



Birds of a *Feather*



**Connecting Women Through Creativity
to Build a Shared, Inclusive Future
Across Our Communities**

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Birds of a Feather: Stories from a Shared Island was a cross-island initiative supported by Creative Ireland’s Shared Island programme, designed to bring women from diverse communities together through creativity. It recognised that genuine understanding often arose not from formal discussion, but from the act of working side by side—whether through weaving, felting, knitting, storytelling, or clay. By sharing creative practice, participants discovered one another beyond politics, history, or geography.

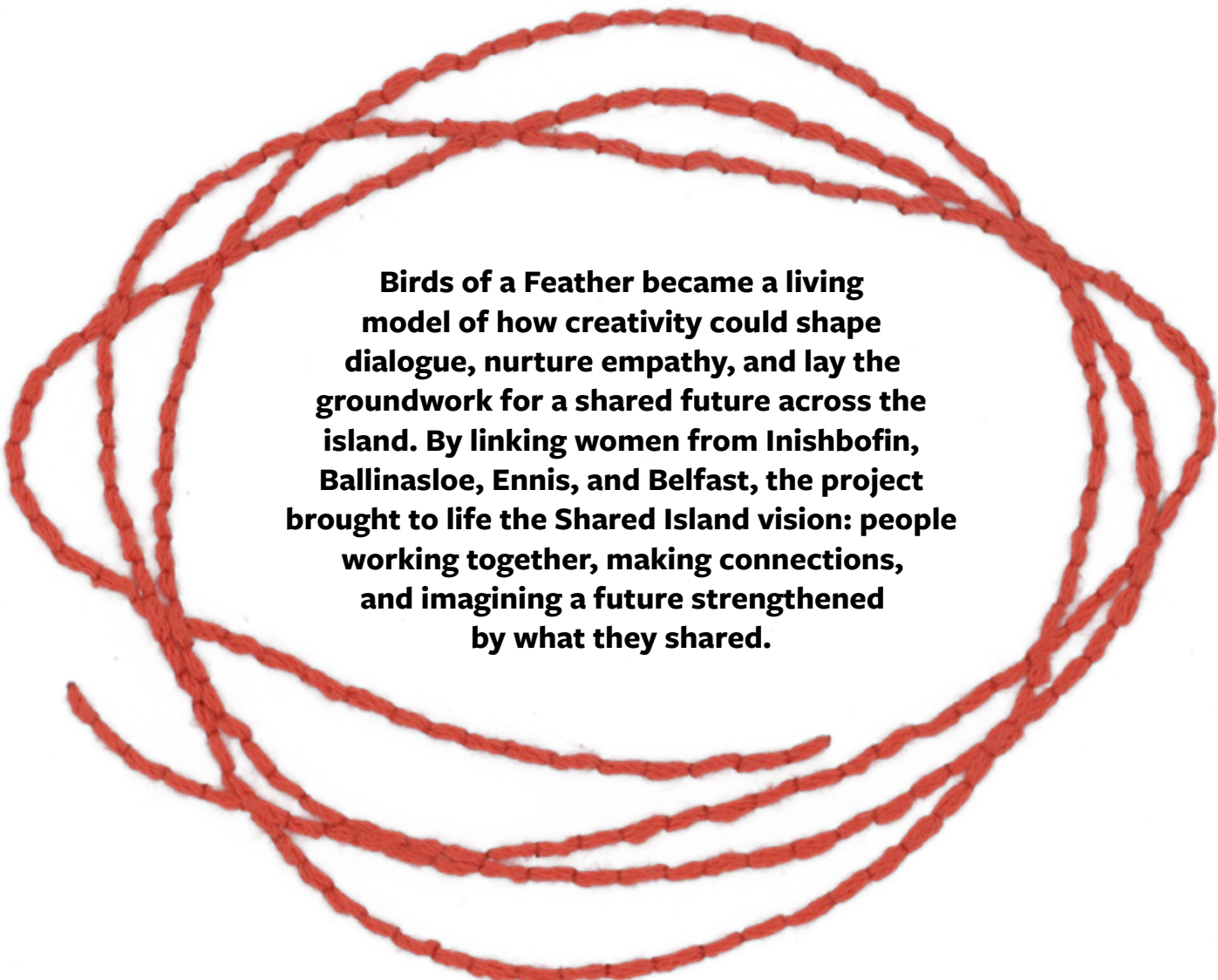
The project brought together women from Ballymac Friendship Trust (Belfast), Ballinasloe Women’s Group, Inishbofin Craft Group, and Ennis Women’s Community Group. The project reflected a wide diversity of backgrounds: Catholic, Protestant, Nationalist, Loyalist, Ethnic Minorities, Travellers, Islanders, inner-city communities, the Deaf Community, and individuals with physical disabilities or mild dementia. Many of these women had never previously engaged in cross-border initiatives. Their work was supported by Clare County Council in partnership with Galway County Council and was evaluated by Ulster University to ensure that the voices and experiences of participants were fully reflected.

The Shared Island initiative was a bold ambition to deepen cooperation, connection, and understanding across all communities on the island of Ireland. In 2023, the Shared Island dimension of Creative Ireland awarded over €850,000 to nine cross-border creative projects, aiming to bridge divides through art, heritage, and community collaboration. Among them was Birds of a Feather: Stories from a Shared Island, a women-led project that knitted connections across Belfast, Ballinasloe, Ennis, and Inishbofin. With a grant of €250,000—one of the larger awards in the programme—Birds of a Feather used craft to build safe spaces for dialogue and mutual respect across traditions. Over two years, it aimed to create a long-lasting legacy of creative, women-led outputs as well as meaningful North–South relationships, co-creating narratives that reflected the diversity of women’s lives across the island.

This report was based on data collected over a two-year period through a mixed-methods approach, incorporating survey responses, one-to-one interviews, focus groups, and participant observation. These complementary methods provided a rich and multidimensional understanding of participants' experiences, perceptions, and outcomes associated with the initiative. The analysis integrated both qualitative and quantitative data to offer a comprehensive evaluation of the project's processes, impacts, and emerging themes over the course of its implementation.

Workshops were central to the project. Through crafting and creative storytelling, participants engaged in dialogue about identity, culture, memory, and belief in spaces that felt safe and welcoming. Residential gatherings—held over the two years in home places such as Ennis, Ballinasloe, Inishbofin, and Belfast, which provided neutral and inspiring meeting grounds—allowed participants to immerse themselves in each other's lives and landscapes.

There were, of course, challenges. Building trust across communities with long histories of division took patience, and the logistics of connecting women from Belfast, rural towns like Ennis and Ballinasloe, and island communities such as Inishbofin demanded careful coordination. Yet the project yielded clear results: friendships were formed, assumptions were challenged, and participants found common threads in their experiences.



Birds of a Feather became a living model of how creativity could shape dialogue, nurture empathy, and lay the groundwork for a shared future across the island. By linking women from Inishbofin, Ballinasloe, Ennis, and Belfast, the project brought to life the Shared Island vision: people working together, making connections, and imagining a future strengthened by what they shared.



Let's Meet the Birds of a Feather

Brought together through the Shared Island project, Birds of a Feather celebrated the power of creativity to connect people and places across Ireland. Using craft as a shared language, women from diverse communities built bridges of trust and imagination that reached far beyond their local settings.

What began as a creative exchange grew into lasting connection — a testament to what happens when art and community meet. Though their stories and landscapes differ, each group reflects the same spirit of inclusion, curiosity, and joy. Together, they remind us that through making, we not only craft beautiful things but also a more connected and compassionate island.



Photo: Emilija Jefremova



Photo: Emilija Jefremova



Photo: Emilija Jefremova

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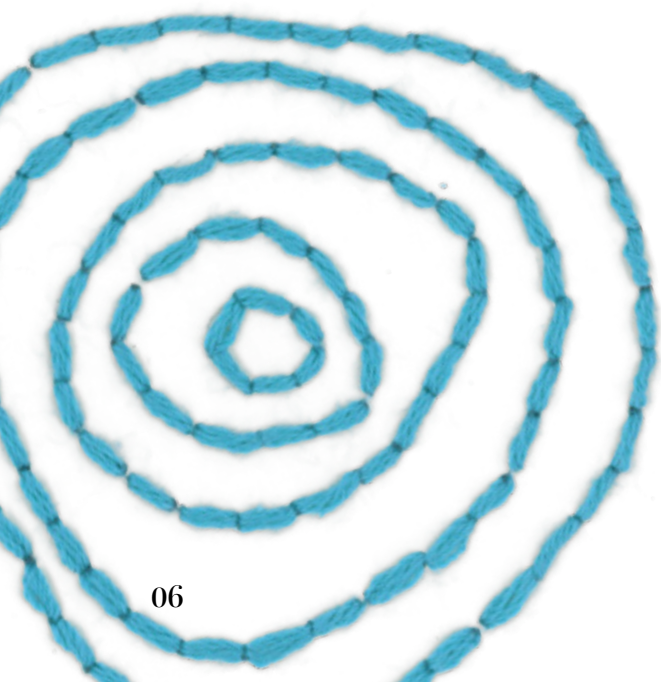
Photo: Eva Birdsthistle

Ballymac Arts and Crafts Club, Belfast, Co. Down

Every Wednesday morning, the Ballymac Arts and Crafts Club at Ballymac Friendship Trust comes alive — a place where creativity and community meet, and where laughter is as valued as the crafting itself. What began as a small local gathering has grown into a vibrant hub of friendship, learning, and shared joy. Each session starts with a warm welcome, a cup of tea, and lively conversation as stories and biscuits pass around. Soon, the tables fill with colour — fabrics, yarns, and paints spread in a flurry of creative energy as members work side by side, encouraging and inspiring one another.

Through the project, members have found confidence in their collective voice, seeing the club not just as a meeting space but as a creative network with something to share beyond Belfast. Their sense of purpose has deepened, and collaborations have extended across borders, enriching both craft and community spirit.

By midday, everyone gathers for a homemade lunch prepared by volunteer chef Natalie and the kitchen team — Bell, Kate, and Janette. Entirely self-funded and community-driven, the club thrives through dedication and teamwork, standing as a testament to the power of creativity to bring people together and craft lasting connections.



Ballinasloe Women's Group, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Formed in autumn 2019, the Ballinasloe Women's Group began with a simple yet powerful goal — to create a welcoming space where new arrivals can meet local women and build friendships through inclusion, understanding, and creativity. Meeting weekly in Ballinasloe Library, the group offers an open and friendly environment for conversation, collaboration, and shared learning. Even during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, members stay connected online, keeping the spirit of togetherness alive.

Through the Birds of a Feather project, the women of Ballinasloe began to imagine their work on a larger canvas. Collaborating with groups across the island encouraged them to see their creativity as a bridge between cultures and generations. This experience has strengthened their identity as community leaders and inspires a renewed commitment to intercultural celebration, education, and creative inclusion.

Over time, the group has engaged in a variety of creative projects — from dance and art therapy workshops to colourful yarnbombing installations that brightened the town, including the annual October Horse Fair. Celebrations of culture remain central to their ethos, with events such as Eid gatherings and shared intercultural meals deepening community connections.

The group reflects a rich mix of ages, nationalities, and experiences, each member bringing her own story and creativity to the table. With open hearts and curious minds, they continue to build bridges through art and friendship — shaping a community rooted in inclusion, imagination, and mutual respect.

Ennis Women's Community Group, Ennis, Co. Clare

The Ennis Women's Community Group (EWCG) is a vibrant and inclusive collective dedicated to fostering creativity, connection, and empowerment among women in County Clare. Rooted in values of self-expression, mutual support, and gentle activism, the group provides a nurturing space for women to gather, share, and grow through craft, conversation, and community engagement.

