



RHONA BYRNE, MODEL VILLAGE 2010

Rhona BYRNE

*Model Village* (2010), **Old Co-op Building**  
Rhona Byrne is based in Dublin, makes sculpture, films, context specific installations, collaborative event-based projects and books. Her work explores the person-environment relationship and engages with the complex, multi-dimensionality of physical, mental and social space. Her explorative process of working often leads her to collaborate with people from diverse disciplines and professions.

Rhona Byrne's new video work entitled *Model Village* visits a remarkable miniature village in Pennsylvania USA, patiently hand built by one man, Laurence Gieringer, over a period of sixty years. The model village articulates the way in which rural American industry and life developed over a two hundred year period. By documenting this lifetime of work Byrne illustrates one man's

passionate commitment to envisioning a bigger picture than the world he knew and how with a do-it-yourself mentality he shaped a dream into a sustainable reality.

Gerry CAHILL

*Pause* (2010), **Abbey Field**  
*Sketches of Callan* (2010) **available at Fennellys**  
Since the early 1980s Gerry Cahill has been Principal in GCA Gerry Cahill Architects – a practice that has established a reputation for the design of high quality social, co-operative and affordable housing, education, health, childcare and urban renewal projects. Gerry has previously carried out research on the history and potential future of the Augustinian lands in Callan.

For COMMONAGE Gerry has worked with Callan stone carver Seamus Kelly to create a set

from salvaged stone, installed by the Friary well creating a place for contemplation and reflection. The intervention quietly highlights this overlooked site within the protected landscape of the Friary. He has also created a series of carefully crafted postcards, each a personal observation from his visits to Callan over the past months. [www.gca.ie](http://www.gca.ie)

Lisa CASSIDY

*PROLOGUE* (2010) **Old Co-op Building**,  
Lisa Cassidy is a final-year architecture student based in Dublin. She is interested in mapping, writing, exploring, and collecting information, and has been self-publishing zines and other lo-fi print projects for about a decade.

*PROLOGUE* is a small, printed zine presenting original texts, research excerpts and drawings, examining Callan's built and man-made environment through the eyes of a curious visitor. This diy publication is intended as a tiny museum about delight and follows the tradition of field notes of early mappers. [hipped.net](http://hipped.net)

CULTURSTRUCTION

*(Jo Anne Butler & Tara Kennedy)*  
*Glittery Embrace* (2010) **Pumphouse**  
Having both graduated from NCAD and worked across a variety of public art disciplines, Jo Anne Butler and Tara Kennedy began studying Architecture at UCD in 2007.

This route from art, towards architecture has formed the starting point for Culturstruaction, a collaborative practice which positions itself at the intersection of art and architecture to explore ideas of cultural production within the built environment.

Observing patterns of how teenagers use public space in Callan, *Culturstruaction* have created a temporary space to loiter. Utilising an existing concrete sewage pumphouse at the end of Clodeen Lane, an original medieval street, they have set about re-imagining an overlooked space as a picturesque viewing point. The installation glows at night, turning necessary utility

into a place for encounters.  
[www.culturstruaction.wordpress.com](http://www.culturstruaction.wordpress.com)

The GOOD HATCHERY  
(Ruth E Lyons & Carl Giffney)

*Missionary 52, -7* (2010) **The Moat and the skies above it, particularly after sunset**  
*The Good Hatchery* is the name given to an experimental contemporary art space founded by Ruth E Lyons and Carl Giffney in the bog lands of Co. Offaly in 2007. Between exhibiting and travelling, this is where visual artists Giffney and Lyons both hold studios and develop their individual practices. Their collaboration began in 2009 when invited to represent their studios at the inaugural show of the Irish Museum of Contemporary Art (IMOCA). The Good Hatchery is collaboratively concerned with the 'ultra-ordinary'.

