art with social media and interactive technology. Recent work explores identity through queerness, femininity, and neurodivergence. She is interested in how constructions of girlhood are shaped by mental health and PTSD, and in the collision of physical and spiritual worlds, emphasizing ritual and self-examination. practice is underpinned by theorists like Donna Haraway and Joanna Walsh, and poets including Sylvia Plath and Olivia Gatwood.

Often her work contrasts the material with the intangible- combining digital approaches with traditional materials like textiles and ceramic. Her ongoing collaboration with Emily Featherman merges digital media and internet culture with traditional theatre, while *TIES* (2024) presents a zine made from clay and wool, exhibited at zine fairs across Ireland.



Matthew Coll

Matthew Coll is an emerging artist based in Dublin, graduating from NCAD's Fine Art Painting BA in 2022 and working primarily in painting, incorporating elements of sculpture and installation. His work is part of several private and public collections, including the Office of Public Works, St Vincent's University Hospital, and Teeling Whiskey Distillery. He has received several awards, including NCAD's Clancy Quay Studio Graduate Residency Award 2023/2024, the Arts Council's Agility Award 2023, and Fingal County Council's Artists' Support Scheme Bursaries 2023 & 2025.



Michael Shane Cox

Shane Cox is a visual artist working with sculpture and craft-based processes to explore contemporary relationships with land and material. His practice focuses primarily on wood as a material, both natural and engineered, as well as native and non-native to the island of Ireland. Shane studied fine art at Technological University Dublin, where he graduated with first-class honours. From his graduate show, 'A Woven Vernacular' he was awarded residencies in both the RHA peer studio and FSAS where he further developed his practice.



Alex de Roeck

Alex de Roeck's practice establishes ideological dialogues between systems of value, identity, and corruption through sculpture, assemblage and drawing. Working primarily with hand sculpted plastics and found materials he deems "cultural debris", Alex creates semi figurative artworks that echo the artificial nature of his subject matter. In his recent works, the motif of a cliché Irish leprechaun (Ireland's unelected mascot) becomes a recurring theme, often used as a persona or a 'character skin' to explore themes of national identity, hauntology and the rise of 'The Grifter' in online spaces. His current body of work interrogates the paradox of 'wellness' in a world increasingly mediated by shameless marketing, digital aesthetics and self-optimization. Drawing from the visual and ideological languages of wellness culture and finance grifting, the artworks reflect on our collective drive to optimize, purify, and pay off one's self until nothing remains but echoes of productivity.



Aideen Farrell

Aideen Farrell is a Dublin--based artist working in sculpture and installation. Her work responds to industrial landscapes and infrastructural ruins, focusing on processes of ruin, extraction, and transformation. She engages with remnants through cyclical processes—gathering, sorting, documenting, making, and assembling. She often works with found materials, clay, drawing, and photography.

Her exhibitions include solo shows; *Brittle to Look Back*, Custom House Gallery (2023), *A Weight of Windows*, Pallas Projects/Studios (2019) and *Showroom*, Linenhall Arts Centre (2018), and recent group shows; *The Earth, the Cosmos and Us*, A4 Sounds (2025), *Waystation*, MA Degree show at the Complex (2024), *Gaffer Tape* in Phibsborough Shopping Centre (2023). She completed her MA in Fine Art at TU Dublin in 2024 and her BA In Fine Art and Visual Culture at NCAD in 2017. Her practice has been supported by Fingal County Council and the Arts Council. In 2025, she was awarded the Fire Station Artists' Studios (FSAS) Residential Award and funding through the Fingal Artists' Support Scheme.



Chris Forrester

Chris Forrester is a visual artist, writer, and curator based in Dublin. Through the medium of writing, film, performance and sculpture he synthesises work that is personal, political and discursive, exploring cultural narratives around gender and sexuality. He was awarded the inaugural Fingal recent graduate award and is currently in residence in the Carnegie Free Library in Swords, focusing on community engagement in the arts through public events.

In 2025 he was Awarded the Fingal Grant Act Scheme and curated *In Place of Meaning* alongside Emma Swan in the Carnegie Free Library in Swords. In 2026 he was awarded MART Gallery and Studio's experimental residency in association with his collective F4G.NET where they developed the installation 'Pokuta.'

In February of 2025 he took part in Scene+Heard Theatre Festival in Smock Alley, co-writing a show alongside Marcel Matys called *Introduction to Charcoal*, this staged life drawing class examines gender non-conforming and queer bodies. Other exhibitions he has taken part in include *Silver Apples of the Sun*, *Golden Apples of the Sun (2025)*, *Dublin Art Book Fair (2024)*, *GradX (2024)*, *Tread Lightly (2023)*, *Transfusion (2023)*, *Blurb (2022)* and *Extended Tactility (2022)*.



