

RE-MAPPING
LANDSCAPES
SYMPOSIUM

EVENT
PROGRAMME

Kylemore Abbey,
Connemara, Co. Galway

Presented by
Architecture at the Edge

www.architectureattheedge.com

24 MARCH 2023



RE-MAPPING
LANDSCAPES
TIM ROBINSON
SYMPOSIUM
KYLEMORE ABBEY
MARCH 2023

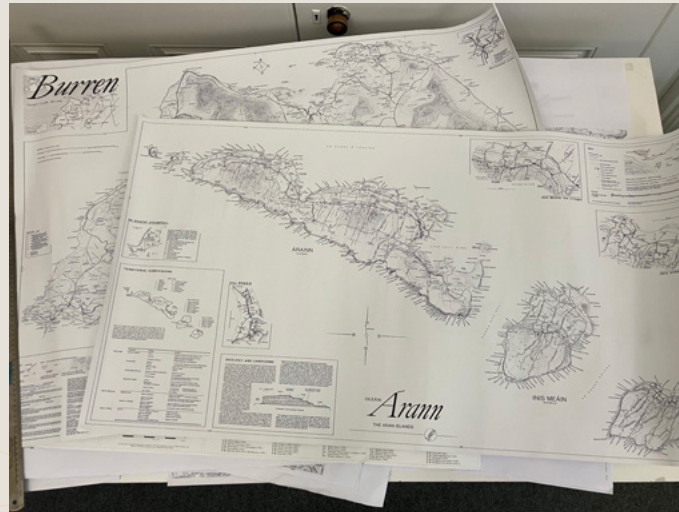
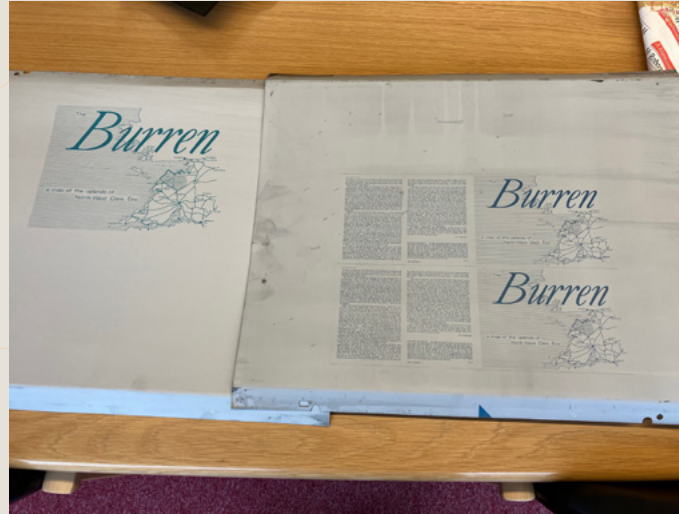
In her recent poetry collection, *Donegal Tarantalla* (dedicated to Tim and Mairéad Robinson), Moya Cannon reminds us that ‘hope is never dead / until this bewildered earth stops / throwing up roses.’ While Tim and Mairéad Robinson died within a few short weeks of each other during the first wave of the covid pandemic during Spring 2020, we hope that their work and legacy will inspire many generations to come, and help us to remap and critically reimagine a better earth for all.

Remapping Landscapes can be seen as a continuation of the Robinson's celebrated *Roundstone Conversations*, the much-anticipated colloquia held in Tim and Mairéad's home in Roundstone each year, where friends, neighbours and visitors would be assembled for a day to give an ‘interim report’ on their research, writings, art practice, and sometimes to even proffer a new recipe for mackerel (a great favourite of Mairéad's which she would serve with her own delicious rhubarb compôte).