The outdoor installation *Missionary 52, -7* uses temporary architectural forms, high-powered lights, the historical backdrop of Callan and the skies now above it as components. Drawing on research which uncovered the Callan motto 'Keep Watching the Skies', *The Good Hatchery* attempts to make connections between Callan's history and future.  
[www.thegoodhatchery.wordpress.com](http://www.thegoodhatchery.wordpress.com)



HENRIETTA WILLIAMS CROCHING, DEFENDING CALLAN ISLAND 2010

HOME UNIVERSITY of ROSCOMMON & LEITRIM

*Listening to Callan* (2010) **available at Fennellys, download at commonagecallan.com**  
*HURL* is the Home University Roscommon Leitrim and is Ireland's newest university. A collection of individuals dedicated to the exchange of soft knowledge, *HURL* was formed in bucolic rural Leitrim and Roscommon in the autumn of 2009. *HURL* proposes a model of education in which every private or public space can become a place of dynamic knowledge exchange. (*HURL* are Carol-Anne Connolly, Dominic Stevens, Natalia Beylis, Stephen Rennicks and Willie Stewart)

Listening to Callan is an audio tour of Callan as told through the voices of its people. The resonance of these stories share secrets of Callan's past and present and imagine its future. For reasons yet unstudied, at the end of this tour you may have an uncontrollable inclination to eat a Keogh's Rustic Loaf.  
[www.hurllearning.wordpress.com](http://www.hurllearning.wordpress.com)

Gabriella KISS

*15 people swinging and more...* (2005)  
**Old Co-op Building**  
Gabriella Kiss is a multidisciplinary artist from Hungary, currently living in Ireland. Her practice includes objects, videos, drawings, installations and from time to time performance. Her primary inspiration comes from people - their interactions with each other and in a wider sense their community.

Her interactive video installation *15 people swinging and more...* highlights the joy of co-dependencies inherent in collectivity and friendship. Installed within the old Co-op this resonates with ideas of how 'community' builds, collects and accommodates.

Dominic LAVELLE

*Continuity* (2010), **Old Co-op Building**  
Dominic Lavelle is a recent graduate of the School of Architecture, UCD (2010). He is interested in architecture as an active backdrop – an architecture

based on the familiar and the timeless that evolves from a certain sensitivity to a way of life, but which also acts as an incentive or encouragement for people to make their own choices about how to live.

His architectural thesis presents a new design for a Camphill community in Thomastown. The work focuses on 'the garden' and dwelling in a town environment, relating to developing ideas within 'life-sharing communities' around the connection of community to town and town with land.

Katie MANGAN

*Grey Zone* (2010), *Video Loop* (2010),  
**Old Co-op Building**  
Katie Mangan is a Sculptor based in Galway and Dublin. A recent graduate of the National College of Art and Design (2010), her practice focuses on careful craftsmanship and the use of unexpected materials in site-specific contexts. Using low-tech and household objects, she aims to highlight the potential for mundane things to become extraordinary.

Her large-scale sculptural pieces play on the interdependency of components and connections suspended in tension. The latent and static energies generated re-vitalize the now disused Co-op building.  
[ourkatielou.wordpress.com](http://ourkatielou.wordpress.com)

School of ARCHITECTURE U.C.D. (1st Year)

*Dwelling* (2010), **Old Co-op Building**  
First Year Architecture Design Studio at U.C.D. 2009/10 was led by Elizabeth Burns, Sarah Cremin, Miriam Delaney, Tiago Faria, Bill Hastings, Merlo Kelly, Ruth O'Herlihy, Mark Price, and Peter Tansey.

In April 2010 first year students at the *School of Architecture U.C.D.* visited Camphill Callan at the Workhouse. Following a period of research and investigation they were set a task to design a house and garden for Camphill Callan. This project aimed to reflect on the accepted norms of how we live together and look to find better more careful understandings of society and the environment.



GABRIELLA KISS, 15 PEOPLE SWINGING AND MORE..., 2005, VIDEO STILL

Two key aspects were explored - firstly, the separation of shared and private space and secondly, the relationship between the community and the land.

Henrietta WILLIAMS

*Documentary imagery to be regularly uploaded on commonagecallan.com*  
Henrietta Williams is based in London. Using still photography and multimedia her practice explores manmade and built environments, both within and outside of the city. Having completed a BA in Sculpture at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin (2005), and an MA in

Documentary Photography at the London College of Communication (2008) when she documented the use of space at interface areas in Belfast and the rituals of Orange Lodges in Belfast. She continues to follow personal projects and work on commissions in the UK and Ireland.