Andrew Grace

Andrew Grace is a Visual Artist and Researcher based in Dublin and recent Graduate of NCAD Dublin with a BA in Fine Art with Critical Cultures. They currently reside in MART as a part of their graduate residency award from Fingal Arts office. Andrew's practice evolves from indepth queer theoretical research where a form of visual essays are displayed, critiquing the way of queer being and engaging with space both physical and digital. They work within digital forms to engage with space through different means and a range of different physical and digital forms transpire. Although consistent with the digital form, Andrew continues to explore different formats of expression through physicalities and their represented meanings. They wish to place visuals to people where discussion and co-learning can be experienced, where questions are central to their practice to engage with the understanding of queer placement through different spaces and politics. Specifically, they work within the evolution of queerness through space and material, and the understanding of how we get here and what the future looks like.



Elizabeth Hogan

Elizabeth Hogan is a Dublin-based visual artist working across painting, drawing and printmaking. Her practice explores light, atmosphere and transitional landscapes through observational and memory-based processes. Her work has been exhibited widely in juried exhibitions across Ireland, including the Royal Hibernian Academy Annual Exhibition (2022, 2023), Royal Ulster Academy Annual Exhibition (2022), Lavit Gallery Annual (2026, 2025), Rua Red Open (2025), Cairde Visual at the Hamilton Gallery (2025, 2022), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Chaos/Order Exhibition (2025/26 and 2023), Mermaid Arts Centre Open (2023) and Artform Dunmore East Bucolica Exhibition (2024). Her work was featured by Niall McMonagle in The Sunday Independent in 2023 and has been acquired for the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Collection.

Hogan is a recipient of a DLR Arts Office Emerging Artist Grant (2023) and is a graduate of Mentored Painting at the Royal Hibernian Academy (2023) and Art, Craft and Design from BIFE (2020).



Agnieszka 'UISCE' Jakubczyk

Agnieszka "Uisce" Jakubczyk is a fibre artist and art teacher from Poland who has been living in Ireland since 2004. Her textile work has been exhibited in group exhibitions across Poland, Ireland, Hungary, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, and Taiwan. Her first solo exhibition was presented at the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre in Naul in Autumn 2022.

She graduated from the People's University in Turno, Poland, in 1992. After completing her studies, she stepped away from weaving for a period and pursued music performance and musicology.

Several years after moving to Ireland, she began teaching adult education classes and a variety of fibre arts workshops. Inspired by her students' enthusiasm and creativity, she returned to weaving in 2015. Her woven pieces were subsequently selected for group exhibitions, and in 2016 she received her first award, encouraging her to deepen her engagement with the art of weaving. In 2021 she completed her first commissioned work: a large-scale tapestry for Fingal County Council under the Creative Ireland Programme. The piece, titled *Women of Fingal Tapestry*, is currently on display at Swords Castle in North County Dublin.

She has participated in artist residencies at Arteles Creative Center in Finland and at the Ós Textile Residency at the Icelandic Textile Center in Blönduós, Iceland.



Sinéad Kampff

Sinéad Kampff is an artist based in Dublin, Ireland and is currently a member of Ormond Art Studios. Her practice involves painting and sculptural pieces.

Sinéad graduated with a BA in Fine Art Painting from NCAD in 2022. She works primarily with oil paints and some other multimedia materials, her practice deals with abandonment, loss and navigating the beauty in empty space and what makes up that space.

Connecting the sudden loss of a parent to the desertion of space has been her anchor to the work and allows for any questions that arise when visiting these spaces, why do we abandon space in the first place? Why are we so intrigued by these spaces?

As a painter Kampff has allowed this work to take her to new materials and ways of thinking of painting and making.

Sinéad has recently shown work at the Outset Xmas Open (2023), the 194th RHA Annual Exhibition, Dublin Modulars HI-FIVE Compression event at the RHA (2024).



Paula Leimane

Paula is a Latvian-Irish artist based in Co. Dublin and a Fine Art Painting graduate of NCAD. Working through painting and mixed media, her practice delves into the intricate layers of her Latvian and Irish heritage, exploring how these influences resonate within a contemporary context.