The Robinsons used to wryly comment that they didn't want such gatherings to be a re-enactment of the *Agallamh na Seanórach* (*Colloquy of the Ancients*), and so they always made space for new voices, emerging scholars, and younger artists to be an integral part of their proceedings. We have endeavoured to honour such ambitions in our symposium in Kylemore Abbey today, with a gathering of established and new artists, architects, writers and scholars, coming from a wide range of disciplinary expertise and who are willing to share

WELCOME

RE-MAPPING
LANDSCAPES
SYMPOSIUM 2023



their thoughts on how their work seeks to remap our fragile landscapes in these ecologically challenging times. Our aim is to continue to foster a spirit of *cómhrá* and *cómhluadar*, and to open conversations on community and visions for future landscapes that may progressively shape our culture and society in the years to come.

Tim's work offers an intimate meditation on the deep mapping of space through time, and speaks to the very existential need of how to ethically make one's home in the world, and how best to honour that heritage through a language inscribed in and from the landscape that shaped it. As Seamus Heaney observed in his celebrated lecture 'The Sense of Place' in the Ulster Museum in January 1977, 'We are dwellers, we are namers, we are lovers, we make homes and search for our histories. And when we look for the history of our sensibilities, I am convinced, as Professor J.C.Beckett was convinced about the history of Ireland generally, that it is to what he called the stable element, the land itself, that we must look to for continuity.'

Nessa Cronin, Moore Institute and Centre for Irish Studies, University of Galway.

14 March 2023

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ARCHITECTURE AT THE EDGE SYMPOSIUM, KYLEMORE ABBEY, FRIDAY 24TH MARCH 2023

Architecture at the Edge presents a one-day symposium in collaboration with Kylemore Abbey, the Royal Irish Academy, and the Moore Institute, University of Galway, on the occasion of the exhibition *Interpreting Landscapes: Tim Robinson* and the west of Ireland.

The aim of the day is to enrich connections and establish new links between writers, artists, and architects whose creative practice is distinctly rooted in place and for others who are actively engaged in, or whose work responds to, “our aesthetic, corporeal and affective relationships with the Earth”.

This symposium explores how the cartographic and literary works of Tim Robinson can act as a connecting force to explore different aspects of landscape, and seeks to open up further questions and actions on the potential future with relevance to the broader cultural, linguistic, ecological and environmental challenges that we now face in the age of the Anthropocene.

Please see www.architectureattheedge.com for information on this project.
The event is [Free]. Booking essential as capacity for this event is limited.

SYMPOSIUM ITINERARY
FRIDAY 24TH MARCH 2022

9.00-09:30 **Tea, Coffee [at The Kylemore Kitchen café]**
Event registration [at Visitor Centre]

09.45 **Welcome by Liz McConnell, Head of Development at Kylemore Abbey**
Introduction by Frank Monahan, Director AATE
Location: Fordham Hall

10:00 **Panel Session 1: Remapping Connections I - Landscape and Architecture**

Speaker 1: **Fidelma Mullane**
Speaker 2: **Tom Cookson**
Speaker 3: **Finola O’Kane**
Moderator: **Lorna Siggins**
Location: Fordham Hall

11.15 **Keynote: Folding Landscapes Future Prospects**
Sheila O’Donnell, Founding Director O’Donnell+Tuomey
Location: Fordham Hall

EVENTS
PROGRAMME

11.50

Legacies: Tim Robinson's Literary and Cartographic Archives

Royal Irish Academy Publications and University of Galway Library Archives

Aisling Keane (The Library, University of Galway),

'Tim Robinson's archival legacy: preserving and digitising for the future'

Ruth Hegarty and Valeria Cavalli (Royal Irish Academy Publications),

'Reprinting the maps: Tim Robinson and the Royal Irish Academy'

Moderator: Jane Conroy

12.30

Lunch [in the Kylemore Kitchen café]