Participation in the Birds of a Feather project has strengthened the group's belief in the transformative potential of creativity. Working alongside women from across the island has encouraged members to broaden their perspectives, refine their collaborative practices, and reaffirm their shared purpose. The experience has given rise to new ideas for community-led art and gentle activism — enriching the group's legacy of empowerment through creativity.

Evolving from the spirit of an earlier women's group, EWCG flourishes through collaborative projects, seasonal pop-up shops, and skill-sharing workshops that celebrate both creativity and community. Guided by a clear constitution and shared values of ethics, inclusion, and care, the group ensures each member is respected.

Structured for sustainability and openness, EWCG welcomes women of all backgrounds to take part in its creative and social initiatives. Through each meeting and project, members not only make art — they build confidence, friendship, and a deep sense of belonging. Their work revives threads of connection and reclaims stories that empower women and strengthen the wider community.

Inishbofin Craft Group / Island Creatives, Inishbofin, Co. Galway

The Inishbofin Craft Group began as a gathering of creative islanders united by a shared love of making and a desire to celebrate the unique beauty and rhythm of island life. Rooted in creativity and community, the group has used the Birds of a Feather project as a chance to explore new techniques, build confidence, and strengthen bonds within their local network of artists and crafters.

Through encouragement, mentorship, and shared experience, the group has grown in confidence and ambition. Inspired by their involvement in Birds of a Feather, they have reimagined their identity and rebranded as Island Creatives, Inishbofin, Co. Galway — a name that reflects their pride of place and renewed sense of direction.

Today, Island Creatives fosters a vibrant and connected artistic community on Inishbofin, offering space for collaboration, skill sharing, and mutual support. The group remains deeply committed to sustaining the island's craft traditions while embracing contemporary forms of expression that reflects modern island life. Their ongoing work continues to weave together creativity, connection, and community spirit — ensuring that the legacy of Birds of a Feather endures in every handmade piece and every shared story.



Together in Creativity

Together, these groups embody the essence of Birds of a Feather — communities bound by creativity, friendship, and shared purpose. Through simple acts of making and meeting, they have built bridges of understanding that reach far beyond craft itself. Each thread, brushstroke, and shared meal speaks to the power of connection — a reminder that when people come together with open hearts and hands, they create not only beautiful things, but a stronger, more connected island.



Photo: Eamon Ward

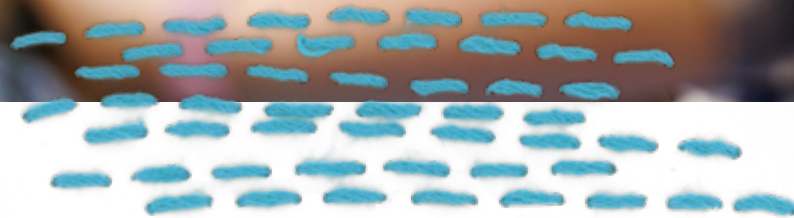


Photo: Eamon Ward

The Birds of a Feather Experience: Crafting Connections

Birds of a Feather was a 24-month creative and cultural project that brought together women from across Ireland and Northern Ireland to connect, create, and share their stories through craft and conversation. The project ran from 2023 to 2025, with a series of residential gatherings held in Belfast, Ennis, Ballinasloe, and Inishbofin.

Each residential was carefully shaped by the women involved, ensuring that their voices, skills, and interests were at the heart of the programme. The experiences were designed to provide opportunities to share existing skills, learn new crafts, develop retail and enterprise knowledge, and explore the history and culture of each host location.

Over the course of the project, participants took part in an extraordinary variety of creative workshops. These included but not limited to stencilling on slate, mosaics, crafting with buttons, wet felting, weaving, painting, twiddle muffs, wool spinning, knitting, embroidery, flower crowns, and creative writing, as well as Sean Nós and céilí dancing sessions that celebrated traditional music and movement. Alongside the making, there were retail training sessions, historical tours, and guided walks, which deepened participants' connection with place and community.

A key element of Birds of a Feather was the spirit of togetherness. Each visit included shared meals, walks, and social time, encouraging women to mix beyond their familiar groups and to form new friendships. These informal moments often became the most memorable—spaces where stories were exchanged, laughter was shared, and new ideas emerged organically. The emphasis on conversation and storytelling allowed participants to reflect on their own experiences, build confidence, and recognise the value of their creative and cultural contributions.

The project highlighted the importance of travel, discovery, and cross-community connection. By visiting new places and engaging with local traditions, participants gained fresh perspectives—not only on craft and culture but also on each other's lives. What began as a series of creative residencies grew into a network of friendship, mutual learning, and collaboration that continues beyond the project itself.

At its heart, Birds of a Feather celebrated the power of creativity to bridge divides, build confidence, and strengthen community ties. Through making, sharing, and exploring together, the women created not only beautiful crafts but also lasting memories and meaningful connections that will endure well beyond the project's end.

The Birds of a Feather Journey:

2023

Belfast – December

2024

Ennis – February
Ballinasloe – June
Inishbofin – September
Belfast – November

2025

Ennis – February
Ballinasloe – June
Belfast – September
Athlone – December

Coming Together: The Power of Making, Sharing, and Belonging

Over two remarkable years, Birds of a Feather: Stories from a Shared Island has woven a story of connection across distance, difference, and creativity. From Inishbofin's coastal winds to the craft rooms of Ballinasloe, from the community halls of Ennis to the city hum of Belfast, women from across the island came together to learn, make, laugh, and belong.

What began as a simple invitation—to create and share—became a profound journey of friendship and transformation. The first year laid the groundwork for trust and discovery; the second deepened it into a rhythm of reconnection and joy. Along the way, participants found not only new skills but new confidence, companionship, and purpose.



Photo: Eamon Ward

Finding Welcome and Building Confidence

At the start, many participants admitted to feeling nervous, unsure of what awaited them. Yet again and again, those nerves melted into laughter, comfort, and creativity.

“ I was excited when I first heard about this project, but a little nervous. So far, it's been very interesting, informative, and friendly.”

“ I've loved getting to know new people and learn lots of new and very different crafting skills. I've felt so welcomed since the start.”



Photo: Emilija Jefremova

From the first gatherings, warmth and openness became the hallmarks of the group. Women arrived from different counties, carrying their own stories, yet found common ground in curiosity and kindness.

“ I remember walking into the room on that first day, thinking, 'Will I fit in?' But within ten minutes, someone handed me a cup of tea and said, 'Come sit here beside me.' That was it—I was home.”



Feeling welcome became more than a pleasant beginning; it was the foundation for every creative act that followed. When people feel valued, their imagination begins to unfold.

“ It's a simple thing, but being greeted with a smile makes you feel like you belong. That's what makes you brave enough to try.”

Even the playful moments—like a shared dance—embodied that sense of belonging.

“ I loved the Sean Níos dancing: great fun and nice to be up moving about too!”

Laughter and movement became metaphors for connection—reminding everyone that creativity is as much about joy as it is about craft.



Photo: Emilija Jefremova



Creativity as Courage

For many women, Birds of a Feather offered a first step into creative practice or a return after years away from it. The project's workshops—ranging from mosaics and painting to weaving and creative writing—provided safe spaces to experiment, make mistakes, and rediscover confidence.

“The mosaics were tricky, but I'm delighted with my bird.”

“When my first piece cracked, everyone laughed and then helped me fix it. It turned into my favourite one. That's what this project is like—learning, laughing, mending.”

The work was both personal and collective. Each creation was its own small act of courage—a testament to patience, perseverance, and play.

“Sharing ideas and tips with all these wonderful women has been a blessing. It's lovely to see women enjoying and being wonderful with their crafts and all that they can make. It's inspiring to me.”

Through trial and triumph, participants learned that creativity is not about perfection—it's about process, exploration, and generosity.

“Every time we make something, we also learn from each other. It's like creativity passing from hand to hand.”

The first tentative brushstroke, the first thread pulled through fabric, the first shared story—all became symbols of renewal.

“I used to think I wasn't creative. Now I look around and think—maybe I just needed the right people beside me.”

Friendship, Fun and Shared Adventures

If creativity was the spark, friendship became the flame that kept the project glowing. Across towns and coastlines, women spoke of finding not only collaborators but true companions.

“I've met so many friendly and creative people. It means so much to me to find others with shared interests.”

“I've been to places I've never been before and learned about the towns and places all the women come from. I loved being in Inishbofin, and I am really looking forward to going to Belfast.”

“Making new friends and experiencing new cultures in a really deep and meaningful way has been lovely.”

Photo: Emilija Jefremova



The travel and shared workshops brought discovery at every turn. Each journey introduced new landscapes, stories, and traditions—reminding participants that connection is both local and far-reaching.

“ This year, I’ve loved all the tours and learning about the places as well as the people. Exploring the new places has given me a new insight into the history of the island.”

“ Standing on Inishbofin, looking out at the sea, I realised how connected we all are—even across distance.”

Each visit deepened relationships: laughter on buses, chats over meals, and small acts of kindness became part of the creative process itself.

“ I’ve loved the fun. The humour of the ladies has been priceless. Sheer fun and joy!”

“ Every visit feels like coming home – the joy of seeing everyone again lifts me for weeks.”

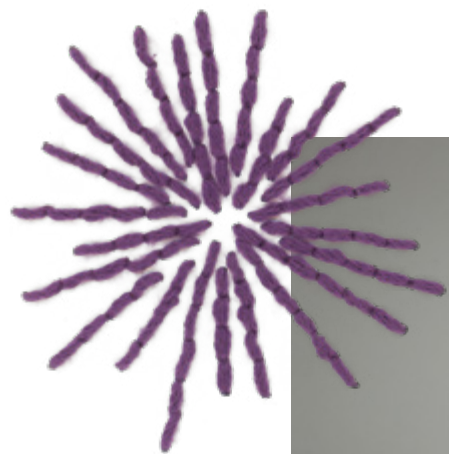


Photo: Emilija Jefremova

Growth, Confidence and Renewal

The impact of the project reached far beyond creativity. For many, it restored self-belief, independence, and the joy of trying something new.

“ I started to go to different groups in my town but was always nervous about trying different skills, but now nothing stops me. I’ve never felt more free to give things a try as I know we’re all in the same boat.”

“ After I retired, I knew that I could be quite isolated, but this experience has made me feel safe and part of something special.”

“ Each day with this brings something new. New conversations. New crafts. Wow!”

Such moments reflected a broader truth: that creativity, when nurtured in community, can transform how people see themselves and their potential.

“ Being here with the group has relit my fire. It’s reminded me that it’s never too late to begin again.”

“ I’m proud of myself again. I had forgotten that feeling.”

Shared Leadership and Resilience

As the second year unfolded, the project entered a new phase of shared ownership. Women who had once joined as learners became leaders, organisers, and mentors. The network they had built proved strong enough to adapt to change and challenge.

“After all the changes with the leadership in our local group, I feel that I have developed new people skills and grown in confidence within the group with the new responsibilities I have taken on.”

“When leadership changed within the group, for some of our women the new venues were tricky to get to, but with clear communication and volunteers pitching in, we figured it out fast. Staying connected via WhatsApp helped us all to remain in touch.”

Practical problem-solving became another form of creativity, showing how deeply the group’s collaborative spirit had taken root.

“As the project progressed we all bonded more deeply on each visit.”



