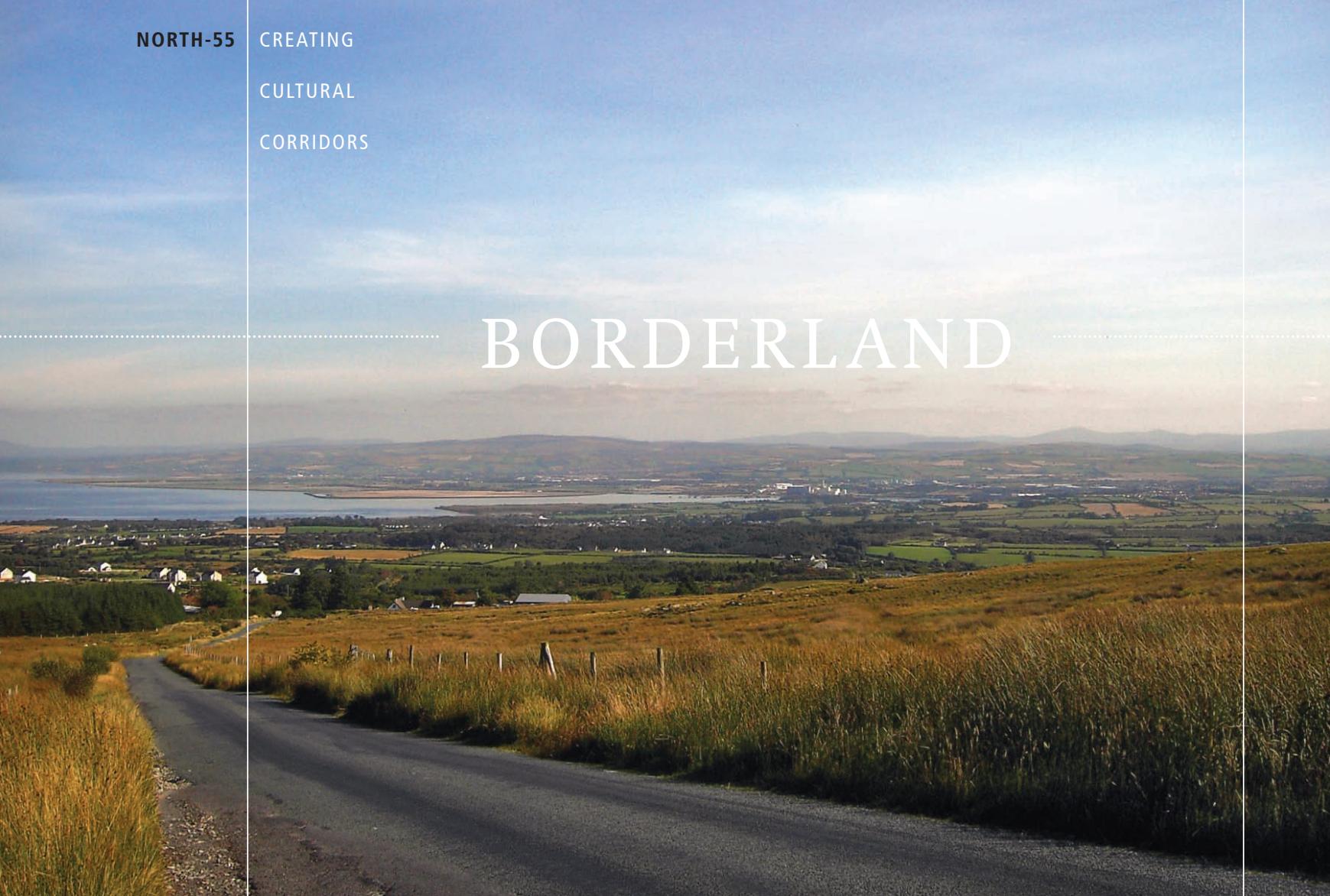


NORTH-55

CREATING  
CULTURAL  
CORRIDORS

# BORDERLAND



"Everyone went over the border  
on a Sunday night, Borderland,  
the Plaza in Buncrana"

Nora Doherty, Derry



**BORDERLAND** is a cross-border participatory public art project which has harnessed the border itself as a particular site of meaning. A multi-media public art project Borderland explores the cultural and social complexities of the Border by reflecting on the memories, lived experiences and current realities of communities living in an evolving post – conflict society.