13:45

Panel Session 2: Remapping Connections II - Landscape and Art

Speaker 1: Nicolas Fève

Speaker 2: Siobhán McDonald

Speaker 3: Susan Stenger

Speaker 4: Martina Durac

Moderator: Nessa Cronin

Location: Fordham Hall

15:00

Poetry Reading: Moya Cannon

Interval / Break

15:30

Panel Session 3: Remapping Connections III – Language and Landmarks

Speaker 1: Bairbre Mac Con Iomaire

Speaker 2: Laoighseach Ní Choistealbha

Speaker 3: Breandán Mac Suibhne

Moderator: Lillis Ó Laoire

Location: Fordham Hall

16:30

'The ABC of Earthwonders': Remapping Connections

Speaker: Nessa Cronin

Location: Fordham Hall

Q&A - summary & reflections

17.00

END

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023

Field Trip to Kylemore Valley and Inis Ní Island on Roundstone Haven

Tickets via EventBrite <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/591386652397>

Guide: Michael Gibbons, Archaeologist



Liz McConnell

Head of Development, Kylemore Abbey

Liz has over 25 years' experience in the field of institutional advancement, philanthropy and public affairs. From 2003 to 2019 she worked in University of Galway (NUI Galway) serving as Director of Public Affairs during a period of exponential growth and development. In 2019 she took a career break from University of Galway to work with The Kylemore Trust on philanthropic development at Kylemore Abbey. She serves on a number of non-profit boards including Philanthropy Ireland, Music for Galway, The Galway Steinway Trust and was a board member of Druid Theatre Company from 2015 - 2020.



Frank Monahan

Director, Architecture at the Edge

Frank is a cultural producer and arts educator based in Galway. His professional practice includes the design of buildings & set design. With a long term interest in the critical potential of design he established 'Architecture at the Edge' in 2017, for which he has since been its artistic director. His independent curatorial portfolio includes projects for the Galway International Arts Festival, the London Festival of Architecture. He is a regular speaker and moderator on contemporary architecture and design, and their connection to society and wider culture.

**Panel Session 1: Remapping Connections I -
Landscape and Architecture**



Fidelma Mullane is a cultural geographer specializing in the study of vernacular culture. Advising, teaching and publishing as a specialist and advocate, her work focuses on the topic of vernacular architecture and on the promotion of culturally appropriate contemporary building practices.



Tom Cookson is an Associate in Hall McKnight's Cork office, currently leading housing, public realm and cultural projects within Ireland. Tom's writing has been published by Drawing Matter, and his thesis project at the MSA shortlisted for the RIBA Silver Medal. He was awarded the LINA Writing Award in January 2023 - a collaboration between the Irish Architecture Foundation and dpr-barcelona - for 'Shallow Time: The Burren'.



Finola O'Kane is a landscape historian, architect, and Professor at the School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin. Her books include Landscape Design in Eighteenth-Century Ireland: Mixing Foreign Trees with the Natives (Cork, 2004), and the forthcoming Landscape design and revolution in Ireland and the United States 1688-1815 (PMC/Yale, spring 2023). In 2017, she was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy.



Lorna Siggins is a print and radio reporter, specialising in west coast and marine issues, and author of several books, including Everest Calling, an account of the first Irish expedition to Everest, which she reported on for The Irish Times; Once Upon a Time in the West: the Corrib gas controversy (2010) and Search and Rescue: True stories of Irish Air-Sea Rescues and the Loss of R116 (2022).

Sheila O'Donnell

Founding Director, O'Donnell + Tuomey
 FRIAI, FRIBA, Hon FAIA
 B Arch UCD 1976
 MA Environmental Design, Royal College of Art
 London 1988



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Sheila O'Donnell graduated from University College Dublin in 1976. She then spent 5 years in London working for Spence and Webster, Colquhoun and Miller and James Stirling and Partner and studying for an MA in Environmental Design at the Royal College of Art. In 1981 she returned to Dublin to teach at UCD and start in practice.

She co-founded O'Donnell + Tuomey, with John Tuomey, in Dublin in 1988. The practice has designed cultural, social and educational buildings at home and abroad. They have designed masterplans and university campuses in Ireland, the UK and on the European mainland. Winners of more than 120 awards, recent buildings include the LSE Student Centre in London, the Central European University Budapest, the Glucksman Gallery Cork, Timberyard Housing Dublin, Irish Language Centre Derry, Sean O'Casey Community Centre Dublin, Lyric Theatre Belfast and the Photographers' Gallery London.