Her work often depicts surreal, immersive landscapes that reflect cultural identity, belonging, family, and tradition. Through her paintings, she seeks to express feelings of love and admiration, aiming to create a sense of harmony between the artwork and the viewer. She strives to establish a connection that transcends the boundaries of the canvas, producing intuitive works that evoke a tangible emotional response and resonate with real-life experience.

Her ongoing projects include solo exhibitions that she hosts in her local town twice a year. She dedicates significant time to painting in her home studio, surrounded by her mother's garden, her family, open fields, orchards, and the nearby seaside. Her body of work emerges through a combination of paintings, drawings, studies, and photographs that coexist as one evolving creative ecosystem, continually developing as her practice and skills progress.



Nathan Lowry

Nathan Lowry is an Irish figurative painter from Co. Dublin, Ireland. His work is concentrated on figural, representational painting. His work offers an insight into the candid and daily lives of people in contemporary Ireland. In particular, his work has been focused on depicting the lives of those from the LGBTQ community. He thinks it is an important part of our culture that is often shied away from in art. As a gay person, he wants to see a more positive life view of the Queer community in Ireland and he is proliferating it in his paintings.

He was shortlisted in the AIB Portrait Prize 2025 at the National Gallery of Ireland for his painting, 'Circle of Life'. He has been included in galleries such as the Royal Hibernian Academy, Draíocht Gallery, Outset Gallery, RUA RED, An Chéad Tine, The Dublin Painting and Sketching Club and more. He has also taken part in the televised portraiture competition, 'Portrait Artist of The Year'. His work is also featured in printed media such as Profiles Journal, Abridged, Swerve Magazine and his own self-published art book '*Process in Progress: Faces, Spaces and Figures*'. In this book he discusses his art practice and influences which include international historical artefacts from various cultures.



Nicole Manning

Nicole is a painter and a recent graduate of NCAD. Inspired by the mind-body connection and the interplay between the physical and psychological, her work examines the external expression of inner turmoil within the human experience. Rooted in her own experience of living with chronic stomach pain as a symptom of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), her recent work focuses on the ways trauma manifests within the body.

Using gestural, twisting brushwork that echoes the forms of the intestines, and incorporating symbolic and archetypal imagery—such as curled bodies, beds, and animals that act as metaphor and alter-ego—she seeks to translate internal and invisible pain into visible form. She is currently expanding her focus beyond her personal narrative by investigating the historical neglect of research on the female body. Through this, she aims to develop a new body of work addressing gender bias and misdiagnosis, using storytelling and visual expression as tools for collective understanding and awareness.



Justine McDonnell

Justine McDonnell is a visual artist and writer living and working in Dublin. She received her B.A in Fine Art from TU Dublin (2015) and a Masters in Fine Art from the University of Ulster (2017).

She has a multidisciplinary practice that coalesces the voice, text, photography, live-performance and sound- installation. McDonnell examines female histories and frameworks of oppression through the re-staging of historical, autobiographical and fictional narratives. She has exhibited in a wide range of galleries including IMMA (2023) dlr LexIcon (2022), Holden Gallery (2021) the Golden Thread Gallery (2018).

McDonnell was a recipient of the Fingal Artists Support Scheme and the Draíocht Studio Residency Award (2024). She was granted the Arts Council of Ireland Agility Award (2021) and the Visual Arts Bursary Award (2022), (2023) and (2024).

Most recently she was granted the Fingal Arts Support Scheme to develop new work and undertake a one month residency at CCI, Paris.



James McLoughlin

James McLoughlin is an artist and printmaker born and raised in Kilbarrack and later Baldoyle in North Dublin. He moved to London in his teens, where he lived and worked before returning to Ireland in 2015. He is now based in County Louth.

In 2019 he completed a University Certificate in Visual Arts Practices at NCAD, and in 2023 he graduated with a first-class BA (Hons) in Fine Art from NCAD. That same year, his work was purchased by the Office of Public Works, and he received the graduate residency award at Damn Fine Print.

He has exhibited nationally throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland, and his work has been published in the Visual Artists Ireland News Sheet. In 2023 he further developed his practice by undertaking an MFA in Fine Art at TUS Limerick School of Art and Design, graduating in 2025 with first-class honours. During this time, he also completed a residency at Limerick Printmakers.



Sorca O'Farrell

Sorca O'Farrell is a landscape artist from Howth, Co. Dublin. She is a graduate of I.A.D.T. Dun Laoghaire (previously Dun Laoghaire School of Art) and N.C.A.D. Dublin.

