



# Aughty Public Art Projects



## Marie Connole: Weed or Knotweed?



Weed or Knotweed? interweaves my fascination with Japanese Knotweed, the bird life in the Aughtys and various elements used to map and define the Aughty region. The issue of identity; how we define a place was particularly relevant for me during this project. Shortly after beginning with the Aughty Public Art Projects in 2009 I moved to another country. As an 'alien' I explored the migratory patterns of some of the birds and the history of all which challenge how we define 'native'. As well as this I felt an affinity with the beautiful but destructive 'alien' Knotweed plant.

Interspersing the works are definitions, bird lore, information, references - all that fascinated me about the Aughtys as I traversed it physically and psychologically.

Marie Connole is a visual artist from Liscannor. She has worked with IMMA, Clare Co. Arts Office and the Icelandic Center for Art. Her books are available at the IMMA in Dublin and the Hand Held Gallery in Melbourne. [www.marieconnole.com](http://www.marieconnole.com)

*"Aughty Map by Marie Connole on reverse"*

## Tom Flanagan: Aughty



Tom Flanagan's Aughty is a documentary film examining the artist's works in the context of the project, the relationship of the artists and their works to the community and aspects of the region, it's people, landscape and identity. The film will also be screened at a number of locations in the Aughty region during the summer of 2011.



Tom Flanagan is an artist, filmmaker and lecturer based in Galway, Ireland. His art practice focuses primarily on the filmic image and its relationship to the cinematographic system and installation experience. He produces films, sculptural Installations, live performances, photography and sound work .

## **Emma Houlihan:** *Aughty Walk*



Aughty Walk was a week-long exploration of the Aughty region conducted on foot by Emma Houlihan in August, 2010. During the project, Houlihan and invited essayist Donald Mahoney trekked across the Aughty region for six days, departing from and arriving in Woodford. Houlihan and Mahoney hiked and camped, traversing the landscape of Aughty and meeting the people of the area. The intensive immersion in the region provided an in-depth encounter with Aughty's history, folklore, industry and environment. Photo documentation for Aughty Walk was provided by Jane Talbot and video documentation was provided by Tom Flanagan.

Emma Houlihan is an artist who grew up in Quin, Co. Clare. Recent projects include Resources 09: Beyond Development (Sweden/India), You Are Here (Nordic Baltic Interchange) and independent research and an exhibition at Leitrim Sculpture Center, Manorhamilton.

Donny Mahoney is a writer based in Leitrim and Dublin. He has written stories for The LA Times, The International Herald Tribune, The Irish Times, The Fader, Mongrel and Some Blind Alleys among others.

## Aughty Public Art Projects 2010

During the summer and autumn of 2010 visual artists Emma Houlihan, Marie Connole and Tom Flanagan have created temporary artworks for **Aughty Public Art Projects**, a series of public art works in County Galway, focusing on the Aughty region stretching from Gort to Woodford and Loughrea, commissioned by Galway County Council Arts Office, supported by The Arts Council of Ireland and Clare Arts Office.

**The three artists have created public art works that engage creatively with the communities of the area. Their work aims to explore the culture, environment and identity of the Aughty region, an area of unique beauty and diversity which straddles the border between Counties Galway and Clare. This project is a response to the location and its communities, using art to make bridges between people and place.**

The project is curated and managed by Dr Áine Phillips, Head of Sculpture at the Burren College of Art. Artists Marie Connole, Emma Houlihan are graduates and Tom Flanagan is an adjunct lecturer at BCA. All are members of the Ground Up Artists Collective (GUAC).

Special thanks to Eleanor Farrell Woodford Librarian & Monica Hynes Woodford Heritage Centre, Pádraig O Baoill and the members of Slógadh Eachtaí, Tom Varley, Marilyn Gaughan, Donny Mahoney, Dermot Moran, Jane Talbot, Mary & Austin Connole, Siobhan Mulcahy, Jimmy Burke, Michelle Browne and Tulca Visual Art Festival, Megs Morley, GUAC.

**Aughty Public Art Projects** is supported by Slógadh Aughty, the steering group of communities in the Aughty region. For more information see [www.aughty.org](http://www.aughty.org) and [www.groundupartists.com](http://www.groundupartists.com)

