



Curriculum vitae

Sona Smedkova

Born in 1984, the Czech Republic, based in Galway, Ireland

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Employment

2024 Arts Programme Facilitator, ARD Family Resource Centre, Doughiska, Galway, Ireland

Education

2023 Professional Practice co-mentorship at 126 Artist-Run Gallery, third-year students, SDCA, ATU, Galway

2022 Panel member – graduate representative for GMIT Programmatic Review

2021 Master of Arts in Creative Practice, Centre of Creative Arts and Media, Galway, Ireland

2020 Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary (Hons.), CCAM, Galway, Ireland

Guest Lecturing

2023 Visiting lecturer, practice and research at Burren College of Art, Co. Clare, Ireland

2023 Visiting lecturer, practice and research at the School of Design and Creative Arts, Galway, Ireland

2023 Visiting lecturer, practice, research and curation of Master of Arts in Creative Practice students' exhibition at the Galway Arts Centre, School of Design and Creative Arts, Galway, Ireland

Residencies

2022 Interface Inagh residency with T.E.C.A. Collective

2021 - 2022 School of Design and Creative Arts (former CCAM), ATU (former GMIT) residency with T.E.C.A. Collective

Art sector positions/ memberships

2024 Artspace Studios Co-Director, Galway, Ireland

2023 Catalyst Arts member, Belfast, Northern Ireland

2022/24 Co-Director of 126 Artist-Run Gallery & Studios, Galway, Ireland

2022 Design Lab Ambassador, Architecture at the Edge, Galway, Galway, Ireland

2021 Artspace studio member, Galway, Ireland

2021 Interface Inagh professional member, Recess, Co. Galway, Ireland

Awards

2023 Visual Arts Bursary Award Round 1 Shortlisted

2021 Agility Award, Arts Council Ireland

2020 RDS Visual Arts Award Longlisted



Funded projects

2023 Reflections- A Commemoration of the Irish Women of 1923, Banners making with a group of women at Ballybane library led by artist Áine Phillips. The project was part of the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 initiative, supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sports and media.

2023 Shared Island feasibility study – Galway-focused group, funded by The Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme, developed in partnership with Galway City Council and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, facilitated by Galway Culture Company in collaboration with Galway Arts Centre, Atlantic Technological University and Southern Regional College

2021 Radius ATS GMIT Project Award, collaboration with one another MA student to engage with the transition year students at Merlin College, Galway, focus on diversity, inclusivity and creativity.

2020 Creative Ireland, working with a community group from Cope Glean Oaks Lodge, Galway under the Christmas Creation project.

2020 Not a Degree Show, end-of-year exhibition co-curator for all CCAM contemporary art graduates, funded by Galway Art Officer James C. Harrold, Connacht Tribune Printworks

2010 Space Invaders, Eyre Square Shopping Centre, Galway. The group was in collaboration with Galway City Art Office under concept of Councillor Niall McNelis

Exhibitions

2023 *Dear PrEUdence: A positive Headspace in the EU*, group exhibition, part of Mental Health Day, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

2023 *to lean, fold, buckle, hold, carry, push, pull, support*, annual members' show, Catalyst Arts, Belfast, NI

2023 *DÉAD Creative Pathways Programme*, group exhibition in Goethe Institute Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

2022 *DÉAD Creative Pathways Programme*, group exhibition in Silent Green, Berlin, Germany

2021 *Plan C: Whereabouts?*, Master of Arts in Creative Practice exhibition, School of Design and Creative Arts, ATU, Galway, Ireland

2020 *Not a Degree Show*, group exhibition – degree show, Connacht Tribune Printworks

2020 *Reminiscence* (large digital inkjet print), solo exhibit GMIT library, Dublin Rd., Galway

2019 *Coast*, 3rd year group exhibition, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Dublin Rd., Galway

2019 *Flesh*, Townhall Theatre Gallery, Galway

2016 *Art trail for Galway Theatre Festival*, group exhibition, Merchants Road, Galway

2010 *Space Invaders*, group exhibition, Cornstore, Middle Street, Galway

Curatorial work

2024 producer/curator of *Go under the ivy, away from the party*, group exhibition at 126 Artist-Run Gallery & Studios, Galway, featuring three Artspace Studios artists-Fionna Murray, Anne O'Byrne and Helen Roberts

2023 curator of *Fissure*, group exhibition for Master of Arts in Creative Practice students, Galway Arts Centre

2023 co-curator of *Milk Box*, 3-rd yr. Contemporary Art students end year show at 126 Artist-Run Gallery & Studios, Galway

2022 co-curator of *Search Engine*, 3-rd yr. Contemporary Art students end year show at School of Design and Creative Arts, ATU, Galway

2022 curator of *A Remix of Change*, Galway International Arts Festival at 126 Artist-Run Gallery & Studios, Galway, featuring Ben Geoghegan and Aisling Phelan

2020 co-curator of *Not a Degree show*, show of all Contemporary Art graduates, Centre for Creative Arts and Media, GMIT at Connacht Tribune Printworks, Galway



Commissions

2023 Galway Art Centre, inaugural digital commission
2017 Carmel Donnellan, Formative Years, Gleann Na Ri, Galway Collections
2016 Paul Behan, Business Development Manager at Mykidstime, Ireland
2012 Raymond Reilly, Vertigo Acquisitions, Ireland

Reviews/Articles/Catalogues/Interviews

https://www.goethe.de/ins/ie/en/ver.cfm?fuseaction=events.detail&event_id=25035216
<https://galwayculturecompany.ie/projects/dear-preudence/>
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cae7E7cDrZZ/>
<https://www.irishartsreview.com/new-generation/sona-smedkova-2/>
<https://www.irishartsreview.com/new-generation/sona-smedkova/>
<https://www.atu.ie/student-life/student-stories/sona-smedkova>
<https://www.facebook.com/revisionfestivalbelfast/videos/another-brilliant-work-by-sona-smedkova-sona-smedkova-%EF%B8%8Fthis-is-a-snippet-of-her-/252589355897851/>
<https://www.facebook.com/100064206391788/videos/interview-with-sona-smedkova-%EF%B8%8F/2398612947112639/>

Printed publications

2023 *Casual Placements*, Catalyst Arts printed/online members' newsletter
<https://www.catalystarts.org.uk/opportunities-posts/casual-placements>
2020 *Away with the Fairies*, William Henry, co-illustrations

Skills

- Creative conceptualization
- Proficiency in an array of art mediums (drawings, paintings, sculpture and digital art)
- Attention to detail and strong visual communication
- Artistic collaboration and teamwork
- Great interpersonal and communication skills
- Mentorship and teaching/Art curation and exhibition planning
- Project management and organization
- Time management
- Networking and relationship building in art communities