

# A survey of the career development of members of the Creative Frame network

Creative Frame has developed this survey to capture what being an artist in the region looks like for everyone, from those fresh out of college to those that have an established career.

This information will show how living and working as an artist in the region has made to your career progression, your ability to make a living, and to your overall work-life balance and well being.

From the survey we will develop statistics that can support us to advocate for artists and to learn what practical actions Creative Frame can take to make living and working as an artist in rural Ireland more sustainable.

The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

## **Structure of the Questionnaire**

After a preliminary section about your core art form, there are four main sections and a final section for any further comments you may have.

- A. Education, training and career development;**
- B. Working and employment patterns;**
- C. Well-being;**
- D. General Information.**

**If you are unsure as the meaning of a phrase or question, please interpret it as best you can in the context of your own circumstances.**

**If you have any issues accessing the survey or queries about the questionnaire, please contact Leslie Ryan on 071 96 21694 or [lryan@leitrimcoco.ie](mailto:lryan@leitrimcoco.ie).**

**You can return the survey by post to  
Creative Frame  
Town Hall,  
Carrick On Shannon,  
Leitrim**

## PRELIMINARY SECTION

1) Over the last three years which artform would you consider to be the focus of your core practice?

- Architecture
- Craft
- Dance
- Film
- Literature
- Music
- Theatre
- Traditional Arts
- Visual Arts
- Other or Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary (Please give details)

2) How many years have you been working as an artist?

- 0-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- 20+ years

## SECTION A: EDUCATION TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

3) What is the highest qualification you hold in your core practice area?

- Ph.D
- M.A.
- B.A.
- Diploma or Equivalent
- Other
- I don't have a qualification in my core practice area.

What was the title of this qualification and where did you study?

**4) With regard to networking, please select the most appropriate answer for each of the following four statements.**

**Identifying opportunities to network locally is**

- a considerable challenge
- occasionally challenging
- generally not an issue for me

**Identifying opportunities to network nationally is**

- a considerable challenge
- occasionally challenging
- generally not an issue for me

**Identifying opportunities to network internationally is**

- a considerable challenge
- occasionally challenging
- generally not an issue for me

**Identifying others to work with on projects or productions is**

- a considerable challenge
- occasionally challenging
- generally not an issue for me

**5) With regard to managing your career, please select the most appropriate answer for each of the following five statements.**

**Identifying opportunities to develop or expand my skills is**

- a considerable challenge
- occasionally challenging
- generally not an issue for me

**Managing the business / administrative side of my practice is**

- a considerable challenge
- occasionally challenging
- generally not an issue for me

**Finding out about grants/ commissions/ residencies is**

- a considerable challenge
- occasionally challenging
- generally not an issue for me

**Making applications/ submissions are**

- a considerable challenge
- occasionally challenging
- generally not an issue for me

**Being able to get my work shown, produced sold or promoted is**

- a considerable challenge
- occasionally challenging
- generally not an issue for me

**Finding out about grants/ commissions/ residencies is**

- a considerable challenge
- occasionally challenging
- generally not an issue for me

**6) If you attended any of the following Creative Frame events/activities, please rate their benefit to your practice where 1 star represents no benefit and 5 stars represents a substantial benefit. Please only score those events you attended.**

	5*	4*	3*	2*	1*
Child Protection Training					
Introduction to Mentoring - with Monika Sapielak					
Mentoring Partnerships					
Writing Proposals - with Annette Moloney					
Writing Artists Statements - with Joanne Laws					
Photographing Your Work - with Veronica Nickerson					
Show & Tell - with Visual Artists Ireland					
Taxation Workshop & Clinics - with John Dempsey					
Developing a Social Media Strategy Course - with Barry Murphy					
Create Your Own WordPress Website - with Mella O Brolchain					
Artist Meet-ups					
Christmas Get-togethers					

**7) Which (if any) of the those Creative Frame events/activities would you have liked to have attended but couldn't for one reason or another?**

Making a Living in the Arts in Rural Ireland 1 - with Irish Writers Centre, Visual Artists Ireland and First Music Contact	
Making a Living in the Arts in Rural Ireland 2 - with Create, Theatre Forum and the Design & Crafts Council	
'Making Music Work' Seminar - with Angela Dorgan, Lisa O'Neill, Mick Blake, Cian Rock & Martin Nolan	
'Thinking Outside the Box' Musicians Seminar - with Sandra Joyce (IWAM&D), Cathy Jordan, Liz Doherty, John Carty & Ciaran O Maonaigh	
Regional Writers Seminar - with Words Ireland, Brian Leyden, Michael Harding, Monica Corish & Gerry Boland	
Self Publishing Seminar - with Helen Carr, Vanessa Fox O'Loughlin & Adrian White	
Writers & Filmmakers Collaboration Seminar - with Ferdia MacAnna, Eoin McNamee, Linda Bhreathnach, Brian Leyden & Marian Quinn	
Writers & Filmmakers Collaboration Seminar - with Brian Leyden, Pat McCabe & Nichola Bruce	
Fake Art Panel - with Aideen Barry	
Visual Arts Peer Critique Clinics - with Clodhna Shaffrey	
Collaborative Practice Workshop - with Marie Brett, Naoimi Draper & Kate Wilson	
Collaborative Practice Weekend Masterclass - with John Scott, Mike McLoughlin, Siobhan Clancy & Marie Brett. Chair Aideen Barry	
Collaborative Practice Weekend Masterclass - with Aideen Barry, Deirdre O'Mahony, Mark Stoter & Kate Wilson. Chair Marie Brett	
Child Protection Training	
Introduction to Mentoring - with Monika Sapielak	
Writing Proposals - with Annette Moloney	
Writing Artists Statements - with Joanne Laws	