Her work has been included in RHA and RUA Annual Exhibitions, along with various other Open Submission Group shows including The Lexicon and Visual Carlow. Awards include the Drawing Prize at the Royal Ulster Academy, the Cairde Visual/Hamilton Gallery award, and the Fingal County Council Graphics Studio Award. The Hamilton Award led to a solo show in 2017, which was followed by another solo show in The Seamus Ennis Centre in 2019.

Her work was included in the inaugural Hunt Museum Exhibition in December 2025.



Kerrie O'Leary

Kerrie O'Leary is an Irish computational artist from Fingal, working between Dublin and London. Her practice sits between drawing, data and environmental science, using custom code and drawing machines to translate tidal charts, swim logs and coastal measurements into pen-plotter drawings and kinetic installations.

O'Leary holds a BA in Management Science and Information Systems from Trinity College Dublin and an MFA in Computational Arts from Goldsmiths, University of London. She is currently part of the EU S+T+ARTS Aqua Motion programme, developing a new tidal-data installation in Viana do Castelo, Portugal, and is a Maker With a Mission resident at Makerversity, Somerset House. Previous residencies include Studio Quantum (Berlin) and Tides Institute & Museum of Art (Maine, USA).

Her work has been shown at the Victoria & Albert Museum and Somerset House in London, as well as in collaboration with Eco Show Boat in Dublin. Growing up in Dublin, O'Leary is a year-round sea swimmer, and this daily contact with the water underpins much of her work, which often begins with tides, storms and currents along the shores of Sutton, Portmarnock, Howth and Dublin Bay.



Eileen O'Sullivan

Eileen O'Sullivan holds an MFA in Fine Art Painting from NCAD (2025) and a BA in Fine Art Painting and History of Art.

She has exhibited widely, including recent shows at the Royal Hibernian Academy Annual, Rua Red, and Trinity College Dublin, as well as international festivals like Zeitgeist Berlin. Along with being awarded the Arts Council Agility Award and the RHA Evans Painting Prize, she has also completed residencies at Draíocht and Cill Rialaig. She was shortlisted for the Hennessy Craig award in 2022.



Jack Pierce

Jack Pierce is an emerging artist and recent Fine Art graduate from NCAD. His practice is process driven, integrating aspects of sculpture, paint and costume. Exploring themes of queer ecology, monstrosity and identity, he experiments with material processes and imagery to explore his interest in a sustainable future.

Utilising alternative and found fibres/fabric and exploring antiquated crafts and processes, aid in my questioning of our material legacy, Anthropocene horror and the fragmentation of nature. Current research is centred around 'unruly heritage' and queer ecology, exploring the connection between the haunting, afterlife of the things we create and discard, and how this overlaps and interacts with the queer philosophy of decategorisation and its celebration of interconnectedness.



Eileen Leonard Sealy

Eileen Leonard Sealy is an artist living and working in Dublin. She graduated from NCAD (2023) with a First Class Honours degree in Painting. She has previously worked as an artist in residence in a natural burial ground in the Netherlands (2021) and undertook a research trip to the highlands of Sulawesi, Indonesia (2023), funded by the Thomas Dammann Junior Memorial Trust Award.

Her work has been exhibited in group exhibitions including the RHA 193rd, 194th, and 195th Annual Exhibitions (2023-2025); The Ladder Is Always There, with Shell/ter Collective, Draíocht Gallery, Dublin (2023); and Two Women and a Child in Tears, a duo exhibition at College Lane Gallery, Dublin (2024). She was shortlisted for the RCSI Art Award and the Hennessy Craig Award / Homan Potterton Prize at the RHA (2024). She was a recipient of the Fingal County Council Artists' Support Scheme (2024, 2025), The Arts Council Agility Award (2025), and the RHA | Fingal County Council Studio Award (2024-2025).

She concluded her first solo exhibition at The LAB Gallery, Dublin (March 2025), curated by Margarita Cappock, and is currently artist in residence at College Lane Gallery and Studios (2025-2026).



Annette Treacy

Annette Treacy is a painter. She completed a Fine Art degree in 1994, and a Diploma in Photography in 1999, and in 23/24 took part in Turps Contemporary Painting School, London and is currently enrolled for 25/26.

She has exhibited internationally. Recent exhibitions include If Heaven Falls, Lido Stores, Margate, UK, 2025; Summer Exhibition, Ardgillan Gallery, Ardgillan Demesne, Balbriggan, Co Dublin, 2024; Summer Open, Courthouse Gallery, Co Clare 2024; A community of Hope, Gormleys Fine Art, Dublin, 2024; Winter Show, Dunamais Art Centre, Portlaoise, Co Laois 2024; Westmeath Artists Support Awards Exhibition, Luan Gallery, Athlone 2024/2025; OXO, Outset Gallery, 2024; Art in the Gardens, ARTFORM, Mount Congreve, Co Waterford, 2024, 191st RHA Annual exhibition, RHA, Dublin.



