



# INVISIBLE CORDS

**An exhibition by Clodagh Kelly**

McKenna Gallery, Riverbank Arts Centre

14/1 - 18/2 2022

'Invisible Cords' is a collection of artwork developed by Kildare based Visual Artist Clodagh Kelly over the last ten years. Clodagh uses drawing, mixed media and natural materials to explore health, landscape, healing and form in space. This exhibition draws from three bodies of artwork 'Scatched Room', 'Cruel Nature' and 'Boundaries' allowing the underlying invisible cords that resonate between the different series to emerge.

**Clodagh Kelly** graduated from Fine Art D.I.T in 1997 and worked as an art educator within Irish psychiatric youth and adult services. Clodagh received a Masters in Arts from NUI Maynooth in 2008, which deepened her interest in sociology, history and philosophy, now an intrinsic part of her art practice. Clodagh Kelly 'Voice Hears' but does not subscribe to psychiatric conditioning and believes 'Voice Hearing' is a natural state of being. See [clodaghkellyart.com](http://clodaghkellyart.com)

## ARTISTIC STATEMENT BY CLODAGH KELLY

*During Covid I considered the role of the 'Gallery Artist' versus artists who create artwork in nature or in public spaces outside the confines of the White Cube. I put my artwork in nature but unfortunately the results were largely unsuccessful. I discovered that the role of the Gallery is still essential for artists who use it as an alternative visual space to explore issues that society does not want to face. Covid and its effects on gallery spaces have been challenging for artists such as myself. Covid has pushed the boundaries of the traditional gallery space. I think our challenge as artists is to overcome the social stigmas we face outside the confines of the Gallery Space.*

*The materials I use are specific to each artwork - mud, soil, wood, charcoal and water. For example **Boundaries** is made on cardboard from a large retail shop where plastic water bottles are displayed. Water being symbolic of the fluidity in nature, and the Liffey which rises in Wicklow, flows through Leixlip and back into the sea.*

***Sacred Conversation** questions my role as an artist, educator, woman, mother, wife, aunt and daughter, as the observer and objectifier. Questioning these roles has become increasingly more important in my work.*

*The role of Visual Artist demands I question my responsibilities as curator, projector and identifier and look at the ethical values and morals that underpin my practice.*

*The image of a young boy walking through a field of water was found in an old notebook, twenty years after leaving art college. The notebook had news clippings from 1997 that I had forgotten about. Other images related to the Northern Ireland Peace Treaty and Israel/Palestinian conflict that were headlining the news. I became mentally ill at that age and a patient in Lakeview Unit Naas General Hospital, so only now twenty years later have I returned to these themes"*

*True art is powerful and comes through our being. It is not within our control. We cannot choose who we are as artists, and when we try, art just like nature lets us know her cruelty and beauty.*

*Water is a subtle theme throughout this exhibition, the sea being the most powerful healing and destructive force on the planet.*

***Echoes Release** is very different in feel and technique to the rest of the exhibition. It was made when I walked through the mountains of Wicklow and is reminiscent of where my family live on Mount Leinster. It made me conscious of the responsibility we humans have to protect the landscape for future generations. By walking the hills I found healing. It has been a very personal and introspective journey through nature.*

*The materials we use as artists; water, earth, stone and wood callous our hands and spiritually heal our souls. I believe materials speak to the artist through our hands. The silent voice of the materials guides the artwork. It is a sacred conversation.*



## LIST OF WORKS

#	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	PRICE
1	One in Every Hundred	Mixed Media & Pencil on Paper	2008	€2000
2	I said NO	Mixed Media Photography	2010	€500
3	Designer Sharps	Mixed Media Photography	2010	€500
4	Thought Pattern	Mixed Media Photography	2010	€500
5	Repeat Footsteps	Mixed Media, Mud & Pencil	2021	Not for Sale
6	Invisible Cords	Mixed Media, Soil & Ink	2021	Not for Sale
7	Scratch Room	Oil on Canvas	2009	Not for Sale
8	Sacred Conversation	Mixed Media	2022	Not for Sale
9	Boundaries	Mixed Media, Fire Charcoal on Board	2020	€2000
10	90% Smoke	Ink on Paper	2008	€600
11	Ancient Roots	Pencil on Paper	2020	€700
12	Echoes Release	Pencil on Paper	2020	€2000
13	Roots	Pencil on Paper	2020	€700

**Invisible Cords** by Clodagh Kelly is part of First Fortnight programme at Riverbank Arts Centre - see [www.riverbank.ie](http://www.riverbank.ie)