

21st March 2025

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Individual Arts Bursary Awards 2025

Limerick City and County Council made available a total fund of €27,600 for the 2025 Limerick Individual Arts Bursary Awards scheme. The maximum award under the scheme is €4,000.

A report with recommendations from the assessment panel for the scheme is enclosed.

The Assessment Panel met on Tuesday 11th March 2025. 27 applications were received, representing a total ask of €100,837.30. The panel recommended awarding 8 applicants as follows:

Applicant	Award Recommended
Eimear Walshe	€4,000
Shirani Bolle	€3,951
Mícheál Keating	€4,000
Claire Hurley	€2,615
Dylan Ryan	€3,180
Hugo Byrne	€4,000
Anna Lowenstein	€4,000
Amanda Moloney O' Brien	€1,854
Total Funding	€27,600

The approval of Limerick City and County Council is requested to award bursaries as recommended.

Mise le meas,



Etain McCooey
Arts Officer | Creative Ireland Co-ordinator
Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism
Development Directorate

Limerick Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme 2025

Report and Recommendations

Applications from professional artists who wished to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for the development of work/professional skills were invited by open call on 20th December 2024, with the scheme closing on 12th February 2025. The Assessment Panel for the scheme met on the 11th March 2025 to assess and make recommendations on all eligible applications under the award criteria.

The Assessment Panel

The members of the panel were Brendan Maher and Paul McAree.

Brendan Maher is Artistic Director at The Source Arts Centre, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. He studied at Limerick College of Art and Design (BA in Design) and University College Dublin (Post Grad. Diploma in Arts Administration). He has worked at The Hunt Museum, Limerick, Galway Arts Centre and Galway Film Fleadh and was previously director at South Tipperary Arts Centre and Nenagh Arts Centre.

Paul McAree is Curator/Director at Lismore Castle Arts in Co Waterford, which has hosted solo exhibitions by artists including Gerard Byrne, Anne Collier, Dorothy Cross, Camille Henrot, Rashid Johnson and Wilhelm Sasnal. Previously McAree worked at Breaking Ground, Tate Modern and Ikon Gallery Birmingham, and also runs an occasional commissioning project, FLOOD. He co-founded and directed Colony Gallery in Birmingham from 2007 – 2010. He has curated freelance projects, co-curating Traces at Kasteel Wijlre, The Netherlands in 2018, was curator in residence at Rua Red from 2014-2016, and curator in residence at Temple Bar Gallery, 2012-2013. He has been a peer review panel member for the Arts Council and local authorities, and is a Board Member for both Temple Bar Gallery + Studios and Sirius Arts Centre in Cobh.

Information on successful applications

The Assessment Panel for the Limerick Theatre Bursary Award Scheme 2025 agreed that the following recommendations go forward for approval to full Council.

Applicant	Award Recommended
Eimear Walshe	€4,000
Shirani Bolle	€3,951
Mícheál Keating	€4,000
Claire Hurley	€2,615
Dylan Ryan	€3,180
Hugo Byrne	€4,000
Anna Lowenstein	€4,000
Amanda Moloney O' Brien	€1,854
Total Grant Funding Awards	€27,600

Eimear Walsh €4,000**Visual Arts**

To develop a new performance for EVA International as part of Eimear Walshe's tour of 'Romantic Ireland'. This proposal includes working with local Limerick musicians to develop a live soundtrack, and for the technical resources to adapt this performance to a staging at an off-site location.

Shirani Bolle €3,951**Visual Arts**

To create a new body of work. An art film and photography produced in Limerick. Bolle will improve their skills and knowledge by working with a mentor. To improve their knowledge by visiting the Leigh Bowery exhibition in the Tate modern. To improve their skills and knowledge by taking a photography course.

Mícheál Keating €4,000**Other**

To create a solo exhibition and a print publication/music album featuring previously unseen artworks across sound, video, photography, and text. These works form an immersive multimedia project that explores the changing Limerick landscape and examines relations between human life, technology, capitalism, and land in the region.

Claire Hurley €2,615**Visual Arts**

To further her artistic and professional development Hurley seeks support to mentor with photographer Manuel Vason toward conceptual and professional development, upgrade computer to be photoshop compliant, and develop skills at weaving masterclass so they can structurally improve the sculptural forms they make and complete photo-shoot of sculptures demonstrating these new skills and developments.

Dylan Ryan €3,180**Visual Arts**

To develop a new collaborative project with Pádraig Dennan exploring private and personal local histories. The work will focus on narrating these histories of space and identity. Working with mentor Kieran Cashell, he will advise on the production of the project and publication material.

Hugo Byrne €4,000**Other**

To commence a new body of work, titled "Ithe 'gus Áit" a set of 14 knives that respond to Ireland's culinary heritage and natural landscape. Byrne uses natural materials and traditional techniques, to make bespoke culinary knives in studio in Limerick city.

Anna Lowenstein €4,000**Other**

To produce 'The Score is Not the Music' a bespoke workshop and performance series filling in the blanks of one tradition through the tools of the other. Based on Anna's album, Through

The Walls, the workshops and performances will introduce Klezmer music (traditional Eastern-European Jewish music) to music students and the wider public.

Amanda Moloney O' Brien €1,854

Literature/Poetry

To fund time to ready their novel 'If All Are Made to Stumble' for submission. As winner of the Irish Writer's Centre Novel Fair 2025, this is a critical juncture for their career and it is crucial they can afford time to dedicate themselves to this work.

March 2025