Photographing Your Work - with Veronica Nickerson	
Show & Tell - with Visual Artists Ireland	
Taxation Workshop & Clinics - with John Dempsey	
Developing a Social Media Strategy Course - with Barry Murphy	
Create Your Own WordPress Website - with Mella O Brolchain	
Artist Meet-ups	
Christmas Get-togethers	

**7) Please rate the extent to which the following challenges might prevent you attending Creative Frame events/activities where 0 is 'not a problem' and 5 represents 'a significant obstacle'.**

	0*	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*
Location						
Time/Date						
Childcare						
Other care commitments						
Transport						
Cost						
Never know about them in time, or forget about them						

***Are there other challenges that prevent you from attending Creative Frame events/activities?***

**8) Over the past 3 years, have you undertaken any other education or training related to your either your creative practice or the administration of your work?**

**9)**

- Yes
- No

**If you answered 'yes' please briefly outline the type, duration and location of this education or training (and any qualification(s) if relevant)**

**10) What events or activities would you like Creative Frame to host in the future and why?**

## ACCESS & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

11) Please estimate how many arts events you attended in person in your region over the last 12 months?

- 0
- 1-3
- 4-10
- 10+

Please estimate how many arts events you attended in person elsewhere on the island of Ireland over the last 12 months?

- 0
- 1-3
- 4-10
- 10+

Please estimate how many arts sector events you attended in person internationally over the last 12 months?

- 0
- 1-3
- 4-10
- 10+

12) In relation to research, networking and administration, to what extent do you agree with each of the following statements relating to the use of digital technology?

**I depend on digital technology to manage my practice**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

**I depend on digital technology to network**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

**I depend on digital technology to access information about the sector**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

**Digital technology helps me to access events online that I could not attend in person**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

**Cost factors limit my use of digital technology**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

**Poor internet connection limits my use of digital technology**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

**Lack of knowledge and skills limits my use of digital technology**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A

## SECTION B: WORKING AND EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS

13) Over the last 3 years, how many performances, exhibitions, residencies or projects have you taken part in?

In your region	
Elsewhere on the island of Ireland	
Internationally	

14) Based on your average working week, please give an estimate of the number of hours spent per week working on the options below.

Time spent on my core practice area working by myself (or with other artists or art professionals such as a band, theatre company etc.)	
Time spent teaching in the arts (regular ongoing full or part-time)	
Time spent leading workshops, being involved in socially engaged arts projects, or other creative activities with groups in the community.	
Time spent studying or training relating to your creative practice	
Time spent doing voluntary work in the arts	
Time spent at paid work outside the arts	

*If you included paid work outside the arts, what type of work is this? (e.g. retail, hospitality, tourism, agriculture etc.)*

**15) To what extent is being involved in socially engaged projects, leading workshops or other activities with groups in the community a central part of your practice?**

- This work is the core of my practice
- This work is of equal importance to other strands of my creative practice – one informs the other
- This work is somewhat important to my creative practice but not a significant part of my practice
- I have no interest in working with community groups
- I do this work principally to supplement my income
- I don't currently do this work, but would like to in the future

**16) Please consider the following four statements and indicate whether you 'agree', 'disagree' or 'undecided or not relevant'.**

**There is not enough paid work available for me as an artist**

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided / Not Relevant

**My non- arts work is important in supporting me financially**

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided / Not Relevant

**Non arts related work is interesting and fulfilling and compliments my work as an artist**

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided / Not Relevant

**17) Please consider the following statements and select the most appropriate answer.**

**When I undertake work as an artist, a written contract is an essential part of the process**

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided / Not Relevant

**I have a good understanding of contracts that I sign in relation to my work as an artist**

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided / Not Relevant

**In instances when I undertake work as an artist with an agreement or contract this always translates to actual delivery and payment terms agreed**

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided / Not Relevant

## **INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY**

**18) Over the past 3 years, have you worked as an artist outside the Republic of Ireland?**

**Yes / No**

***If you answered 'yes' to the previous question, for approximately how many days in total?***

Northern Ireland	
Great Britain	
Other EU	
USA/Canada	
Other	

**19) Please consider the statement below and select the most appropriate answer.**

***"I foresee working as an artist outside of Ireland being important to my career as an artist"***

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**20) If you have worked as an artist outside the Republic of Ireland over the past 3 years, have you experienced any problems in relation to any of the following:**