A Space for Openness and Healing

One of the most meaningful aspects of Birds of a Feather has been its ability to hold space for honesty. Within the rhythm of making—hands busy, hearts open—conversations often turned toward the personal.

“Knowing we can all love crafting together, but also feel safe and valued so that we can talk about mental health, women’s problems, grief, and a whole range of issues. That’s a very special place that’s been created through this project.”

“It’s more than crafting – it’s healing. We laugh, we listen, and we lift each other up.”

Participants often spoke of the workshops as a sanctuary—somewhere to find joy even in hard times.

“There’s something about sitting together, working quietly, that makes it easier to talk about the things that matter.”

“The laughter saved me some days. It reminded me that even after hardship, joy is possible.”

In these spaces, creativity became care in action—a collective form of healing.



Photo: Eamon Ward



Photo: Justin Kernaghan

Photo: Eva Birdsthistle



Photo: Eva Birdsthistle

The Beauty of Place and Memory

The project's geography shaped its spirit. From the island to the mainland, every location offered new inspiration. Place became both muse and memory.

“ Making flower crowns on Inishbofin is a treasured memory: what a special skill to have learned and in such a magical place.”

“ Weaving with Catherine on Boffin was so special, I now have a beautiful piece of weaving that is proudly displayed in my home.”

“ Our beautiful tapestry captures the memories from our time together; it's so precious.”

Each crafted object—mosaics, tapestries, embroidery—held a piece of the shared story, tangible reminders of connection made visible.

“ My abiding memory is heads bowed together, chatting and creating, sharing stories and creating.”

Through these shared acts of making, participants built a creative map of belonging—stitched, woven, and mosaic-ed across counties and communities.



Photo: Emilija Jefremova

Creativity, Enterprise and New Horizons

As confidence grew, so too did ambition. For some, the project sparked entrepreneurial curiosity; for others, it redefined how they valued their own time and skill.

“Doing retail training is changing the way I think about my crafting and inspiring me to reflect more on how we as women undervalue what we produce.”

“Before this, I wouldn't have dared to speak in front of a group. Now, I'm running a small workshop sharing crafting skills with other women.”

“I used to think my crafts were just for me, but now I see how they connect us. There's pride in that—and purpose.”

The move from creative hobby to creative enterprise signalled not only economic potential but also empowerment.

“This experience will continue to have an impact in the months and years ahead when I will be able to draw on all I have learned and share it with even more women around me.”

“I've a new respect for the value of craft and creativity.”



Photo: Eva Birdshill

The Legacy of Connection

Through two years of making and meeting, Birds of a Feather has proven that creativity can bridge divides—between individuals, communities, and counties. Its impact is felt in laughter, confidence, and friendship that stretch beyond any single workshop.

“We are connected in so many ways through our shared life experiences, our crafts, even with our orbs!”

“This project came at a time when I really needed the company and the laughter, and my confidence has grown so much.”



Photo: Emilia Jefremova

The friendships forged here have become a living legacy—a network of care that will endure long after the final session ends.

“I used to be scared about joining in, but this has made me feel safe and part of something special.”

“I've never felt more free to give things a try.”

“I came to make birds – but really, I learned how to fly.”

The Power of Shared Creativity

Across two years of laughter, learning, and shared creation, *Birds of a Feather* has become more than a project—it is a movement of care, curiosity, and creative courage. It has shown how, when women come together to make and to listen, they create something far greater than the sum of their work: they create community.

What began as a first encounter between strangers has evolved into a lasting network of friendship, confidence, and joy. It reminds us that creativity is not just about what we make with our hands—it's about what we build with our hearts.

“We've built something that will last longer than any craft. It's a web of kindness and confidence that keeps growing.”

This is the power of beginnings — and of continuing together: proof that when creativity and compassion meet, great things take flight.



Photo: Eva Birdsthistle

The Legacy of Birds of a Feather: Lessons Learned and Overall Reflections

As *Birds of a Feather: Stories from a Shared Island* completes its two-year journey, its depth and breadth have become clear. What began as a creative experiment linking women from Inishbofin, Ballinasloe, Ennis, and Belfast has grown into a powerful story of creativity, connection, and shared purpose.

Across two years of workshops, residencies, travel, and conversation, the project has offered women not only new skills but the chance to rediscover confidence, community, and joy. When women come together to make, share, and imagine, the results reach far beyond the craft table — touching lives, creating friendships, and leaving legacies that will endure.

The reflections below bring together the key lessons, insights, and collective outcomes of this shared-island journey.

1. The Power of Beginnings: Safety, Welcome, and Trust

From the outset, *Birds of a Feather* thrived on warmth and inclusion. Many women arrived unsure of what to expect — nervous about joining new groups or meeting strangers — but quickly found themselves embraced by kindness and encouragement.

“ I walked in with nerves and left with laughter.”

“ The welcome was so genuine that it took only minutes to feel part of something.”

The project showed that emotional safety is the foundation of creativity. When women feel secure and valued, they take risks, share ideas, and begin to express themselves freely. That deliberate cultivation of trust became the heart of *Birds of a Feather* — a reflection of the Shared Island ethos in action.

“ Together is better.”

“ Everywhere we went, people made us feel at home.”

2. Balancing Depth and Pace

The workshops and residencies offered a wide variety of creative experiences — from embroidery and painting to mosaic-making, dance, and writing. Participants loved the richness and challenge but also shared valuable insights about the need for balance.

“ The making is magic, but sometimes I wished for a little more time just to sit, talk, and breathe.”

“ People are so absorbed in crafting that there's less sharing; there's potential for more space to get to know each other.”

The project learned that creativity flourishes in rhythm, not rush. Some of the most meaningful moments happened in between sessions — during travel, shared meals, or gentle conversations where laughter and story unfolded naturally.

“ It's that feeling that we're all in it together, and I'll take joy from all the wonderful memories made.”

3. Creativity as Confidence and Transformation

One of the clearest lessons from *Birds of a Feather* is that creativity builds confidence and wellbeing. Women rediscovered old skills, learned new ones, and began to trust their own hands and instincts.

“ I surprised myself — my hands knew what to do before my head caught up.”

“ Mistakes became part of the pattern. That was the moment I stopped worrying and started enjoying.”

“ I hadn't done embroidery since I was a child, but it came back — and with it, a bit of me I'd forgotten.”

For some, creativity was healing — a way to slow down, connect, and express emotion through colour, fabric, and movement.

“ I loved reconnecting with embroidery. Crafting fearlessly is beautiful, empowering, and powerful.”

“ Time away, time apart, and time for self — in the most positive, beautiful way.”

The project also fostered a quietly powerful environmental awareness. Many workshops emphasised reusing materials, reclaiming wool, and repurposing textiles. Women shared sustainable techniques, turning scraps into beauty and giving new life to forgotten fabrics.

“ We used what we had — leftover wool, old shirts, bits of ribbon — and somehow it all came together.”

“ There's something deeply satisfying about creating something new from what might have been thrown away.”

This ethos of resourcefulness connected environmental care with creative empowerment — honouring the island's traditions of making do, mending, and reimagining.

“ There's no right or wrong: it's just creativity, with plenty of joy — and nothing wasted.”

4. Connection Across Distance and Difference

The shared-island nature of Birds of a Feather was central to its success. Participants consistently described the joy of meeting women from different counties, cultures, and generations — discovering how much unites them.

“ We came from different coastlines, but it felt like we were all moving together in the same direction.”

“ The common ground among women, no matter where we come from, will stay with me.”

“ That women from all over Ireland can connect — despite age, culture, or nationality.”

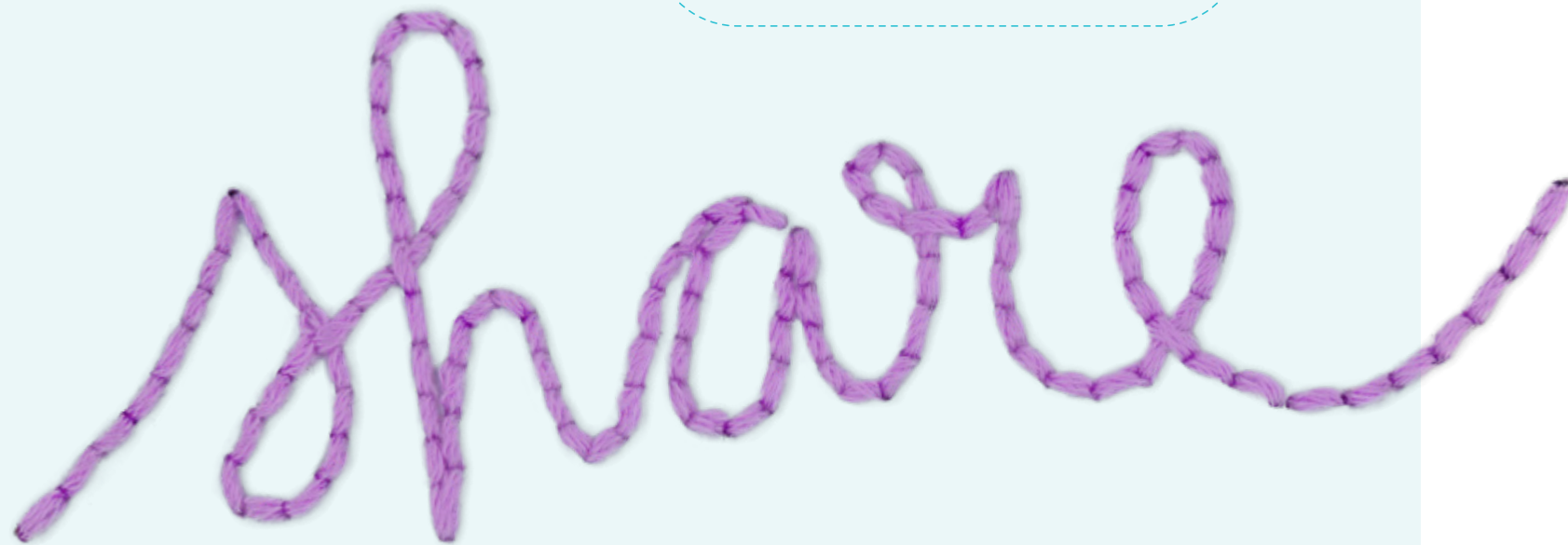
Travel deepened those relationships. Exploring Ennis, Inishbofin, Ballinasloe, and Belfast gave participants new perspectives on place and history — and on each other.

“ Standing somewhere I'd never been before, I saw the island differently — not divided, but shared.”

“ Meeting ladies from all walks of life has been so important. The connections we've made will last.”

In these ordinary, joyful exchanges — laughter on buses, meals shared, crafts made side by side — women embodied peacebuilding in its simplest, truest form.

“ We built understanding through friendship — quietly, but powerfully.”



5. From Participation to Empowerment

By the end of the two-year journey, many women had stepped into leadership roles — teaching, organising, and sharing their skills with others. What began as participation had become empowerment.

This collective ownership turned Birds of a Feather into more than a project; it became a movement of creative women confident in their voices and vision.

“ I used to wait for someone else to organise things. Now I'm the one who starts the conversation.”

“ We've all learned to take turns leading, helping, and cheering each other on.”

“ The inclusiveness of everyone involved — no judgement, just support — made that possible.”

“ Everyone helping each other like one big family.”



Photo: Justin Kernaghan

6. The Birds of a Feather Ennis Legacy Project: Clare Embroidery Revival

A shining example of sustainability and creativity in action is the Ennis Women's Community Group (EWCG) Legacy Project — Clare Embroidery Revival, supported by the Birds of a Feather Autonomy Fund in late 2024.

