

About the Artist and the Work:

Bernie Masterson comes from a painting background and has worked extensively with Educational Services to Prisons. Over the last few years her work has developed through a socially engaged practice. It is interdisciplinary in nature, sometimes collaborative and often deals with challenging subject matter regarding the role of humanity. Key components of her practice now include research, film, editing, and sound design. Recently as part of her MFA studies in NCAD, her work has focused on the subject of colonialism. The legacy of colonialism has hugely impacted throughout the world no more so than in Ireland. Subject nations were demarcated without consideration of existing cultures, linguistic and political realities.

The artist explores the ramifications of imperialism through gender, language, the teaching of writing, materiality, and identity in order to mediate on subjugation and dispossession. In this work she draws parallels between past histories and present realities of social, political and cultural injustice in a contemporary society. Remembering the past affords us the opportunity to reflect, to take account, to change; it should inform the present. By focusing on the past through the collective consciousness of a repressed national psyche, we are confronted with not just our own visceral national reality, but with the reality of others who have become displaced and dispossessed - the profound stigma that remains and the confused nature of identity. In this new work emanating from her Art in the Digital World course, she investigates this complex issue through two new short video projections.