Gathering a range of perspectives from different cultural backgrounds of the actual border crossing itself, to the cultural and psychological borders people encountered on a daily basis, Borderland culminates in a site specific public art installation and screening of the B-239 film in the Plaza Ballroom, Buncrana. The Plaza Ballroom was a place where people from the local and surrounding areas, including from across the border, socialised from the early 1940's onwards and throughout the period of 'The Troubles' in the 1970's and 1980's. The Plaza and other dancehalls, such as the Borderland in Muff, had a particular resonance as significant sites of social exchange and as meeting places during these times. The exhibition will run from the 27th of November to the 4th of December 2009.



SAVE  
ON  
FUEL



**BORDERLAND** has directly concerned itself with aspects of the geographical and cultural landscape of the border region, through engagement with local communities and the landscape. Participants have included young people, women's groups, bus drivers, farmers, new immigrants to the area, and community development workers. Experiences of over fifty local participants were documented via a series of audio-visual workshops. These workshops employed a range of documentary strategies including oral testimonies, photography, archival research and participation in film production.

**BORDERLAND**, the exhibition presents large-scale photographs taken by participants around the Border area of Derry and Donegal. These variously explore the cultural, social, political and geographic space of the border through a visual investigation of the landscape and signs of demarcation. The images map both a physical and psychological territory, and a geography tangibly marked by the installation of former (military) and border control posts.

Visitors to the exhibition can simultaneously listen to audio testimonies which chronicle the border theme. A series of in-house black and white archival photographs of the Plaza Ballroom can also be seen throughout the building.

The **B-239** film takes its name from one of the formerly unapproved B roads that crosses the border and is an exploration of the border as both visible and concealed. **B-239** includes footage of the border itself, former border crossings, and the B roads that intersect the local geography. The film takes us on a journey of unspecified destination, looping backwards and forwards across the territory, visually referencing heat sourcing and surveillance photography techniques. The soundtrack features extracts from participant's narratives which capture the discourse of an era of smuggling, frontier posts, the 48 hour rule, and cross-border community development. The **B-239** film will be projected onto a large-scale screen on the stage of the Plaza Ballroom.

The exhibition programme will also include **Projecting Borders**, a screening programme of national and international documentary films. These films give an insight into the multi-faceted experience of people who cross borders and boundaries in a range of political, cultural, and social contexts.

The exhibition and event will be opened by Inez McCormack, one of the most influential civil rights leaders in Northern Ireland today. Ms. McCormack played a critical role in the 1998 Good Friday Peace Accords and is a well known writer and broadcaster.

## COLLABORATORS

Inishowen Development Partnership  
Immigrant Outreach Project (IDP)  
JAC Productions.  
The Playhouse  
Inishowen Community Radio  
The Verbal Arts Centre  
The Nerve Centre  
Family Resource Centre, Moville  
Tullyally & District Resource Centre  
Muff Community Development Co-op  
Quigley's Point Community Centre  
Scoil Mhuire, Buncrana  
Crana College, Buncrana  
St Mary's College, Derry  
St Cecelia's College, Derry  
Inishowen Woman's Information Network  
(BA) Community Development  
Shared City Project Derry

**"Going into Derry was like going into East Berlin"**

Tony McLaughlin, Moville



**North-55** refers to the line of latitude, which crosses the border between Derry and Donegal.

“After the frontier post had closed you were patrolling the unapproved roads”

Joe McCafferty, Former customs man

## CONTACT

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## MISSION

North-55 is a socially-engaged visual arts organisation which develops site-specific public art that engages divergent communities on civic issues on a cross-border basis.

North-55 has shaped a hybrid form of cultural practice that utilises a multi-disciplinary approach, fusing cultural and aesthetic pursuits with community development processes. North-55 establishes new coalitions with other arts, community and statutory organisations through long-term partnerships, thus creating a cultural corridor where innovative ideas are visualised and articulated across the region.

North-55 promotes critical art practices and cultural strategies through projects, ongoing research, and public forums.

## AIMS

To act as a catalyst for the development of innovative cross-border projects, that utilise a multi-disciplinary approach.

To initiate collaborative site-specific projects that target marginalised groups, encourage access to the arts and engage diverse audiences.

To develop strategies that breach cultural isolation and create a dialogue beyond conflict. North-55 takes full cognisance of cultural diversity in the development and delivery of its programmes

To promote international collaborations, critical debate, and the dissemination of information, within this area of practice.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

**Border-lines (Cover)** by Patricia Spokes, 2009  
**Residue** by Geraldine Timlin, 2009  
**Dawn: Derry-Killea** by Mura McKinney, 2009  
**The Border** by Stoycho Danev, 2009

