



# idir

## between places

A PERSONAL EXPLORATION OF LIFE BETWEEN TWO PLACES

I grew up in Mallow, County Cork, went to art college in Dublin and for a long time after that I called County Kerry home. In 2008 I moved to New Zealand, and I live there still.

I began to make artwork about the 'between space' I inhabit as a migrant in 2013. Like all who live away from their home place, sometimes I belong and sometimes I'm an outsider. I wanted to make work that explores belonging by working with communities in each of my two home countries.

Around this time, Aras Inis Gluaire invited me to a residency in North Mayo. We constructed a project that linked students from five North Mayo primary schools with five similar schools in South Westland New Zealand. I spent six months working with both sets of schools and we exhibited the work - mine and the students' in Ireland and NZ in 2014.

For the exhibitions, I made a series of map-like images linked to Mayo and South Westland. The works resemble maps but with no scale or place names, they have no key and adhere to few of the conventions of mapmaking. The 'maps' do not invite belonging, orientation or understanding. Unless you already know the places they depict, they do not make sense.

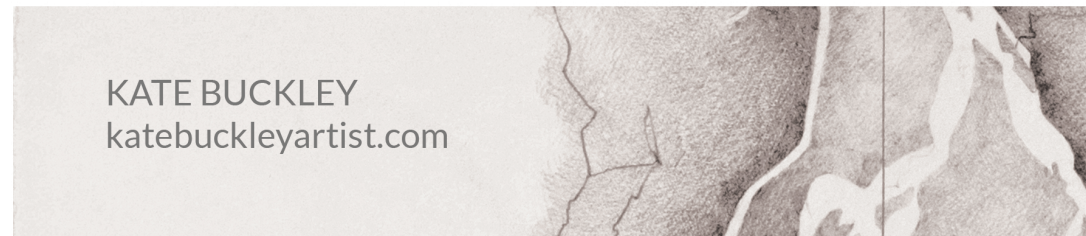
KATE BUCKLEY  
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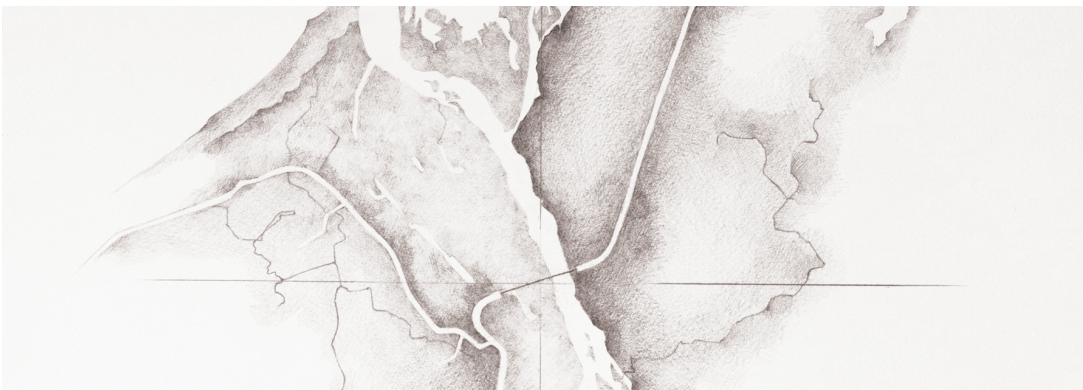
Thosaíos ag déanamh leabhar ealaíontóra – samplaí beaga déanta sa stideo a osclaíonn i slite ná bheifeá ag siúl leo chun sliochtanna beaga de théacs agus de dhathanna a nochtadh, idir focail agus siombail. Ar nós dialanna beaga, cuireann na leabhartha síos ar an méid atá pearsanta. Bhí an saothar seo ar tí forbairt i rud níos chríochnúla nuair do bheartaíos éirí as agus trí mhí a chaitheamh ag maireachtaint i Mala, an áit inar chaitheas laethanta m'óige.

Chaitheas mo laethanta le mo chlann agus go leor tráthnóntaí ag siúl timpeall an bhaile inar tógadh mé. Bhraith sé ait – a bheith ag féachaint thart ar áit go raibh cuimhne an-mhaith agam ar chonas mar a bhíodh sé, ach gan cur amach agam ar chonas mar atá sé san am i láthair. Tamall ina dhiaidh sin chaitheas tréimhse in Ionad Tyrone Guthrie. D'fhás an taighde a bhí déanta agam ina sraith líníochtaí de Mhala. Tá na líníochtaí ar fad déanta ó thaobh dhearcadh linbh de – ach bhí gá agam le mo dhuine fásta fhéin a chur sa tsaothar. Seo a dheineas trí línte a léirigh mo sheasaimh a chur ann agus trí chearnóga daite mar shiombal díom fhéin i ngach píosa.