- Taxation (e.g. income tax, withholding tax, VAT etc)
- Issues concerning Social Welfare
- Insurance
- Issues around grants/awards/funding
- Contracts or Intellectual Property Rights
- Working visa or work permit
- Practical Issues (e.g. access to suitable work facilities, accommodation or language issues etc.)
- Personal Issues (e.g. family/care responsibilities, balancing other work commitments, career of spouse/partner etc.)
- Other

## **STATE SUPPORTS**

**21) Have you been registered as unemployed for any period over the last 3 years?**

- Yes
- No

**If you answered 'no', please continue to Q24**

**If you answered 'yes' can you estimate for how many months in total you were registered as being unemployed over the three years?**

**22) Which of the following benefits did you receive?**

- Jobseekers Allowance
- Jobseekers Benefit
- Back to Work Enterprise Allowance
- Supplementary Welfare Allowance
- Jobseeker's Transitional payment
- Social Welfare Scheme for Self-Employed Artists
- Other

**23) Did you have any difficulties claiming unemployment payments because of your status as an artist?**

- Yes
- No

*If you answered 'yes', please explain briefly*

## INCOME

**24) Please tick the most appropriate amount for each of the following six income sources for 2018**

### Direct income from sales of work as an artist

(inc visual art sales, CD/DVD/Book sales, fees for readings or performances at venues and festivals etc. - but not workshops.)

- 0
- < €1,000
- €1,000 - €5,000
- €5,000 - €10,000
- €10,000 - €15,000
- €15,000 - €20,000
- €20,000

### Direct income from workshops and collaborative projects within the community

(incl grants and bursaries for this work and income from community groups, venues the HSE, etc)

- 0
- < €1,000
- €1,000 - €5,000
- €5,000 - €10,000
- €10,000 - €15,000
- €15,000 - €20,000
- €20,000

**Teaching in the Arts**  
(regular ongoing full time or part time)

- 0
- < €1,000
- €1,000 - €5,000
- €5,000 - €10,000
- €10,000 - €15,000
- €15,000 - €20,000
- €20,000

**Other Arts related income**

- 0
- < €1,000
- €1,000 - €5,000
- €5,000 - €10,000
- €10,000 - €15,000
- €15,000 - €20,000
- €20,000

**Income from work outside the Arts**

- 0
- < €1,000
- €1,000 - €5,000
- €5,000 - €10,000
- €10,000 - €15,000
- €15,000 - €20,000
- €20,000

**Unemployment benefit or other social protection payment**

- 0
- < €1,000
- €1,000 - €5,000
- €5,000 - €10,000
- €10,000 - €15,000
- €15,000 - €20,000
- €20,000

25) Please consider the statement below and select the most appropriate response.

*"I can only work as an artist because there is another more reliable income contributing to the household."*

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know / Not Relevant

26) Do you contribute to a pension from your income as an artist?

- Yes
- No

## SECTION C: WELL BEING

27) Please consider the following statements and rate them, if 5 stars being good and 1 star being low

	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*
How would you rate your overall well-being?					
How would you rate your work-life balance?					
How would you rate your current stress level about the projects you are working on right now?					
How would you rate your stress level about your career generally?					

28) Please consider the following statements and tick all that apply

- Not having time for my practice because of my non-arts work is a cause of anxiety for me.
- I have little control over how my work or projects are scheduled.
- I am constantly expected to be available to work.
- I don't feel my time as an artist is valued.
- I feel I need to work long hours in order to complete projects or make vital network connections.
- The amount of time I spend at my (art) work makes it difficult for me to adequately manage other aspects of my life.
- I don't have enough time to relax in between projects or delivery of work.
- 

*Are there any other causes of stress or concern in relation to an artist's work/life balance that you think we should be aware of?*

29) If you ticked any of the concerns above, were you aware of any supports available to help address these? (e.g counselling, financial advice, peer-to-peer support group)

30) What could Creative Frame do to support you to manage your work/life balance?

## SECTION D: GENERAL INFORMATION

### 31) What is your age group?

- under 25 yrs
- 25-34 yrs
- 35-44 yrs
- 45-54 yrs
- 55-64 yrs
- 65 yrs +

### 32) How do you identify?

- Male
- Female
- Trans-Woman
- Trans-Man
- Gender Fluid
- Agender
- Non-Binary
- Rather not say
- Other

### 33) Where was your place of birth?

- Republic of Ireland
- Northern Ireland
- England/Scotland/Wales
- Other

### 34) Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do? (Including those due to aging)

- Yes
- No

*If you answered 'yes' to the previous question, to what extent does this adversely affect your practice as an artist?*

- Not at all
- Sometimes
- Most of the time
- All of the time

### 35) Do you hold private health insurance cover?

- Yes
- No

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

**36) What are the top three challenges of being an artist in this region?**

**37) What are the top three benefits of being an artist in this region?**

**38) What do you hope to achieve in your career as an artist in the next 3 to 5 years?**

**39) Please add any final comments you may have on the Creative Frame Network.**

### **END OF SURVEY**

**Thank you very much for completing the survey!**

**Once the survey is closed we will present the findings to members in our newsletter and at the Christmas Get-together.**

**If you would like to discuss any aspect of your survey responses or training and professional development needs with us in more detail please include your contact details and e - mail and we will be in touch.**