Following their participation in the main project, the Ennis group secured funding to reignite the historic Clare embroidery tradition. With the support of the Clare Museum — which provided both space and access to original artefacts — and the guidance of tutor Valery Larkin, participants explored traditional stitches while reflecting on the life and influence of Florence Vere O'Brien, a pioneer of Irish craft and design.

The group also wove sustainability into their practice, using reclaimed threads and vintage linens wherever possible — linking environmental mindfulness to heritage craft.

“We realised we were honouring the past not by copying it, but by caring for it — using what already exists, just as women always have.”

Over six weeks, they refined their skills, experimented with technique, and created a new collaborative embroidery piece as a gift to the museum. The final work is both elegant and symbolic: heritage revived, materials renewed, creativity reborn.



Photo: Deirdre Leahy

7. The Birds of a Feather Belfast Legacy Project: The Tapestry

The Belfast Legacy Piece is a large-scale collaborative artwork inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry. Like the original, which chronicles history through intricate imagery, this tapestry tells the story of Birds of a Feather — from tentative first steps to confident community.

Developed through co-design and collective workshops, the tapestry blends painting, embroidery, felting, and mixed media to capture moments, emotions, and milestones from across the two years. Over seventy women from every participating region contributed to its creation.



Photo: Eva Birchistle

“When you step back, you see the full picture. But when you look closely, every stitch tells its own story.”

“To see our story told in thread and colour — it feels like we've woven our friendships into something permanent.”

The tapestry's scale and collective craftsmanship embody the heart of the project: unity through creativity. It serves as a lasting testament to connection, collaboration, and the enduring bonds formed through Birds of a Feather.

8. The Birds of a Feather Ballinasloe Legacy Project: The Mosaic Birds

In Ballinasloe, women from each participating area came together to create a public artwork: a mosaic installation for the town library. Under the guidance of mosaic artist Alison MacCormaic, participants designed and constructed a semi-circular wall panel depicting a gathering of birds on intertwining branches — a visual metaphor for the project itself.

“ Every bird carries its own story, but together they make something much bigger — like us.”

Each visiting group crafted its own bird, contributing colour, pattern, and personality. The finished piece will be permanently installed to connect the main library space with the adjoining community room and gallery. A commemorative plaque listing the names of all participants will accompany the mosaic, ensuring that their creativity and contribution are publicly recognised.

“ Making a mosaic piece together felt special — we’re leaving behind a part of our work together for others to see and enjoy.”

This legacy piece will stand as a symbol of community, creativity, and collaboration — an open invitation for others to gather, make, and imagine.



Photo: Eva Birdhistle

9. Enduring Lessons and Collective Reflections

The personal reflections gathered throughout the project give life to its legacy. They speak of laughter and learning, of rediscovered courage and lasting friendship, of how connection can transcend geography and circumstance.

“ The precious privilege of meeting and mixing with wonderful women from various backgrounds and places north and south — forging friendships forever.”

“ Sharing lots of fun and laughter is magic.”

Multicultural, creative, love, enjoyment, healing, friendship, magical, wonderful, heartminding, hopeful: it’s been all of these and more.’

“ Memories of all the girls and the atmosphere of being together is special.”

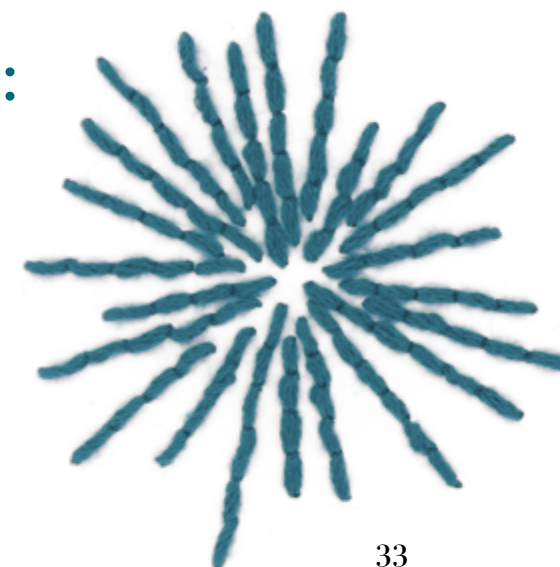
“ The friendship and the enthusiasm each person has for their craft, and the pride they feel in their work.”

“ Reconnecting, hugging, viewing the tapestry and the beautiful works that have been borne of this project — friendship and a pure desire to continue the connections.”

Collectively, these voices chart a journey from hesitancy to confidence, from strangers to collaborators, from creative exploration to shared legacy. They remind us that when women make together, they make more than art — they make belonging.

10. Sustaining Connection and Sustainable Practice: Looking Forward

As Birds of a Feather closes this chapter, its story continues through the relationships, skills, and confidence that ripple outward — into local groups, new partnerships, and future collaborations.



The key lessons are clear:

Lead with welcome and kindness.

Treat creativity as both process and purpose.

Build in space for reflection, rest, and joy.

Empower women to lead and share knowledge.

Let legacy grow organically through people and place.

Honour sustainability — environmental, social, and creative — in every new step.

Participants consistently expressed a wish to remain connected — to keep learning, crafting, and laughing together. Possible next steps include:

- **Local creative circles that meet regularly in each community.**
- **Cross-community exchanges through exhibitions, festivals, and visits.**
- **Digital galleries or storytelling archives to sustain creative links.**

Sustainability has also become part of the project's lasting ethos. Many participants continue to use reclaimed and recycled materials in their work, teaching younger generations that creativity can be both imaginative and environmentally kind.

“ We learned that care for people and care for the planet are part of the same thing.”

The emergence of women's leadership is one of Birds of a Feather's proudest achievements. Many now act as organisers, tutors, and mentors within their own communities; others are developing exhibitions, markets, or teaching opportunities for the first time.

With continued support, Birds of a Feather can evolve from a participatory arts initiative into a lasting network of empowered, creative women shaping their own — and the island's — sustainable future.

In Closing

Birds of a Feather has been, at its heart, an experiment in shared creativity and human connection. It has shown that art has the quiet power to bridge divides, nurture confidence, and build peace — not through policy or persuasion, but through participation; through the simple, joyful act of making something together.

Over two years, it has become a living network of stories, friendships, and renewed confidence. Each stitch, brushstroke, and mosaic tile has carried the spirit of peacebuilding — and, increasingly, of care for the environment and for one another.

The vision ahead

- **Sustain connections between women across the island.**
- **Nurture creativity as a pathway to wellbeing and voice.**
- **Honour heritage while embracing innovation and sustainability.**
- **Continue shaping a shared island through making, storytelling, and friendship.**

As this chapter closes, one truth stands out: the real legacy of Birds of a Feather lives in the women who took part — in their courage, humour, resourcefulness, and heart. Its spirit will continue wherever they gather to share a story, repurpose a scrap of fabric, or simply sit together in creative companionship.

“ We didn't just make art — we made each other stronger.”

In many ways, this is not an ending but a beginning — a spark passed hand to hand, across communities and generations. And perhaps the greatest lesson of all is this: peace, like craft, can be handmade — one connection, one creation, one conscious act of care at a time.

Appendix 1: Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation of Birds of a Feather employed a mixed-methods approach designed to capture both quantitative data and the rich qualitative experiences of participants. The overarching aim was to understand the project’s impact on wellbeing, creativity, confidence, and cross-community connection, while ensuring that all evaluation activities were conducted with sensitivity, respect, and ethical integrity.

Approach

The evaluation was guided by participatory and feminist research principles, recognising the importance of women’s voices, lived experience, and collective storytelling. The process sought to empower participants as co-contributors to learning rather than as subjects of study. Data collection was iterative and reflective, allowing the evaluation to evolve in response to participants’ needs and feedback.

Data Collection Methods

1. One-to-One Interviews with Participants

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with women across the programme to explore their personal journeys, motivations, and reflections on participation. These conversations provided nuanced insights into how involvement in Birds of a Feather affected participants’ sense of wellbeing, belonging, and empowerment.

2. Participant Observation

The evaluator attended each major event and workshop, engaging as an observer-participant. This method provided direct insights into the social dynamics, atmosphere, and relationships fostered through creative collaboration. Observations focused on inclusivity, engagement, emotional tone, and the role of creativity in facilitating connection across communities.

3. Participant Surveys

Brief surveys were distributed at each event to gather consistent quantitative and qualitative feedback on participants’ experiences. Surveys explored areas such as satisfaction, perceived learning, skill development, confidence, and social connection. The repeated use of surveys allowed for longitudinal comparison across the project’s duration.

4. Interviews with Project Leads and Facilitators

Interviews with project leads, coordinators, and creative facilitators provided strategic and operational perspectives. These discussions explored delivery challenges, partnership working, and the evolution of the project’s ethos and methodology over time.

Ethical Considerations

Given the diverse and cross-community nature of the participant group, ethical engagement was central to the evaluation design. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, with clear explanations of the purpose, use, and confidentiality of data. Participation in evaluation activities was entirely voluntary, and all contributors retained the right to withdraw at any time without consequence.

A trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approach underpinned all engagement. Evaluators were mindful of participants’ backgrounds, identities, and potential sensitivities arising from the project’s peacebuilding and cross-border context. All interviews and observations were conducted in a manner that prioritised emotional safety, trust, and dignity. Care was taken to ensure that participants’ stories were represented authentically, respectfully, and anonymously where appropriate.

Analysis

Qualitative data from interviews and observations were analysed thematically to identify recurring patterns, outcomes, and participant narratives. Quantitative survey data were collated and summarised to provide complementary evidence of satisfaction and perceived impact. Together, these strands offered a holistic understanding of Birds of a Feather’s reach, relevance, and resonance within and beyond the participating communities.

Appendix 2: Key Statistics

The report highlights several key statistics that demonstrate strong engagement and positive outcomes across all areas. Participation remained high across multiple locations, with standout involvement in creative activities such as painting, mosaic, weaving and woodcraft. Notably, 98% of participants reported

improved wellbeing, underscoring the programme’s meaningful impact on individual growth and community connection. High satisfaction and strong self-reported skill development further reflect the project’s success in fostering creativity, confidence, and collaboration.

Appendix 3: Sustainability in Practice: Making with Care

From the beginning, Birds of a Feather wove sustainability into its creative fabric. Across workshops and residencies, women reused materials, reclaimed wool, repurposed textiles, and shared techniques that honoured both craft and the environment. What might once have been discarded became beautiful, meaningful, and new.

The ethos was simple but powerful: make thoughtfully, waste little, and care deeply — for materials, for community, and for the world around us.

Many participants spoke about the satisfaction of transforming old or leftover materials into something alive with story and colour:

- “ We used what we had – bits of lace, scraps of cloth, recycled wool – and somehow it became something beautiful.”
- “ It reminded me of my mother and grandmother, who never threw anything away because everything had another use.”
- “ Reclaiming materials gave our work more meaning – it connected us to tradition, to the land, and to each other.”

Workshops across the island reflected this circular creativity: Women revived Clare embroidery using vintage linens and donated thread; they utilised reclaimed tiles, glass, and ceramic fragments and incorporated recycled fabrics.

These choices were more than practical; they reflected an ethic of care and continuity — honouring the island’s long tradition of resourcefulness while pointing toward a more sustainable creative future.

“ Sustainability isn’t just about materials – it’s about mindsets. We learned to value what we already have.”

Through reuse, repair, and renewal, Birds of a Feather showed that environmental care and artistic expression can go hand in hand — proving that what’s good for the earth can also be deeply good for the soul.