Henrietta is undertaking a two week residency in Callan documenting the built environment of Callan town and the collective effort which transforms abandoned spaces for the Abhainn Ri festival.  
[www.henriettawilliams.com](http://www.henriettawilliams.com)  
<http://henriettawilliams.blogspot.com/>

*For festival updates see [www.commonagecallan.com](http://www.commonagecallan.com)*

COMMONAGE

An exploration of community in contemporary rural Ireland

*Away from the bustling cities are the small towns that planners, architects and politicians often forget. These small towns are neither the hubs of the global financial industry nor are they the high-tech centres of their countries. They are towns where ordinary residents experience the vagaries of the global economy and the impacts of global climate changes. But they are also towns from which we can learn how to develop a sustainable future....*

*'Small town sustainability',*  
Heike Mayer and Paul L. Knox, Birkhauser (2009)

*COMMONAGE* invites artists and architects to undertake a radical exploration of the built environment of Callan, a town that is unique yet familiar and whose stage has become a fertile ground for contemplation and research. Comprising both newly commissioned work (Rhona Byrne, Gerry Cahill, Lisa Cassidy, Culturstruaction, The Good Hatchery, HURL, Henrietta Williams) and existing work (Gabriella Kiss, Dominic Lavelle, Katie Mangan, School of Architecture U.C.D.) this architectural exploration is not so much about buildings but about the spaces we share. *COMMONAGE* engages with the energies, histories and present day situations of the overlooked core of the town, some of it actively threatened by decay and commercial unsustainability.

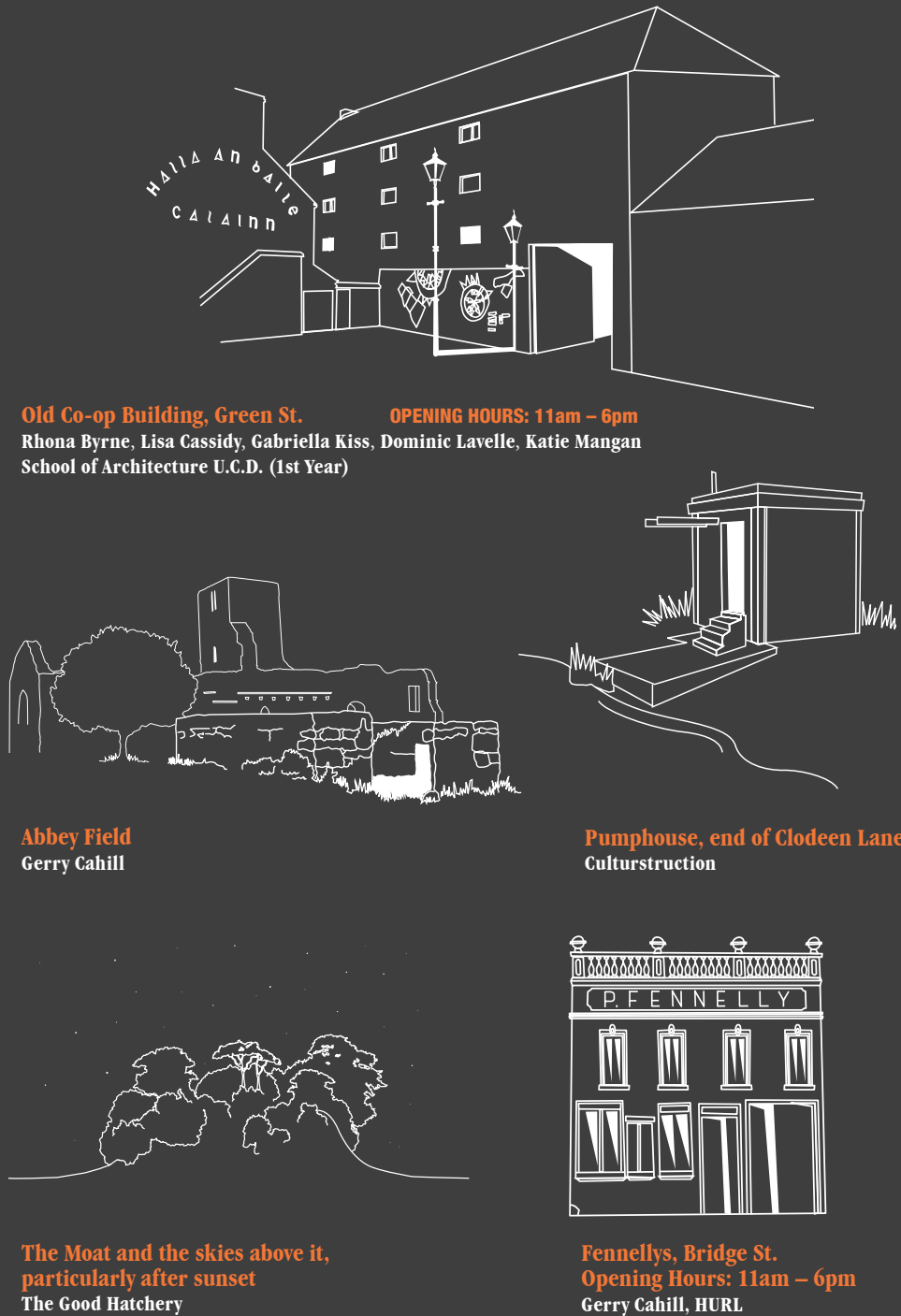
Looking at 'community' becomes particularly pertinent in the context of Callan town, with it's Augustinian history and life-sharing communities as well as one of the last independent agricultural co-operatives active in South Leinster. *COMMONAGE* highlights this context by working with areas of the town which are civic or collectively owned and operated. These places include the former home of the Callan Co-op, the Augustinian lands and the riverbank. This research work marks the start of a much longer engagement with the built environment of Callan. The programme presents a complex and diverse set

