



Museum of Childhood Ireland

Músaem Óige na hÉireann

Press Release

27.06.2020

Tarraingíonn scéal scéal eile. One story begets another

A worldwide “Voice of The Child during the COVID-19 pandemic” Exhibition.

The Museum of Childhood Ireland are delighted to announce that author Myra Zepf will launch **Project 2020 Together, Le Chéile**.

The online launch will be hosted online via a video call with Myra Zepf and a panel of guests on Thursday 4th June at 4pm. The recorded video call will be posted on <http://museumofchildhood.ie/project2020> and on social media. “We are delighted to have Myra Zepf as our official host during the live call” says Majella McAllister, Director of the Museum.

“Myra, the first ever Children's Writing Fellow for Northern Ireland (2017-19) is based at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen’s University in Belfast and supported by the Arts Council of NI, was a recent winner at the KPMG Children’s Books Ireland Awards 2020 for the brilliant ‘Nóinín’

The official online launch aims to start a series of online and offline exhibitions internationally which will show children’s worldwide experiences during Covid-19. The exhibitions will be curated by the Museum of Childhood Ireland Project’s international in-house team of curators.

During the pandemic, The Museum of Childhood Ireland Project is provided an online platform for children of all ages and nationalities to express their hopes and fears, thoughts and observations, whilst providing a sense of community and togetherness as work and art received is highlighted through a virtual exhibition on our website and social media. Works were submitted from many different countries: Canada, US, UK, Ireland, Italy, Mauritius, New

Zeland and Nepal. Endeavouring to reach as many of our children as possible during the pandemic the museum team are indebted to Irish community activists Mary McDonagh, Austin Campbell, Oluwaseun Ola and Padraig Naughton for their help. Also, author and illustrator Carol Ann Treacy (@caroltreacy) designed fantastic frames for the Children's Artworks to use both online and offline.

"We hope that through each other's art, and theme interpretations, the children found a sense of 'togetherness' and 'closeness'", says Ekaterina Tikhoniouk of the Museum of Childhood Ireland Project.

"Project 2020/TOGETHER" allowed us to hear our children, and in doing so to learn to understand them" says Majella McAllister, Director of the Museum. "We wanted to provide children here in Ireland and around the world with tools to help them make some sort of sense of this pandemic, from their perspective." The project focused on common themes and asks children to develop their thoughts using art, drawing, poems, short stories – and at the same time - gives them a platform to look at other children's work. Arts became a channel to communicate during the time of isolation, giving children and their families views, inspirations, and examples of how other children and other communities around the world are experiencing this moment of emergency.

We set six themes and asked children in Ireland and around the world to submit work related to their chosen theme:

1. Family/ Home,
2. Friends
3. Toys & Games
4. Places I miss
5. My favourite book
6. Sports at home
7. How I feel

Through these themes, we discovered how children were feeling during lockdown and how they were coping with restrictive measures.

For more information visit <http://museumofchildhood.ie/project2020/>

- The Museum of Childhood Ireland Project is a completely voluntary body, with a working project board formed of members from diverse fields: Historic Research, Academic Research, Education, Children's Rights, Children's Voices, Museums, Art, Architecture, Poetry, Writing, Music, Publishing, Exhibitions, Events.
- Our aim is to establish an all island of Ireland and diaspora social history museum dedicated to ALL the stories of childhood past to present.
- In May 2016, the Museum was formally registered as a company (limited by guarantee) and charitable status was obtained. Registered number: 20205452

Museum of Childhood Ireland Project - Hearing the voices of all our children, all our childhoods, past, present, and future.

The Museum of Childhood Ireland Project

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