Appendix 4: Range of Activities

- ✕ Social time at each Women’s Group

✕ Visit to Northern Ireland Assembly

✕ Retail Experience at St George’s Market

✕ Titanic Museum

✕ Red Bus Tour of Belfast

✕ Siege of Ennis Ceili Class

✕ Paper Quilling

✕ Macrame

✕ Embroidery

✕ Irish Sign Language Workshop

✕ Sheela na-Gig

✕ Narrative/Storytelling

✕ Mandala Art
- ✕ Guided Walks Inishbofin, Belfast, Ballinasloe and Ennis

✕ Tour of Aughrim

✕ Button Craft

✕ Retail Magic

✕ Stencil on Slate

✕ Stencil on Fabric

✕ Mosaic

✕ Painting

✕ Women’s Femininity

✕ Karolina York Presentation

✕ Wet Felting

✕ Flower Crown

✕ Island Walk

✕ Weaving
- ✕ Sean Nós Dancing

✕ Wool Spinning

✕ Knitting Circle

✕ Story Development

✕ Creative Writing

✕ Pottery

✕ Paper Craft

✕ Twiddle Muffs

✕ Collage

✕ Card Making

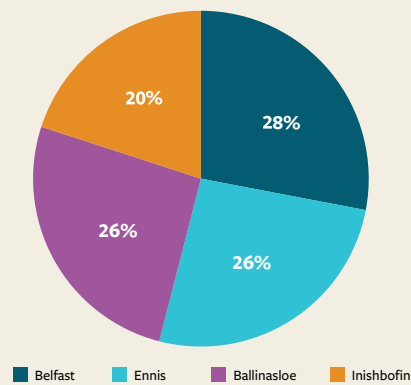
✕ Circle Dancing

✕ Clay and Glass

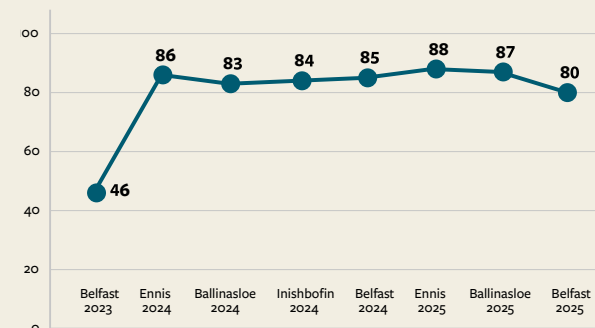
✕ River Shannon Boat Trip and Nature Walk

Birds of a Feather in Numbers

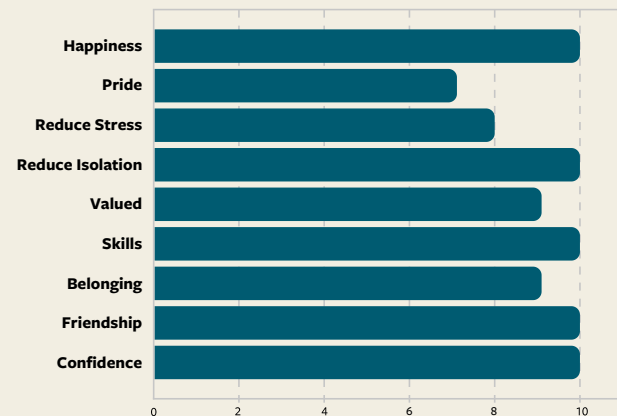
Percentage of Participants by Area



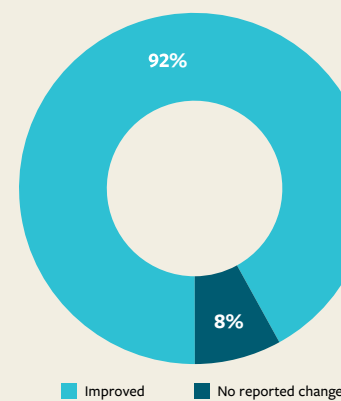
Participant Numbers Attending Residential Workshops



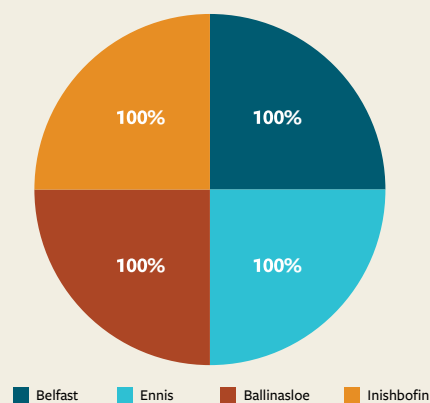
Top Reported Benefits



Wellbeing Improvement



Sustained Group Participation



Intended Next Steps



Continuing Craft

100% of participants intend to continue crafting after Birds of a Feather

Overall Satisfaction

100% Participants expressed a high degree of satisfaction with Birds of a Feather



Birds of a Feather: Ba thionscnamh uile-Éireann é Scéalta ó Oileán Roinnte a fuair tacaíocht ó Chlár Éire Ildánach a tionscnaíodh chun mná ó phobail éagsúla a thabhairt le chéile trí chruthaitheacht. Aithníodh go dtagann comhthuisct chun cinn trí chomhpháirtíocht oibre seachas trí phlé fhoirmeálta — bíodh fíodóireacht, feiltbhrat, cniotáil, scéalaíocht nó cré i gceist. Agus cleachtas cruthaitheach á roinnt acu chuir na rannpháirtithe aithne ar a chéile taobh amuigh den réimse polaitíochta, staire nó tíreolaíochta.

Thug an tionscadal mná le chéile ó Ballymac Friendship Trust (Béal Feirste), Grúpa Ban Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, Grúpa Ceardaíochta Inis Bó Finne, agus Grúpa Pobail Mhná na hInse. Bhí go leor cúlaí éagsúla páirteach sa tionscadal: Caitlicigh, Protastúnaigh, Náisiúnaithe, Dílseoirí, Mionlaigh Eitneacha, an Lucht Siúil, Muintir na nOileán, pobail lár na cathrach, an pobal bodhra, agus daoine aonair a raibh míchumas fisiciúil nó néaltrú orthu. Bhí cuid mhór de na mná seo nach raibh riamh páirteach in aon tionscnamh trasteorann. Thug Comhairle Contae an Chláir i gcomhair le Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe tacaíocht don obair agus rinne Ollscoil Uladh measúnú le cinnte a dhéanamh de go raibh áit ann do gach guth agus eispéireas ó gach rannpháirtí.

Ba thionscnamh uailmhianach é an t-Oileán Roinnte chun comhoibriú, nasc agus comhthuisct ar fud na hÉireann a neartú. Sa bhliain 2023, bhronn réimse an Oileáin Roinnte de Chlár Éire Ildánach os cionn €850,000 ar naoi dtionscadal cruthaitheach agus é mar aidhm acu daoine a thabhairt le chéile

tríd an ealaíon, oidhreacht, agus trí comhoibriú pobail. Ina measc bhí *Birds of a Feather*: Scéalta ó Oileán Roinnte, tionscnamh ban a cheangail naisc idir Béal Feirste, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Inis agus Inis Bó Finne. Agus deontas de €250,000 acu — ceann de na deontais ba mhó sa chlár — bhain *Birds of a Feather* úsáid as ceardaíocht chun talamh slán a chruthú le go mbeadh daoine ó thraidisiúin éagsúla in ann comhrá a bheith acu lena chéile ar bhonn cóimheasa. Chaith siad dhá bhliain ag cruthú oidhreacht bhuan de shaothair chruthaitheacha na mban agus chomh maith leis sin chruthaigh siad cuntas le chéile a léirigh éagsúlacht saoil na mban ar fud an oileáin.

Tá an tuarascáil seo bunaithe ar shonraí a bailíodh thar dhá bhliain trí mheascán de chur chuige ina raibh freagraí ó shuirbhéanna, agallaimh duine le duine, fócasghrúpaí mar aon le tuairimí na rannpháirtithe. De bharr na gcur chuige éagsúla seo bhí stór mór tuisceana ilghnéithí d'eispéiris, tuairimí, agus torthaí na rannpháirtithe a bhain leis

an tionscnamh. De bharr na hanailíse bhí sonraí cáilíochtúla agus cainníochtúla araon ann chun measúnú cuimsitheach a sholáthar maidir le próisis an tionscadail, na tionchair, agus na téamaí le linn a chur chun feidhme.

Bhí ceardlanna lárnach sa tionscadal. Trí cheardaíocht agus scéalaíocht chruthaitheach, bhí comhrá ar thalamh slán idir na rannpháirtithe maidir le féiniúlacht, cultúr, cuimhne, agus muiníneach as spásanna inar mhothaigh siad compordach. Sa dá bhliain bhí tionóil chónaithe in Inis, i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, in Inis Bó Finne agus i mBéal Feirste, rud a thug deis chun áiteanna tionóil shlána neodracha a chruthú—agus bhí deis ag na rannpháirtithe bheith gafa i saoil agus tírdhreacha a chéile.

Bhí dúshlán ann, ar ndóigh. Bhí foighne ag teastáil chun iontaobh a chothú idir phobail ina raibh stair na deighilte agus maidir le lóistíocht chun mná ó Bhéal Féirste, ó bhailte tuaithe mar Inis agus Béal Átha na Sluaighe mar aon le pobal ó Inis Bó Finne a thabhairt le chéile bhí comhordú cúramach ag teastáil. Ach mar sin féin, d'éirigh go seoice leis an tionscadal: cruthaíodh cairdeas, ceistíodh tuairimí, agus d'aimsigh na rannpháirtithe an snáithe a nascann le chéile iad.

D'éirigh le *Birds of a Feather* feidhmiú mar mhúnla ar an mbealach go bhfuil gníomhaíochtaí cruthaitheacha in ann comhrá a chruthú, comhbhá a chothú, agus an bealach a réiteach le haghaidh todhchaí roinnte ar fud an oileáin. Mar thoradh ar mhná a nascadh ó Inis Bó Finne, ó Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, ó Inis agus ó Bhéal Feirste chuir an tionscadal beocht isteach i bhfís an Oileáin Roinnte: daoine ag obair le chéile, ag nascadh le chéile, agus iad ag samhlú todhchaí gheal as an méid a roinn siad.

meeting different people and
learning new things going to
Stormont where our politicians



Grianghraf ag: Emiliya Jereмова

own. The ladies from the south
brought their own craft to sell.
Going to the new library in Ennis
Going to and doing some craft
Meeting the mayor in Ennis and getting
our photo taken with him. It was put
on face book and my daughter was
able to see it

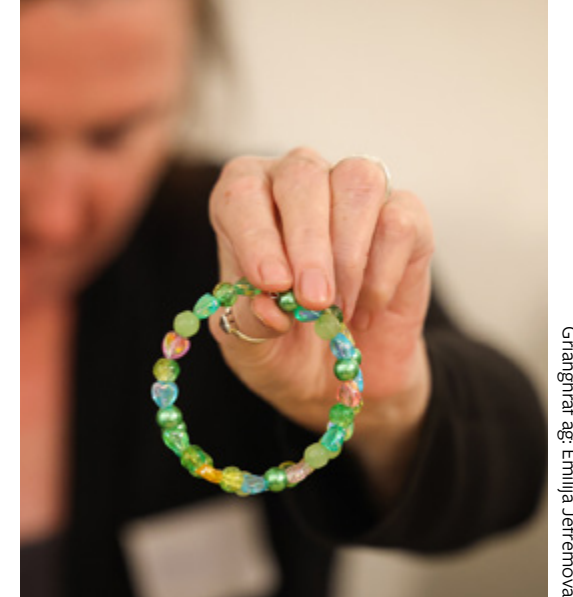
Buailimís leis na Birds of a Feather

Tugadh iad le chéile tríd an tionscadal Oileáin Roinnte, agus rinne *Birds of a Feather* ceiliúradh ar chumhacht na cruthaitheachta chun daoine agus áiteanna ar fud na hÉireann a nascadh lena chéile. Mar thoradh ar cheardaíocht a úsáid mar theanga chomónta d'éirigh le mná ó phobail éagsúla droichid iontaobhe agus samhlaíochta a thógáil taobh amuigh dá dtimpeallacht normálta.