of practices, intended to encourage possibility and to provide a resource for future development to be measured in qualitative rather than quantitative terms. Often the smallest of gestures endure. In curating this programme we were struck by our encounters with a town rich with history, much of it overlooked, yet a place actively looking to the future with a sense of ambition and self-determination.

Jo Anne Butler, Tara Kennedy, Rosie Lynch  
Rosie Lynch's interest in developing new curatorial contexts for work and research has led to projects in Berlin, Iceland and Galway. She is currently working towards *Unbuilding*, (Co. Wicklow, Autumn 2010) a significant project curated with Clodhna Shaffrey & Ellis Lavelle. From 2005 until 2007 she was co-curator with Ard Bia Gallery, Galway and subsequently devised and coordinated Ard Bia Berlin's pilot year artist-in-residence programme in Berlin. She grew up in Camphill Community Ballytobin, Callan.

Jo Anne Butler's interest in public public realm projects has led her to a Joint Honours BA in Sculpture and History of Art and Design at NCAD (2005), an honours BSc from the School of Architecture U.C.D. (2010) and work as an assistant project manager with Breaking Ground, the Ballymun Regeneration Limited per cent for art programme (2005-2007). Her curatorial interest is in initiating innovative projects that uncover and address the social, spatial and economic infrastructures of the public realm. Ongoing collaborative projects include work with Superfolk design studio and Culturstruaction.

Tara Kennedy maintains an experimental practice informed by a Joint Honours BA in Sculpture and History of Art and Design from NCAD (2005) and an Honours BSc from the School of Architecture U.C.D. (2010). Her urban intervention projects have been facilitated by Dublin City Council and the Arts Council. She participated in the RSUA *Two Minds* programme (2007) and a residency at the Fondazione Ratti, Italy with Marjetica Potrc (2006) where she was awarded an FAR Epsom Award for Excellence in Artistic Research. She is also part of collaborative projects Culturstruaction and Hope Inherent.