They have exhibited six times at the Venice Architecture Biennale. They have designed a new museum for the V&A and a dance theatre and academy for Sadler's Wells both currently under construction in East London.

She taught at University College Dublin for 40 years, where she was Practice Professor in Architecture until 2019. She has taught and lectured widely in Europe, Japan and the USA.

In 2015 with her partner John Tuomey, she received the RIBA Royal Gold Medal and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Brunner Prize, both awarded in recognition of a lifetime's work in Architecture. Sheila was named Architect of the Year at the 2019 Women in Architecture (WIA) Awards for her work on the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. In 2019 she was elected a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Her watercolours have been exhibited in the Royal Academy and the Royal Irish Academy. She is an elected member of Aosdána, the affiliation of Irish artists.

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**Legacies Session: Tim Robinson and the
Cartographic Archive**



Aisling Keane

Aisling Keane is the Digital Archivist at the University of Galway Library. She is responsible for managing digitisation initiatives at the Library, and ensuring the Library's digital archives activities are sustainable, are of research value, and are representative of our users.



Ruth Hegarty

Ruth Hegarty is Managing Editor of the Royal Irish Academy's publishing house. In 2006 she established the Prism imprint of the RIA, which produces beautiful accessible books that encourage readers to return to the primary source and are rooted in scholarship.



Valeria Cavalli

Valeria Cavalli is Project Manager in the Publications Office of the Royal Irish Academy. She is currently coordinating the reprint of Tim Robinson's maps.



Jane Conroy

Jane Conroy is from Rosmuc, in south Connemara. Her interests include travel literature, landscape and language, and gardens. She is Emerita Professor of French in the University of Galway and Vice-President for Research in the Royal Irish Academy.

Panel Session 2: Remapping Connections II - Landscape and Art



Nicolas Fève first discovered photography in a darkroom in France when he was nine. Years later, given a camera, he began to take his own pictures. His photographic practice, partly shaped by his studies in French and Swedish literature, mainly focusses on the relationship between text/ language and photography. He first encountered Tim Robinson's work following his move to Ireland in 1998. The photographs included in Connemara and Elsewhere, taken over fifteen years, aim to explore the parallels between cartography and photography, the relationship between Tim Robinson's text and photographic images, the photograph as page, and photography as rhetoric.



Siobhán McDonald's practice draws attention to contemporary topics dealing with air, breath and atmospheric phenomena, weaving scientific knowledge into her art in a poetic and thoughtful manner. In a practice that emphasizes field work and collaboration she works with natural materials, withdrawing them from their cycles of generation, growth and decay. This process gives form to a range of projects which consider our place on Earth in the context of geological time. Her work with glaciers and other natural phenomena deploys a unique artistic language that gives form to intangible and richly varied processes including painting, drawing, film and sound.

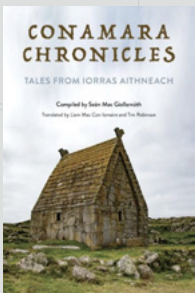


Susan Stenger is a performer and sound artist whose practice transcends boundaries. An accomplished flautist and specialist in performing the music of John Cage and Phill Niblock, she was also a founder of wall-of-guitars group Band of Susans and all-bass art band Big Bottom and has collaborated with an eclectic range of artists. Her layered soundtracks and installations embrace forms, patterns and systems from both the natural world and human constructs. She has composed soundtracks for Laura Gannon's Silver House (2015), Jesse Jones' Tremble, Tremble (2017 Venice Biennale) and Ailbhe Ní Bhriain's An Experiment with Time (2022). Her music was featured in Pat Collins' 2011 film, Tim Robinson: Connemara, about the renowned writer and cartographer.