D'fhás nasc buan amach as gníomh a thosaigh mar mhalartán chruthaitheach — agus is cruthúnas é seo ar a tharlaíonn nuair a dhéantar ealaíon agus pobal a nascadh le chéile. Cé go bhfuil difear idir scéal agus tírdhreach s'acu léiríonn gach grúpa an cuimsiú, an fhiosracht agus an lúcháir chéanna. I dteannta a chéile, cuireann siad i gcuimhne dúinn go gcruthaíonn siad oileán níos dlúithe agus níos tuisceanaí chomh maith le rudaí áille a chruthú.



Grianghraf ag: Emilija Jefremova



Grianghraf ag: Emilija Jefremova



Grianghraf ag: Emilija Jefremova

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Grianghraf ag: Eva Birdstisile

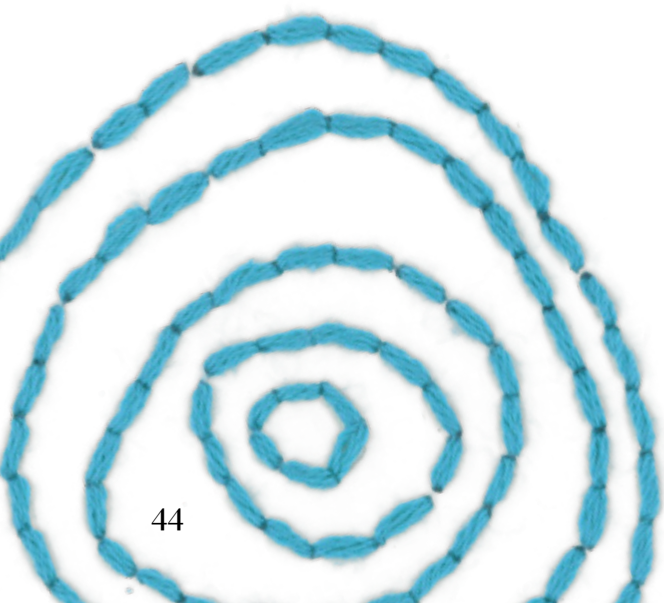
Ballymac Arts and Crafts Club, Béal Feirste, Contae an Dúin

Gach maidin Dé Céadaoin, tagann Ballymac Arts and Crafts Club ag Ballymac Friendship Trust ar an tsaol — áit ina dtagann cruthaitheacht agus pobal le chéile agus áit in bhfuil an gáire chomh tábhachtach leis an gceardaíocht féin. Thosaigh sé amach mar thionól beag áitiúil agus anois is mol breá bríomhar é ina bhfuil cairdeas, foghlaim agus lúcháir roinnte.

Cuirtear fáilte roimh gach duine ag tús gach seisiúin, bíonn cupán tae ann agus comhrá bríomhar fad is atá scéalta á malartú. Go luath ina dhiaidh sin, líonann na boird le dathanna — scaipeann éadaí, snáth, agus péinteanna i bhfústar gníomhaíochta nuair atá na baill ag obair in aice lena chéile agus iad ag spreagadh agus ag gríosú a chéile.

De bharr an tionscadail, tá muinín na mball ag fás, agus féachann siad ar an gclub, ní hamháin mar áit tionóil ach mar ghréasán cruthaitheach atá le scaipeadh taobh amuigh de Bhéal Feirste. Tá dlúthpháirtíocht s’acu níos doimhne agus tá an comhoibriú trasteorann níos leithne, rud a chuireann le saibhreas na ceardaíochta agus le saibhreas an phobail.

Faoi mheán lae, tagann gach duine le chéile le haghaidh lóin a d’ullmhaigh an t-oibrí deonach, Natalie agus foireann na cistine — Bell, Kate, agus Janette. Tá an club go hiomlán féinmhaoinithe agus faoi thionchar an phobail beo beathach ar dhíograis agus ar obair foirne, agus is léiriú é ar chumhacht na cruthaitheachta a thugann daoine le chéile go fadtréimhseach.



Grúpa Ban Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, Contae na Gaillimhe

Bunaíodh é i bhFómhair 2019, agus bhí aidhm shimplí agus chumhachtach ag Grúpa Ban Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe ón tús — spás cairdiúil a chruthú ina bhfuil daoine nua in ann bualadh le mná na háite agus caidreamh a thógáil trí chuimsiú, trí thuiscint agus trí chruthaitheacht. Agus iad ag teacht le chéile go seachtainiúil i Leabharlann Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, beireann an grúpa timpeallacht oscailte agus chairdiúil ar mhaithe le comhrá, comhoibriú agus foghlaim roinnte. Fiú amháin le linn na paidéime, d’fhan na baill le chéile ar líne chun an dlúthchaidreamh eatarthu a choimeád.

De bharr an tionscadail *Birds of a Feather*, thosaigh mná Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe tabhairt faoina gcuid oibre ar bhonn níos leithne. Agus iad ag comhoibriú le grúpaí ar fud an oileáin d’fhoghlaim siad gurb ionann cruthaitheacht agus droichead idir chultúir agus ghlúnta. Tá an t-eispéireas seo i ndiaidh a gcuid féiniúlachta a neartú mar cheannairí pobail agus spreagann sé tiomantas nua maidir le ceiliúradh idirchultúrtha, oideachas agus cuimsiú cruthaitheach.

De réir a chéile ghlac an grúpa páirt i dtionscadail chruthaitheacha éagsúla a gheal an baile — bíodhceardlanna damhsa agus teiripe ealaíona ann, nó suiteála snáthbhuamáil dathúla, Aonach na gCapall a tharlaíonn i mí Dheireadh Fómhair gach bliana san áireamh. Tá ceiliúradh ar chultúr lárnach in a gcuid éitis, agus bíonn tionóil Eid agus a leithéid agus béilí idirchultúrtha roinnte ag cur le dlúthú an phobail.

Tá meascán aoise, náisiúntachtaí, agus eispéiris sa ghrúpa agus tá a scéal agus cruthaitheacht féin le soláthar ag gach duine. Agus croí oscailte agus intinn fiosracha acu, leanann siad orthu le droichead a thógáil tríd ealaíon agus cairdeas—ag múnú pobail atá fréamhaithe i gcuimsiú, i samhlaíocht agus i gcóimheas.

Grúpa Pobail Mhná na hInse, Inis, Contae an Chláir

Is grúpa bríomhar agus cuimsitheach é Grúpa Pobail Mhná na hInse (EWCG) atá tiomanta do chruthaitheacht a chothú, do nasc, agus do chumasú i measc mná i gContae an Chláir. Agus féinléiriú, tacaíocht fhrithpháirteach agus gníomhaíochas éadrom lárnach ina gcuid luachanna, beireann an grúpa deis do mhná chun teacht le chéile, roinnt lena chéile agus fás trí cheardaíocht, comhrá agus rannpháirtíocht an phobail.

Toisc go raibh siad páirteach sa tionscadal *Birds of a Feather* tá tuairim ní ba láidre ag an ngrúpa i bhféidearthachtaí athraithe na cruthaitheachta. Agus iad ag obair le mná eile ó áiteanna eile ar an oileán tugadh spreagadh do na mná chun a gcuid tuairimí a leathnú, a gcuid cleachtas comhoibríoch a mhionchoigeartú agus a n-aidhm roinnte a athdhearbhú. De bharr an eispéiris tá smaointe nua ag teacht chun cinn maidir leis na healaíona sa phobal mar aon le gníomhaíochas éadrom — rud a shabhríonn oidhreacht an ghrúpa maidir le cumasú trí chruthaitheacht.

D’fhorbair meon s’acu ó ghrúpa ban eile a bhí ann roimhe seo, tá an EWCG faoi bhláth trí thionscadail chomhoibríoch, tob-shiopaí séasúracha, agus ceardlanna scileanna a dhéanann ceiliúradh ar chruthaitheacht agus ar phobal araon. Toisc go bhfuil bunreacht soiléir mar aon le luachanna roinnte ina n-áirítear eitic, cuimsiú agus cúram, déanann an grúpa cinnte de go mbíonn meas á léiriú ar gach ball.

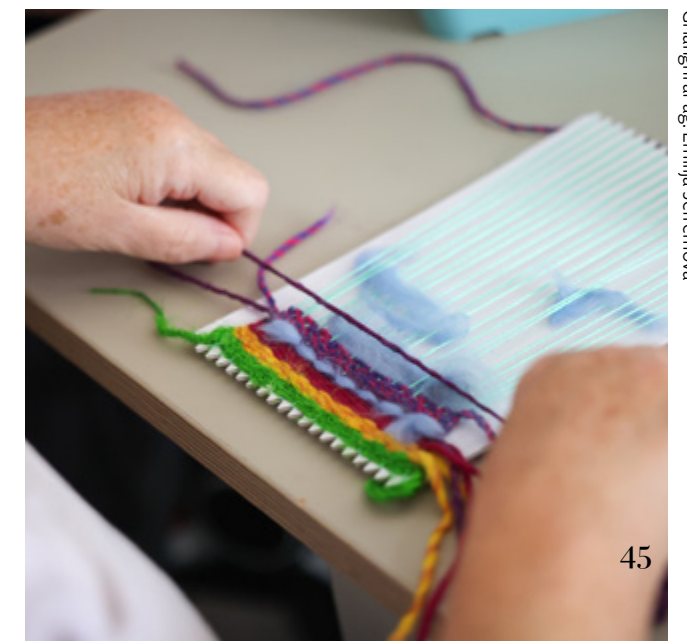
Agus struchtúr acu le haghaidh inbhuanaitheachta agus oscailteachta, cuireann an EWCG fáilte roimh mhná ó gach cúlra le go mbeidh siad páirteach i dtionscnaimh chruthaitheacha agus shóisialta. Ag gach cruinniú agus tionscadal, chomh maith le healaíon a chruthú — cothaíonn siad muinín, cairdeas agus muintearas. Déanann a gcuid oibre athbheochaint ar naisc agus déanann sí athghabháil ar scéalta a chumasaíonn na mná agus a neartaíonn an pobal i gcoitinne.

Grúpa Ceardaíochta Inis Bó Finne / Cruthaitheacha Oileáin, Inis Bó Finne, Contae na Gaillimhe

Thosaigh Grúpa Ceardaíochta Inis Bó Finne amach mar ghrúpa chruthaitheach de mhuintir an oileáin a raibh spéis chomónta acu i gcruithaitheacht agus dúil acu in áilleacht uathúil an oileáin agus i saol an oileáin a cheiliúradh. Agus iad bunaithe sa chruthaitheacht agus sa phobal, tá an grúpa i ndiaidh úsáid a bhaint as an tionscadal *Birds of a Feather* mar dheis chun teicnící nua a aithint, muinín a chothú, agus naisc a neartú ina ngréasán áitiúil ealaíontóirí agus cheardaithe.