COMMONAGE

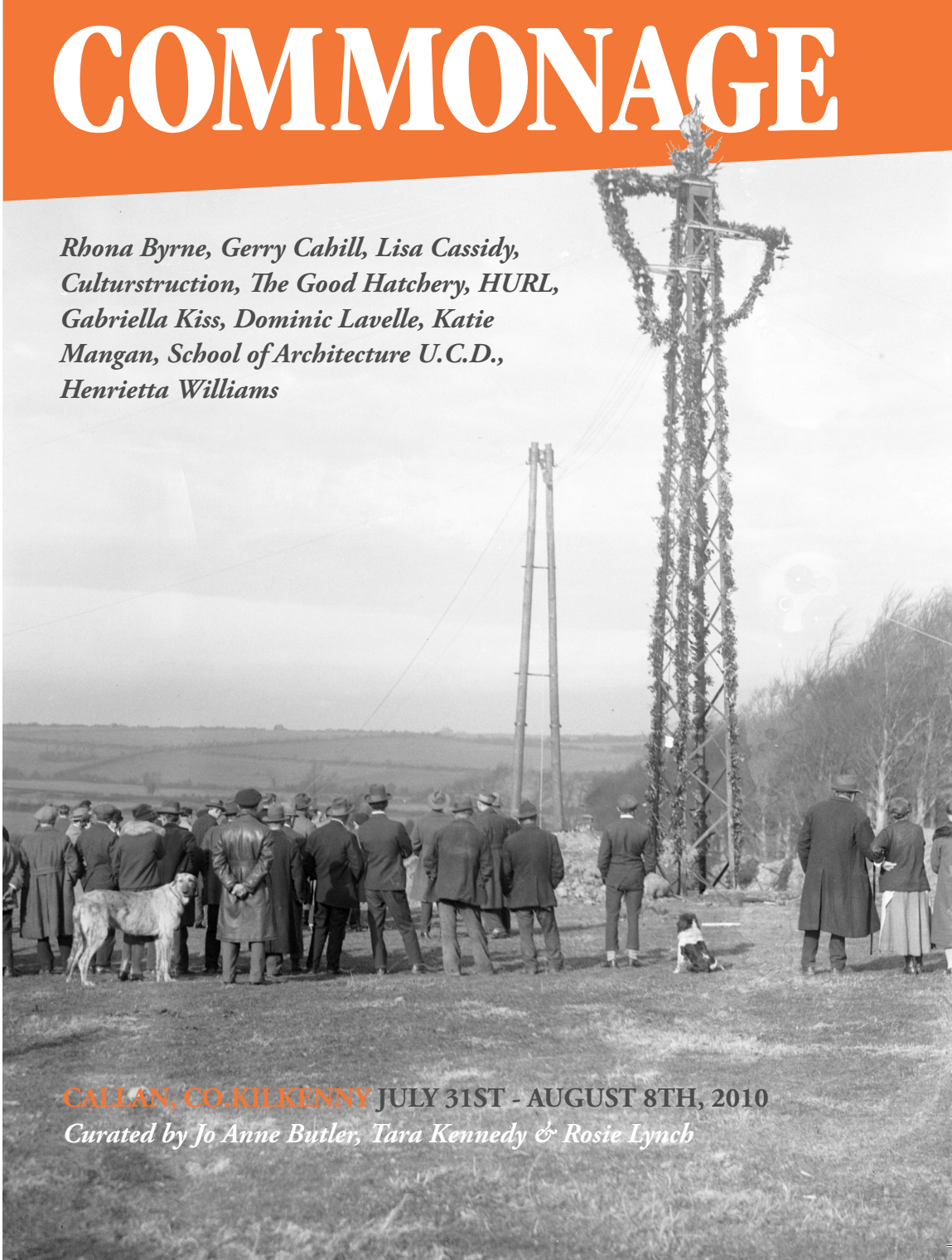
COMMONAGE is a distinct architectural strand of the Callan Abhainn Ri Festival - A Community Festival of Participation and Inclusion initiated by Callan Community Network. *COMMONAGE* is the first in a series of architectural re-imaginings of Callan town to be undertaken in partnership with the Irish Architecture Foundation, School of Architecture U.C.D., and KCAT (*Kilkenny Collective for Arts Talent*) in a groundbreaking process initiated by Patrick Lydon.

The project has been made possible by the generosity, participation and consultation of various people and groups in Callan and is supported by The Arts Council. *COMMONAGE* aims to progress ideas outlined in the recent Arts Council report Public Engagement with Architecture in the Republic of Ireland.

[www.commonagecallan.com](http://www.commonagecallan.com)



DESIGN BY MARK WICKHAM. COVER IMAGE: SHANNON SCHEME; WORK IN PROGRESS, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND  
REVERSE IMAGE: COMMONAGE SITE VISIT, JUNE 2010, MOAT, CALLAN, CO. KILKENNY



*Rhona Byrne, Gerry Cahill, Lisa Cassidy, Culturstruaction, The Good Hatchery, HURL, Gabriella Kiss, Dominic Lavelle, Katie Mangan, School of Architecture U.C.D., Henrietta Williams*

**CALLAN, CO. KILKENNY JULY 31ST - AUGUST 8TH, 2010**  
*Curated by Jo Anne Butler, Tara Kennedy & Rosie Lynch*



# COMMONAGE