



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

### MISSION

### AIMS

**CONTACT**  
 Marie Barrett  
 Artistic Director  
 North-55  
 51 Upper Main Street  
 Buncrana  
 Co Donegal  
 Ireland  
 T +353 (0)74 932 2870  
 W <http://north-55.com>  
 E [north55@eircom.net](mailto:north55@eircom.net)

**NORTH - 55**  
 CREATING  
 CULTURAL  
 CORRIDORS



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.

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**  
 Illuminate (Cover) by Breege Doherty (2011)  
 Submerged (1) Inistrahull, by Geoff Millar (2011)  
 Lloyds Radio Station, Inistrahull (Courtesy Anne and Jim Toland)  
 Marconi Wireless Telegraph Station (Courtesy Robert Farren)  
 Inscription by Teresa Mullin (2011)



# ILLUMINATE



**‘..Conal Byrne has pointed out Lloyds sold their rights to the Commissioner for Irish Lights, who continued to collect the rent’**  
 Sean Beattie, The Book of Inistrahull, 1997

**ILLUMINATE is a site-specific public art project devised and directed by North-55 which sets out to mark Inistrahull Islands history of displacement while at the same time reflecting on contemporary experiences of migration. 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.**

Inistrahull was once a thriving inshore fishing community. The island saw an almost 100% population increase between the years 1881 and 1901.

However, a combination of factors in the early 1900's meant that the islanders would eventually be compelled to evacuate the island. Leaving en masse in 1929, with only the lighthouse keeper remaining behind, most islanders relocated on the mainland, settling on the Northern side of the Inishowen peninsula. For a number of those islanders, and other emigrants before them Inistrahull lighthouse would have

been the last glimpse they would have had of Ireland as they departed by ship from Derry City.

ILLUMINATE sets out to mark this history of displacement while at the same time reflecting on contemporary experiences of migration. At the heart of the project is a yearlong programme of multimedia workshops which engage local residents of the Northern peninsula and new migrants to the area in a process of visual mapping and photographic documentary processes. These workshops, delivered by North-55

'In the songs of emigration, the island has an important place. It was the final sight of Ireland for thousands of emigrants'

Sean Beattie, The Book of Inistrahull, 1997



and supported by the Inishowen Development Partnership, are designed to facilitate a direct reconnection with Inistrahull.

The workshop series will culminate in a series of photographic works, a soundwork, and a film, which will be shown as part of a multi-media event in September. The film work entitled SUBMERGED-109, is drawn from the underwater terrain surrounding the island and takes its name from a German submarine (UB 109), which sank near Inistrahull at the end of World War I. A specially commissioned site-specific soundwork ISLAND LAMENT is also being developed as part of this participatory arts project. Composer Sarah Murphy from Music 55-7 is facilitating this aspect of the project.

ILLUMINATE will further develop international connections through a

residency programme in August, working with artist Rick Lowe from Project Row Houses in Houston, Texas.

ILLUMINATE will culminate in the first week of September, when Inistrahull will be illuminated to echo the traces of its once present community and to mark the disappearance of communities elsewhere. On the evening of Friday the 2nd of September, as glimpses of the light from the island lighthouse can be seen moving across the water from Malin Head, ISLAND LAMENT will receive its world premiere when it is performed by project participants, including descendants of past islanders.

ILLUMINATE takes place against the backdrop of the effects of the current economic crisis evident in a 100 % rise in emigration from the North West. The potential of community-based cultural practice as a critical signifier of socio-

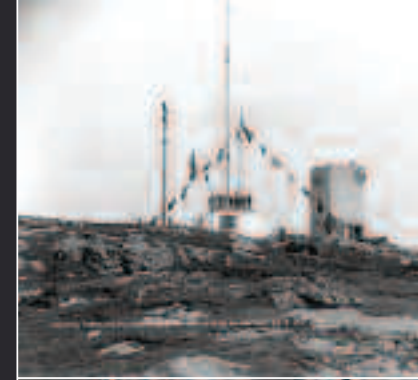
economic change will be further explored in the international seminar CONNECT which is being organised by North-55 and the Inishowen Development Partnership.

CONNECT seminar contributors to include: Rick Lowe, (Project Row Houses), Mary Jane Jacob, (Curator), Russell Lewis, (Street Level Youth Media), Sara Black (ProjectBase), Ailbhe Murphy, (Vagabond Reviews), John Peto, (The Nerve Centre) and Declan McGonagle (National College of Art and Design).

See below for details:

**CONNECT SEMINAR / ILLUMINATE PUBLIC ART EVENT**

**Friday 2nd September**  
**Venues: McGrory's Hotel, Culdaff and Malin Head, Inishowen, Co. Donegal**



**COLLABORATORS**  
Project Row Houses  
Inishowen Development Partnership  
Music-55 7 /Wall2Wall Music  
L.I.F.E  
NISCP/Carndonagh C.S.  
Malin Head Community Association  
Orion Production Services  
Vagabond Reviews  
Dive North

Archival material show courtesy of:  
Anne and Jim Toland, Anne Stevens,  
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