De bharr spreagtha, meantóireachta, agus eispéiris tá an grúpa i ndiaidh muinín agus uailmhian a fhorbairt. Bunaithe ar a rannpháirtíocht in *Birds of a Feather* tá siad i ndiaidh a bhféiniúlachta a athchruthú agus iad féin a athbhrandáil mar Chruthaitheacha Oileáin, Inis Bó Finne, Contae na Gaillimhe — agus is ainm é a thugann tús áite dóibh mar aon le treoir nua.

San am i láthair, tá Cruthaitheacha Oileáin ag cothú pobal ealaíonta atá bríomhar agus nasctha ar Inis Bó Finne, rud a bheireann deis do chomhoibriú, do roinnt scileanna, agus do chomhthacaíocht. Tá an grúpa tiomanta do thraidisiúin ceardaíochta an oileáin a chothú agus tabhairt faoi mhodhanna léirithe a bhaineann le saol an oileáin sa lá atá inniu ann. Tá obair leanúnach ar bun acu chun cruthaitheacht, naisc agus spiorad pobail a tharraingt le chéile — rud a dhéanann cinnte de go mairfidh *Birds of a Feather* i ngach píosa lámhdhéanta agus i ngach scéal.

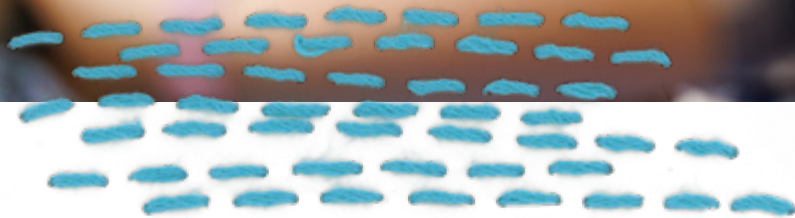


Le chéile sa Chruthaitheacht

Cuimsíonn na grúpaí seo le chéile croí *Birds of a Feather* go smior — pobail atá tugtha don chruthaitheacht, don chairdeas agus d'aidhm chomórta. Toisc go dtagann siad le chéile chun rudaí a chruthú, tá siad i ndiaidh droichid na tuisceana a thógáil atá níos leithne ná gnó na ceardaíochta féin. Cothaíonn gach snáithe, stríocadh scuaibe, agus béile roinnte na naisc — rud a chiallaíonn go gcruthaíonn daoine rudaí áille mar aon le hoileán níos dlúithe nuair a thugann siad faoi le croí agus le lámha oscailte.



Grianghraf ag: Eamon Ward



Grianghraf ag: Eamon Ward

Eispéireas *Birds of a Feather*: Ag Cruthú Nasc

Ba thionscadal cruthaitheach agus cultúrtha é *Birds of a Feather* a mhair ar feadh 24 mhí agus thug sé mná le chéile ón tuaisceart agus ón deisceart chun naisc a dhéanamh, chun a bheith cruthaitheach agus chun scéalta a roinnt trí cheardaíocht agus chomhrá. Bhí an tionscadal ar siúl idir 2023 agus 2025 agus bhí sraith tionól chónaithe ann i mBéal Feirste, in Inis, i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe agus in Inis Bó Finne.

Leag na mná a bhí páirteach ann gach tionól cónaithe amach go cúramach, ag déanamh cinnte de go raibh a nglórtha, a scileanna agus a gcuid spéiseanna lárnach sa chlár. Bhí na heispéiris curtha le chéile chun deiseanna a sholáthar chun scileanna reatha a roinnt, ceardaíocht nua a fhoghlaim, eolas maidir leis an earnáil mhiondíola agus fiontraíochta a fhorbairt agus eolas a bhailiú maidir le stair agus cultúr gach áite.

Le linn an tionscadail, ghlac na rannpháirtithe páirt in éagsúlacht mhór ceardlanna cruthaitheacha. San áireamh leo seo bhí stionsaláil ar scláta, mósáicí, ceardaíocht le cnaipí, feiltbhrat fliuch, fíodóireacht, péinteáil, mufaí útamála, sníomh olla, cniotáil, bróidnéireacht, coróin blátha, agus scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach, chomh maith le damhsa ar an tSean-Nós agus damhsa céilí a rinne ceiliúradh ar an cheol thraidisiúnta agus ar ghluaiseacht.

Turas *Birds of a Feather*:

2023

Béal Feirste – Nollaig

2024

Inis – Feabhra

Béal Átha na Sluaighe –
Meitheamh

Inis Bó Finne – Meán Fómhair

Béal Feirste – Samhain

2025

Inis – Feabhra

Béal Átha na Sluaighe –
Meitheamh

Béal Feirste – Meán Fómhair

Baile Átha Luain – Nollaig

Ba chuid lárnach de *Birds of a Feather* an dlúthchaidreamh. San áireamh le gach cuairt bhí béilí roinnte, siúlóidí, agus ócáidí sóisialta, rud a spreag na mná chun meascadh lena chéile taobh amuigh dá ngrúpaí féin agus chun cairdeas nua a thosú. Ba mhinic a bhí na hócáidí seo ar na cinn ba thaitneamhaí—mar rinneadh scéalta agus gáire a mhalartú agus tháinig smaointe nua chun cinn go nádúrtha. De bharr na béime ar chomhrá agus ar scéalaíocht bhí deis ag na rannpháirtithe machnamh a dhéanamh ar a gcuid eispéiris féin, muinín a chothú, agus saibhreas a gcuid ionchuir chruthaitheacha agus chultúrtha a aithint.

Leag an tionscadal béim ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le taisteal, féinfhollasú, agus naisc trasphobail. I ndiaidh dóibh cuairteanna a thabhairt ar a chéile agus foghlaim faoi thraidisiúin áitiúla d'fhoghlaim na rannpháirtithe faoi cheardaíocht, faoi chultúr agus faoi shlí maireachtála a chéile. Amach as sraith chónaithe chruthaitheacha d'fhás gréasán cairdis, foghlaim chomónta agus comhoibriú atá beo i gcónaí i ndiaidh don tionscadal críochnú.

Mar chuid lárnach de *Birds of a Feather* rinneadh ceiliúradh ar chumhacht na cruthaitheachta chun easaontas a réiteach, muinín a chothú, agus naisc phobail a neartú. Agus iad ag déanamh, ag roinnt, agus ag aithint le chéile chruthaigh na mná, ní hamháin ceardaíocht álainn, ach cuimhní buana agus naisc fhiúntacha a mhairfidh i bhfad i ndiaidh deireadh an tionscadail.

Ag Teacht Le Chéile:

An Chumhacht a Thagann ó Dhéanamh, ó Roinnt agus ó Mhuintearas

Thar dhá bhliain iontacha mar chuid de *Birds of a Feather*: d'éirigh le Scéalta ó Oileán Roinnte scéal a chruthú a bhaineann le naisc i bhfad óna chéile, difríochtaí agus cruthaitheacht. Ó chósta gaofar Inis Bó Finne go dtí seomraí ceardaíochta Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, agus ó hallaí pobail na hInse go dtí gleo cathrach Bhéal Feirste, tháinig mná le chéile ó gach áit ar an oileán chun foghlaim, déanamh, gáire agus chun páirt a ghlacadh.

Cé gur thosaigh sé amach mar chuireadh simplí—chun cruthú agus roinnt—d'fhás caibidil cairdis agus athraithe. Le linn na chéad bhliana cuireadh dúshraith le haghaidh iontaobhe agus féinfhollasaithe; agus sa dara bliain cuireadh leis na naisc agus an sonas. I rith an ama, d'aimsigh na rannpháirtithe, ní hamháin scileanna nua ach muinín sa bhreis, comhluadar agus dlúthpháirtíocht.

Ag Fearadh Fáilte agus ag Cothú Muiníne

Ag an tús d’admhaigh go leor de na rannpháirtithe go raibh siad neirbhíseach agus nach raibh siad cinnte cad a bhí i ndán dóibh.

“ Bhí mé corraithe nuair a chuala mé faoin tionscadal sa chéad dul síos ach bhí mé píosa beag neirbhíseach freisin. Bhí sé an-suimiúil, eolasach agus cairdiúil go dtí seo.”

“ Thaitin sé go mór liom aithne a chur ar dhaoine nua agus go leor scileanna ceardaíochta nua a fhoghlaim atá an-éagsúil. Cuireadh fáilte mhór romham ón chéad lá.”



Grianghraf ag: Emilija Jefremova

Ón chéad uair a dtáinig siad le chéile bhí cairdiúlacht agus oscailteacht mar ghnéithe lárnacha in obair an ghrúpa. Tháinig mná ó chontaetha éagsúla, a gcuid scéalta féin acu, ach d’aimsigh siad talamh slán de bharr a gcuid fiosrachta agus cineáltais.

“ Is cuimhin liom ag siúl isteach sa seomra ar an gcéad lá, agus mé ag smaoineamh, ‘an nglacfar liom?’ Ach taobh istigh de dheich mbomaite, thug duine éigin cupán tae dom agus dúirt, ‘Tar agus suigh anseo in aice liom.’ B’in é—bhí mé i gceart.”



D’fhás a lán as an bhfáilte sin; ba é an bunús de gach rud cruthaitheach a tháinig ina dhiaidh. Fásann samhlaíocht amach as féinmhuinín.

“ Is rud simplí é, ach nuair a bheannaítear duit trí mheangadh gáire mothaíonn tú go nglactar leat. Is cúis spreagtha é le hiarracht a dhéanamh.”

Fiú amháin na heachtraí spráíúla—ar nós an damhsa—chuimsigh sé an dlúthpháirtíocht.

“ Bhain mé an-sult as an damhsa ar an tSean-Nós: craic mhaith agus bhí sé go deas bogadh timpeall!”

Bhí gáire agus gluaiseacht croí lárnach sna naisc—rud a chuir i gcuimhne do gach duine go mbaineann an chruthaitheacht le sonas an méid céanna leis an cheardaíocht.



Grianghraf ag: Emilija Jefremova



Cruthaitheacht mar Mhisneach

Maidir le cuid mhór de na mná, bhronn *Birds of a Feather* an chéad chéim isteach sa chleachtas cruthaitheach nó deis chun filleadh air i ndiaidh na mblianta. Maidir le ceardlanna an tionscadail—agus idir mhósáicí agus phéinteáil, fhíodóireacht agus scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach ina measc, bhí áit shlán ann chun iarracht a dhéanamh, botúin a dhéanamh agus muinín a athbheochaint.

“ Bhí na mósáicí casta, ach tá mé ríméadach as an éan a chruthaigh mé.”

“ Nuair a scoilt mé mo chéad phíos, rinne gach duine gáire agus ansin chuidigh siad liom chun é a dheisiú. Sa deireadh ba é an ceann ab ansa liom. Sin mar atá an tionscadal seo—foghlaim, gáire agus deisiú.”

Obair phearsanta agus chomhchoiteann araon a bhí ann. Bhí gach rud a cruthaíodh ina ghníomh beag misnigh—léiriú ar fhoighne, bhuanseasmhacht agus ar spraoi.

“ Ba bheannacht é smaointe agus leideanna a roinnt leis na mná iontacha seo go léir. Tá sé go hálainn féachaint ar na mná ag baint sult as an gceardaíocht agus gach a chruthaíonn siad. Tugann sé misneach dom.”

Fuair na rannpháirtithe amach cad a n-oibríonn trí sheifteanna éagsúla a úsáid agus d’fhoghlaim siad nach mbaineann an chruthaitheacht le foirfeacht—ach go mbaineann sé le próiseas, taiscéalaíocht, agus le flaithiúlacht.