Aoife Ward

Aoife Ward is a sculptor with a BA Hons Int. from NCAD & AKI ArtEZ, Netherlands (2019). She has a PG Cert in Creative & Cultural Entrepreneurship from TCD (2023).

In 2019 Ward opened her 1st solo show, USELESS IS NECESSARY, on residency at Ateliers '89, Aruba. From 2020 to 2022 she took part in multiple group shows in Ireland and performed in Smock Alley and at the ReVision Festival, Belfast. In 2022 Ward opened her second solo show, 8 Hours of What We Will, Strule Arts Centre, Omagh. That year began a collaborative project, Con:temporary Quarters (CTQ), with Eve Woods. This included multiple socially engaged site-specific performance events, and an exhibition in StayCity Tivoli exhibition site in 2023.

Early 2025 Ward exhibited in a group show, Liquid Urbanisms, as CTQ, curated by Clara McSweeney in The Lab Gallery. She is now preparing for a show with collaborator Ali Farrelly, curated by The Complex Gallery, for November 2026.



Catherine Ward

Catherine Ward is an Irish artist from Fingal working with painting, photography and drawing. She graduated with an MA in Painting from the Royal College of Art in 2025. In 2023, she was an artist-in-residence at Draíocht.

Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include Victoria House Residency Exhibition with Noah Berrie, TKE Studios, Margate, UK (2025), What Remains, Farmleigh House & Estate, Dublin, Ireland (2025) and Strange Signals with Natalie Pullen, Ardgillan Castle Gallery, Dublin, Ireland (2023).

Selected group exhibitions include Notes from the Studio, Incubator Gallery, London, UK (2025), Connections OPW exhibition touring to Farmleigh Gallery, Dublin, Ireland; Luan Gallery, Athlone, Ireland; Down Arts Centre, Downpatrick, Northern Ireland; Braid Mid-Antrim Centre, Ballymena, Northern Ireland; The Main Guard, Clonmel, Ireland (2025), the ladder is always there with Shell/ter artist collective, Draíocht Gallery, Dublin, Ireland (2024) and Collective Residue, Pallas Projects/Studios, Dublin, Ireland (2023).

She has received awards such as the Tracey Emin Foundation Victoria House Residency (2025), the George Moore Scholarship (2024), the Arts Council of Ireland Agility Award (2023) and the Fingal County Council Artists' Support Scheme (2023, 2022). Her work is included in the OPW Irish State Art Collection.



Diarmuid Woodcock

Diarmuid Woodcock is an emerging Irish visual artist based in Skerries, North County Dublin. He graduated from the National College of Art and Design in 2023 with a BA in Fine Art. His work explores the ideas of the “Flâneur”, documenting the world around him.

Woodcock's debut solo exhibition “Gone for a Gander” opened in the Highlanes Gallery in January 2025. Other recent exhibitions include the Hunt Open Submission Exhibition and Dunamais Arts Centre Exhibition in 2025. He participated in the Mason, Hayes & Curran “Annual Art Exhibition”, “Sustain” with Dublin Modular in 2023. He had his graduate showcase, “Down Around the Town” in June 2023, which was long listed in the RDS Visual Artist Award 2023.

Woodcock received the Fingal Artist Support Scheme in 2023 and the Agility Award in 2024. He co-curated “Amplify” in the Highlanes Gallery in 2024 and is a member of their Youth Panel. He interned in the Cill Rialaig Arts Centre in 2024. He has led workshops in the Highlanes Gallery for Crúinní na nÓg and as part of the running of his solo exhibition. He will be participating in an artist exchange with Kulturwerstatt Haus 10 in May 2026.

CURATED BY AISLING PRIOR



Aisling Prior - Curator

Aisling Prior is a graduate of Philosophy and English at UCD and of the Masters in Visual Art Practices at IADT. She was director of the Breaking Ground art commissions programme where she produced 40 innovative projects in Ballymun, Dublin as part of that area's regeneration. Breaking Ground has been widely recognised as the flagship of contemporary public art projects in Ireland.

While working in Paris, she co-organised a major retrospective of Irish Cinema at the Centre Georges Pompidou.

She was the founder director of the Galway Film Centre and was the Director of the Sculptors' Society of Ireland, (VAI).

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