Martina Durac is a film maker, curator, and lecturer for over 20 year's. With interests in art, nature, literature, music, and community; and how people organize themselves she has explored this in her many diverse projects, whether through observation the lives of our coastal communities and wild landscapes, the artistic impulse of writers, musicians and painters, or musical gatherings. A deep and abiding commitment to art in all its manifestations has led her to make films and series that were connected to its core explorations. She is Board member of the Screen Directors Guild of Ireland, where she advocates on behalf of the Documentary Alliance; and also an active member of the Women in Film and Television (Ireland). Martina is also the artistic director of the Ennis Book Club Festival.

Panel Session 3: Remapping Connections III
- Landmarks and Language



Barbara Mac Con Iomaire is a native of Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim, economist and graduate of UCG, Barbara and her late husband Liam, raised six children with Irish in Dublin. She was very involved in Irish medium education, at primary, post-primary and particularly early years education, and ran a naónra for many years. She served as Cathaoirleach of An Comhchoiste Réamhscolaíochta Gaeilge from 1991-1996.



Laoighseach Ní Choistealbha is a PhD researcher in Roinn na Gaeilge and the Centre for Irish Studies, University of Galway. Her PhD research focuses on ecocritical readings of modern Irish-language poetry. Other research interests include poetry that engages with issues of human rights and of nuclear disasters, such as Chernobyl and Hiroshima. Previously, she worked as Irish Research Council Laureate Scholar on the Republic of Conscience: Human Rights and Modern Irish Poetry project from 2018-2021. She is also a poet, and her first collection of poetry is due for publication in Autumn 2023.



Breandán Mac Suibhne is a historian at the University of Galway, where he directs Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge. Among his publications are *The End of Outrage: Post-Famine Adjustment in Rural Ireland* (Oxford University Press, 2017) and *Subjects Lacking Words: The Grey Zone of the Great Famine* (Quinnipiac University Press, 2017). He is editor of John Gamble, *Society and Manners in Early Nineteenth-Century Ireland* (Field Day 2011) and, with David Dickson, he edited Hugh Dorian, *The Outer Edge of Ulster: A Memoir of Social Life In Nineteenth-Century Donegal* (Lilliput, 2001). Mac Suibhne was founding editor, with critic Seamus Deane, of *Field Day Review* (2005–13), a journal of political and literary culture published in Dublin, and several book series published by Field Day.



Moderator

Lillis Ó Laoire is a sean-nós singer and lecturer in Irish language, folklore and Celtic Civilisation in the School of Languages, University of Galway, and is also a strong advocate for the use of the Irish language in the community.



Moya Cannon's *Collected Poems* (Carcanet Press, 2021) brings together poems from six previous books, *Oar* (1990), *The Parchment Boat* (1997), *Carrying the Songs* (1907), *Hands* (2011), *Keats Lives* (2015) and *Donegal Tarantella* (2019), more than three decades' work, a poetry of individual poems which compose a memorable, unpredictable sequence of discovery. In her poems, history, archaeology, pre-historic art, geology and music figure as gateways to deeper understanding of our mysterious relationship with the natural world and with our past. She has been a recipient of the Brendan Behan Award and the O'Shaughnessy Award and was Heimbold Professor of Irish Studies at the University of Villanova. She is a member of Aosdána.



**Nessa Cronin, 'The ABC of Earthwonders':
Remapping Connections**

Dr Nessa Cronin is Assistant Professor in Irish Studies and Associate Director of the Moore Institute for the Humanities and Social Studies at University of Galway, Ireland. As an interdisciplinary scholar she has published widely on various aspects of Irish Literature and Cultural Geography exploring issues concerning place, language, translation and identity in contemporary Irish and European cultures.