Nuair a d'fhilleas ar an Nua Shéalainn, d'úsáideas na tagairtí chéanna i saothar nua. Dúshlán dom isea tírdhreach na Nua Shéalainne – ábhar iontais agus cur sa mhullach orm isea a scála, a fhaid agus na spásanna ollmhóra de fhoraoiseanna dúchasacha. Conas gur féidir liom 'baile' a thabhairt ar an áit seo? Bainim leas as na línte is na cearnóga sin chun mé fhéin a 'chur' sa timpeallacht nua seo. Seasann siad don 'idir-spás' sin – an bearna idir mé féin agus an áit, agus an tuiscint a thagann chugam nuair a thugaim 'baile' ar an dá áit.

Kate Buckley





Unknown Map, New Zealand (Detail)  
Graphite on cotton rag paper  
Kate Buckley 2015

The disorientation of these works pleased me. But I knew I wasn't finished with the subject. The maps describe from a distance. I needed to work on a more personal scale.

I began making artist's books - little studio templates that unfold at unexpected angles to reveal fragments of text and colour, words and symbols. Like little diaries, the books describe the personal. This work was on the cusp of developing into something more finished when I decided to leave it and spend three months living in Mallow, in my childhood home.

I spent my days with family and many evenings walking around the town where I'd grown up. It was the oddest sensation -- this tandem exploring of a place I knew intimately in memory but remotely in the present. Later I spent some time in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. The research I'd done became a series of drawings of Mallow. Each drawing is done from a child's perspective - but I needed to place my adult self in the work. I did this by putting orientation lines and a coloured square as a symbol of my self in each piece.

When I came back to NZ I used the same references in new work. The New Zealand landscape challenges me - its scale, distances and vast expanses of native forest are both awe-inspiring and overwhelming. How can I call this place home? I use the orientation lines and squares to place myself in this new environment. They represent 'the between' space - the gap between self and place, and the understanding that comes from calling two places home.

*Kate Buckley*

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Iniúchadh pearsanta ar shaol caite idir dhá áit.

Tógadh mé i Mala, Co. Chorcaí, d'fhreastalaíos ar choláiste ealaíona i mBaile Átha Cliath agus ar feadh tamaill fada ina dhiaidh sin bhíos ag baile i gCo. Chiarraí. I 2008 bhogas go dtí an Nua Shéalainn agus is ann atáim ag cur fúm ó shoin.

Thosnaíos i 2013 ag déanamh saothar ealaíona mar gheall ar an 'idir-spás' ina bhfuilim im chónaí mar imirceach. Maraon leo siúd go léir a chónaíonn ó bhaile, bíonn tamaill nuair a bhainim leis an áit agus tamaill eile nuair is duine ó lasmuigh mé. Theastaigh uaim saothair a chioraíonn muintearas trí a bheith ag obair le pobail i mo dhá thír-bhaile.

Thart faoin ama sin, thug Áras Inis Gluaire cuireadh dom bheith i mo ealaíontóir chónaitheach i dTuaisceart Mhuigheo, Chuireamar tionscnamh ar bun a chruthaigh nasc idir mic léinn ó chuig chinn de scoileanna náisiúnta i dTuaisceart Mhuigheo le cúig chinn de scoileanna ar aon dul leo in South Westland na Nua Shéailinne. Chaitheas sé mhí ag obair leis an dá ghrúpa scoileanna agus i 2014 chuireamar an saothar ar taispeáint - mo chuidsa agus cuid na macléinn - in Éirinn agus san Nua Shéalainn.

Do na taispeántais, dheineas sraith íomhánna go raibh cuma léirscáileanna orthu agus baint acu le Muigheo agus le South Westland. Tá an saothar cosúil le léirscáileanna ach gan scála, logainmneacha ná 'eochair', agus ní claoínn siad le gnáthchleachtas dhéantúis léirscáileanna. Ní chuireann siad muintearas, treoir ná tuiscint in iúl. Muna bhfuil cur amach agat cheana féin ar na háiteanna atá léirithe, níl ciall dá laghad ag baint leo.

Bhíos tógtha le mearbhall an tsaothair seo. Ach bhí fhios agam nach raibh deireadh agam leis an ábhar. Cuireann na léirscáileanna síos ar áit i gcéin. Bhí gá agam le bheith ag obair ar scála níos pearsanta.