

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First PhD Studio Art exhibition at Burren College of Art demonstrates innovative, collaborative and reciprocal relationship between the artist and the natural environment.

Opening on Saturday 28th January, **Being in the Land: A Sculptural Investigation of Ecology** is an exhibition of work by PhD candidate Eileen Hutton. The first of its kind at Burren College of Art, Eileen's doctoral research addresses the question "How may sculpture be generated as a result of a reciprocal relationship with the natural environment?"

For the past 3 years Eileen Hutton has been collaborating with the local ecology in the Burren to create innovative works of sculpture using sustainable and locally sourced materials. Through an integrated theoretical and practical framework, these sculptures represent new ways of understanding landscape in art.

The representation of landscape as the central theme in any work of art is ultimately the depiction of a relationship between humanity and the natural environment. This doctoral research is a contribution not only to the field of Environmental Art, but also a contribution to landscape representation as it provides new ways of understanding humanity's relationship to the natural environment.

Talking about the work Hutton says *"I wanted to create art that had a beneficial impact on my surrounding environment, more than that I wanted to create art in conjunction with my surrounding environment. My enquiry has resulted in the creation of collaboratively produced sculptures that contribute knowledge and understanding to the fields of landscape representation and Environmental Art."*

Burren College of Art is located in the grounds of a 16th century castle in the Burren on the Atlantic coast. Tomorrow's artists are provided with focussed time free from distractions; dedicated space to work; and inspiration taken from the unique location, an international student body, and world class tutors. Accredited by the National University of Ireland, Galway Burren College of Art is operated in association with the Royal College of Art, London and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

President of the college Mary Hawkes-Greene says *"The presentation of the first PhD exhibition at the Burren College of Art is a significant milestone in the development of the College. Representing the highest level of academic achievement, Eileen's PhD research is inextricably linked with Place-exploring and offering new perspectives on issues of sustainability in the Burren through the lens of the artist. This work further develops the expanded mission of BCA as a Centre of Creative Learning and a catalyst for development and change. We warmly congratulate Eileen on her exhibition and achievement, the culmination of intense research and steadfast application."*

A graduate of Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Hutton came to study at Burren College of Art in 2008. Since moving from the USA her work has featured in a number of exhibitions including *Sculpture in Context*, Dublin; *ecosynthesis/ecosynthesis*, Contemporary Art Torino, Italy; and *Out of a Box*, 126, Galway.

Being in the Land: A Sculptural Investigation of Ecology by Eileen Hutton will be officially opened by Dr. Brendan Dunford, Secretary of *Burrenbeo Trust* and Project Manager of *Burren Life*, on Saturday 28th January. The exhibition runs at the Burren College of Art Gallery until 24th March. Opening hours 9am – 4pm Monday to Saturday.

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For further information contact Burren College of Art on 065 7077200 or anna.burrencollege.ie