A limited number of places are available to delegates attending in person. The symposium will be recorded and uploaded to the AATE Youtube Channel at a later date to accommodate our remote audience. Follow us at: <https://www.youtube.com/@architectureattheedge1644/videos>

ACCESS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

If you have any access requirements, please do let us know when registering so that we can make your experience the best possible. **PLEASE NOTE: KYLEMORE ABBEY IS A HISTORIC BUILDING AND The Fordham Hall is LOCATED ON THE THIRD FLOOR WITHOUT LIFT ACCESS AND IS unfortunately not wheelchair accessible.**

CATERING

Lunch will be available to purchase at the Kylemore Kitchen café and with free tea/coffee provided. All dietary requirements are catered for and produce is local and sustainably sourced where possible.

STAYING OVER

Our accommodation partner is the Renvyle House Hotel.

Renvyle, Renvyle Peninsula, Connemara Loop,

Co. Galway, H91 X8Y8

Phone: (095) 46100

<https://www.renvyle.com>

TRAVELLING TO KYLEMORE ABBEY

Kylemore Abbey is located in Connemara, Co. Galway, in the West of Ireland on the iconic Wild Atlantic Way. Situated on the N59, it is easily accessible from Galway City, Clifden and Westport. We are taking a green approach with this digital only programme and we encourage our delegates to travel sustainably (carpooling, by bus or train) where possible.

BY CAR

Kylemore Abbey, Connemara,
Co. Galway Ireland. H91 VR90

Sat Nav Coordinates:

Latitude 53.5618

Longitude -9.8880

ATTENDANCE
AND
REGISTRATION

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Galway: 80km (50miles). Driving Time 1hr 15minutes

Take the N59 for Clifden and continue through Oughterard and Maam Cross until you pass through Recess. Turn right on the R344 signposted Letterfrack, through Inagh Valley, turn left on to the N59 loop for Kylemore and follow the road. Kylemore Abbey is approximately two kilometres ahead on the right-hand side.

From Clifden: 20km (12.5miles). Driving Time 25minutes

Take the N59 for Westport and continues past the entrance to Connemara National Park, through Letterfrack Village and Kylemore Abbey will be on your left-hand side approximately three kilometres from Letterfrack.

From Westport: 50km (31miles). Driving Time 50 minutes

Take the N59 for Clifden. You will pass through Leenane and then Killary Harbour before winding along Kylemore Lake and Kylemore Abbe will be on your right-hand side. (Alternate route possible via Croagh Patrick and Louisburgh).

PARKING

Free Parking (including disabled parking) is available at the Abbey entrance.

BY BUS & PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bus Eireann and Citylink both operate regional services that can bring you to Kylemore (Bus Eireann only), to Letterfrack Village, to the nearby town of Clifden.

Train: The nearest railway stations are Galway City and Westport. Details can be found at Irish Rail.

RE-MAPPING
LANDSCAPES
SYMPOSIUM 2023

Re-mapping Landscapes is a symposium arising from a desire to celebrate the immense contribution that Tim made to understanding the landscape of the west of Ireland and that he and Máiréad made to stimulating discussion and creative activity among their wide circle of friends and admirers. The symposium serves to open up questions and actions on the potential future of the proposed Robinson Centre in Roundstone. It is the product of many months of brain-storming, planning, collaboration and coordination.

Architecture at the Edge wish to acknowledge the contribution of Nessa Cronin, the Moore Institute, University of Galway, and Jane Conroy, the University of Galway and the Royal Irish Academy, for their advice and support in the development and curation of the programme.

A special thanks to John Drever - Folding Landscapes, Sheila O'Donnell - O'Donnell+Tuomey, Pat Collins - Harvest Films, Christina Lowry and members of the Roundstone Community Council.

The symposium is hosted by Kylemore Abbey and we wish to thank Liz McConnell, Eithne O'Halloran, Conor Coyne and all the team at Kylemore for their continued support.

We extend our deep appreciation to all of our speakers, artists and contributors.

Architecture at the Edge is proud to be supported by the Arts Council.

For more information please contact; architecture.edge@gmail.com



Institiúid de Móra do Thaighde sna
Daonnachtaí agus sa Léann Sóisialta
Moore Institute for Research in the
Humanities and Social Studies

