

“Foyle pilots often used the island as a look-out point for ships that were due in Derry. Information about shipping was passed from the Lloyd’s Signal Station to Lloyd’s Tower at Malin Head”

Sean Beattie, The Book of Inistrahull, 1997

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

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 an inter-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

Lookout Post- 81, (Cover) by Tanya Kelly (2012)

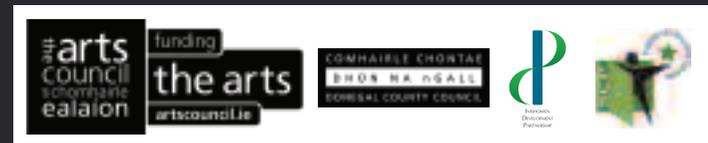
The Pier, by Breedge Doherty (2012)

Viewpoint-Inistrahull by Anne Marie Monagle (2012)

Script, by Michelle Maree

The Journey, by Christopher Bonner (2012)

Signal, by Gertrude Houton (2012)



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NORTH - 55
CREATING
CULTURAL
CORRIDORS

SIGNAL



SIGNAL is a site-specific public art project devised and directed by North-55. Following on from ILLUMINATE (2011) SIGNAL continues North-55's work to mark the history of Inistrahull Island. Inistrahull Island or Inis Trá Thall, meaning "island of the distant shore" is the most northerly island of Ireland, located 10 kilometres north-east of Malin Head, County Donegal. SIGNAL sets out to reflect on Inistrahull's history of displacement while at the same time reflecting on contemporary experiences of migration.

SIGNAL focuses on Glengad, which is a small harbour village adjacent to Inistrahull Island. Glengad and Inistrahull are closely linked as the islands fishermen often relocated to Glengad village on a temporary basis during the winter months. When the islanders finally left Inistrahull island in 1929 many relocated in the Glengad area. The SIGNAL project has included onsite visual exploration of the island and direct engagement with the local fishing community, many of them descendants of the Inistrahull Islanders.

A programme of multimedia workshops engaged local residents of the Glengad community, in visual mapping, filmwork, site specific installation and photographic documentary processes.

These workshops, delivered by North-55 and supported by the Inishowen Development Partnership, were designed to facilitate a direct reconnection with Inistrahull through the investigation of contemporary issues facing the local fishing community.

“Glengad was a little fishing port where most of the island people, (fishermen), lived during the winter”

Edward McCarron, Light-Keeper's Diary 1870-1873



The workshop series culminates in the collective development of a series of large scale-banner photographic works. These banners will be located in sites that have been chosen by the project participants, such as Glengad pier and Glengad Community Centre. In this way, the siting of the banners reflects North 55's continued interest in exploring the potential of site specific locations as a mechanism for developing non traditional audiences for public arts in context.

The screening of the film "Signal:3" which reflects the lighthouse's signature beam of three white flashes every 15 seconds, will be shown as part of the SIGNAL launch event. The film also represents the night-time sky and was collectively developed by project participants. This event also includes a temporary site-specific installation sited in Lookout Post (81) at Glengad Head. This lookout post is one of 83 Lookout posts constructed by the Irish Government during World War II at

strategic points around the Irish coast to monitor activity at sea and in the air.

SIGNAL will culminate, with the official opening by Sean Beattie, Local Historian and Author of The Book of Inistrahull, in the Glengad Community Centre, Inishowen, Co. Donegal on Friday the 5th of October at 2pm.

COLLABORATORS:
 Glengad Community Resource Centre
 Inishowen Development Partnership
 Glengad (C R C Afterschool Programme)
 Ballymena Primary School
 North Inishowen School Completion Programme
 Carndonagh C.S
 JAC Productions
 Wall2Wall Music