“ Gach uair go ndéanaimid rud éigin, bímid ag foghlaim óna chéile. Tá an chruthaitheacht ag dul ó lámh go lámh.”

D’éirigh leis an gcéad stríocadh scuaibe éiginnte, an chéad snáithe a tarraingíodh tríd an éadach, an chéad scéal roinnte a bheith mar shiombail athbheochana.

“ Cheap mé ariamh anall nach raibh mé cruthaitheach. Anois agus mé ag faire timpeall—tá mé den tuairim nach raibh de dhíth orm ach na daoine cearta.”

Cairdeas, Spraoi, agus Eachtraí Roinnte

Más rud é gurb í cruthaitheacht an splanc, ba é cairdeas an lasair a choinnigh an beocht sa tionscadal. Sna bailte agus ar an gcósta mhaígh na mná go bhfuair siad ní hamháin comhbhádóirí, ach fíorchairde.

“ Bhuaill mé leis an oiread sin daoine cairdiúla agus cruthaitheacha. Tá sé chomh tábhachtach dom bualadh le daoine a bhfuil na spéiseanna céanna acu.”

“ Thug mé cuairt ar áiteanna den chéad uair agus d’fhoghlaim mé an oiread sin faoi bhailte agus faoi na háiteanna as a dtagann na mná go léir. Thaitin Inis Bó Finne go mór liom, agus tá mé ag súil le dul go Béal Feirste.”

“ Bhí sé go hiontach cairde nua a dhéanamh agus cultúir nua a bhlaiseadh ar bhealach speisialta.”

Tháinig féinfhollasú i gcónaí mar thoradh ar an taisteal agus na ceardlanna roinnte. Bhronn gach turas tírdhreacha nua, scéalta agus traidisiúin—rud a chuir i gcuimhne do na rannpháirtithe go mbíonn naisc ann ar bhonn áitiúil agus forleathan.

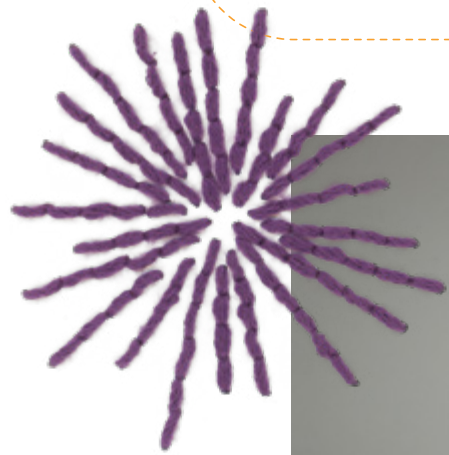
“ Bhain mé an-sult as na turais go léir agus foghlaim faoi na háiteanna agus faoi na daoine. I ndiaidh dom aithne a chur ar na háiteanna nua fuair mé léargas ar stair an oileáin.”

“ Agus mé i mo sheasamh ag féachaint amach ar an bhfarraige in Inis Bó Finne, thug mé faoi deara cé chomh nasctha is atáimid go léir—fiú amháin nuair atáimid i bhfad óna chéile.”

D’fhorbair caidreamh de bharr gach cuairte: gáire ar bhusanna, comhráite le linn béilí agus bhí gníomhartha cineáltais mar chuid den phróiseas chruthaitheach.

“ Bhí craic iontach agam. Bhí greann na mban ar fheabhas. Craic ó thús go deireadh.”

“ Mothaím go bhfuil mé ag teacht chun a’ bhaile ag gach cuairt—maireann an sonas ar feadh i bhfad i ndiaidh dom gach duine a fheiceáil.”



Grianghraf ag: Emilija Jefremova

Fás, Muinín agus Athbheochaint

Bhí tionchar ag an tionscadal i bhfad taobh amuigh den chruthaitheacht ar fad. Do chuid mhór acu, thug sé féinmhuinín, neamhspleáchas, agus an sásamh a bhí ann as triail a bhaint as rud nua.

“ Thosaigh mé ag freastal ar ghrúpaí éagsúla i mo bhaile ach bhí mé i gcónaí neirbhíseach maidir le scileanna nua a thriail, ach anois ní chuireann aon rud cosc orm. Níor mhothaigh mé riamh go raibh an oiread sin saoirse agam chun triail a bhaint as dúshlán nua mar tá a fhios agam go bhfuilimid go léir sa bhád amháin.”

“ I ndiaidh dom dul ar scor, bhí a fhios agam go bhféadfainn a bheith scoite amach ón bpoball, ach de bharr an eispéiris seo mothaím go bhfuil mé páirteach in eachtra speisialta.”

“ Bíonn rud nua ann gach lá. Comhráite nua. Ceardaíocht nua. Iontach!”

Tháinig fírinne níos leithne as na hócáidí: is é sin gur féidir leis an gcruthaitheacht, nuair atá sé á cothú sa phobal, an bealach go bhfeiceann daoine orthu féin a athrú agus na féidearthachtaí atá acu.

“ Is duine nua mé i ndiaidh dom bheith páirteach sa ghrúpa. Chuir sé i gcuimhne dom nach bhfuil sé riamh rómhall chun tosú arís.”

“ Tá mé bródúil asam féin arís. Bhí an mothúchán dearmadta agam.”

Ceannaireacht Roinnte agus Teacht Aniar

Sa dara bliain thosaigh an tionscadal ar chéim nua d'úinéireacht roinnte. D'éirigh leis na mná a thosaigh amach mar fhoghlaimeoirí a bheith mar cheannairí, mar riarthóirí, agus mar mheantóirí. Bhí an gréasán a thóg siad láidir go leor chun glacadh le hathruithe agus le dúshláí.

“ I ndiaidh na hathruithe ceannaireachta go léir inár ngrúpa áitiúil, mothaím gur fhorbair mé scileanna pearsanta agus gur chothaigh mé muinín taobh istigh den ghrúpa de bharr na bhfreagrachtaí nua a thóg mé orm féin.”

“ Nuair a d'athraigh ceannaireacht an ghrúpa, bhí sé deacair do chuid dár mná na láithreacha a bhaint amach, ach de bharr cumarsáid shoiléir agus tacaíocht an oibrí dheonaí, bhíomar in ann é a réiteach go gasta. Bhíomar in ann teagmháil leanúnach a choimeád tríd WhatsApp.”

D'éirigh le réiteach fadhbanna praiticiúla a bheith ina bhealach eile cruthaitheachta, rud a léirigh an bealach gur daingníodh spiorad an ghrúpa.

“ De réir mar a lean gach cuairt an tionscadail ar aghaidh d'fhás cairdeas an grúpa níos mó.”

Spás le haghaidh Oscailteachta agus Leighis

Ba é ceann de na ghnéithe ba shuntasáí de *Birds of a Feather* ná an bealach go raibh spás ann i gcomhair ionracais. Agus lámha gnóthach, croíthe ar oscailt chas an comhrá go minic i dtreo nithe pearsanta.

“ Agus fios a bheith againn go bhfuil grá againn go léir don cheardaíocht agus go mothaímid slán agus tábhachtach ionas gur féidir linn caint faoi mheabhairshláinte, fadhbanna ban, brón, agus réimse leathan de cheisteanna. Is spás thar a bheith speisialta a cruthaíodh de bharr an tionscadail seo.”

“ Bíonn níos mó ná ceardaíocht i gceist – óir is leigheas é. Bímid ag gáire, bímid ag éisteacht, agus tugaimid misneach dá chéile.”

D'amharc na rannpháirtithe ar na ceardlanna mar thearmann—áit ina raibh suaimhneas fiú amháin le linn tréimhsí dúshlánacha.

“ Tá rud éigin faoi a bheith ag suí le chéile, ag obair go ciúin, agus beireann sé deis le bheith ag caint faoi ábhair thábhachtacha ar bhonn níos compordáí.”

“ Bhí laethanta ann nuair a shábháil an gáire mé. Chuir sé i gcuimhne dom go mbíonn sonas ann fiú amháin le linn tréimhsí dúshlánacha.”

Sa timpeallacht seo is ionann cruthaitheacht agus cúram dá chéile—bealach comónta leighis.



Grianghraf ag: Justin Kernaghan

Grianghraf ag: Eva Birdsthistle



Grianghraf ag: Eva Birdsthistle

Áilleacht na hÁite agus na Cuimhne

Bhí ról ag tíreolas an tionscadail chun an spiorad a chruthú. Bhí spreagadh ar fáil ó gach áit, idir an oileán agus an mhórhí. Chruthaigh an áit bé agus cuimhne araon.

“ Is cuimhne luachmhar é coróin blátha a dhéanamh ar Inis Bó Finne: scil speisialta le foghlaim in áit chomh draíochtúil.”

“ Bhí sé chomh speisialta a bheith ag fí le Catherine ar Inis Bó Finne, tá píosa álainn fíodóireachta agam atá ar taispeáint sa bhaile.”

“ Is léiriú é an taipéis ar na cuimhní a chuireamar le chéile; is seoid í.”

Mar thoradh ar gach saothair—mósáicí, taipéisí, bróidnéireacht—léiríodh cuid den scéal roinnte go soiléir, agus ba chuimhní iad ar fad ar na naisc a cruthaíodh.

“ Is é an chuimhne bhuan atá agam ná ceann gach duine cromtha síos, ag caint agus ag cruthú agus ag roinnt scéalta.”

Mar thoradh air seo ar fad chruthaigh na rannpháirtithe léarscáil dlúthpháirtíochta—fite fuaite sna chontaetha agus sna pobail go léir.



Grianghraf ag: Emilija Jefremova

Cruthaitheacht, Fiontraíocht agus Léargas Nua

D’fhás muinín agus uailmhian i gcomhar lena chéile. Do chuid acu, las sé splanc na fiontraíochta; do chuid eile, ba dhearbhu é ar an mbealach gur mheas siad a gcuid ama agus scileanna.

“De bharr na hoiliúna maidir le miondíola tá mé ag déanamh machnaimh ar an gceardaíochtagus is cúis spreagtha dom smaoineamh go mothaíonn mná go mbímid dár meas faoinár luach.”

“Roimhe seo, ní bhíodh sé de mhisneach agam labhairt os comhair aon ghrúpa. San am i láthair, tá mé i gceannas ar cheardlann bheag agus tá mé ag roinnt scileanna ceardaíochta le mná eile.”

“Bhíodh sé de nós agam smaoineamh gur bhain mo chuid ceardaíochta liom féin amháin, ach feicim anois an bealach go nascann siad muid lena chéile. Is cúis bhróid é sin.”

Léirigh an t-athrú ó chaitheamh aimsire cruthaitheach go dtí fiontar cruthaitheach, ní hamháin féidearthachtaí gnó, ach deis cumasaithe freisin.

“Tá meas nua agam ar luach na ceardaíochta agus luach na cruthaitheachta.”

“Beidh tionchar ag an eispéireas seo orm sna míonna agus sna blianta amach romhainn agus beidh mé in ann tarraingt as tobar an eolais agus é a roinnt le tuilleadh mná thart orm.”

Oidhreacht an Naisc

Agus dhá bhliain caite ag cruthú agus ag teacht le chéile tá *Birds of a Feather* i ndiaidh cruthú go bhfuil cruthaitheacht in ann droichid idir dhaoine a thógáil—bíodh daoine aonair, pobail nó contaetha i gceist. Tá an tionchar le brath sa gháire, sa mhuinín agus sa chairdeas a théann amach ó aon cheardlann ar leith.

“Táimid nasctha in oiread bealaí de bharr ár n-eispéiris saoil roinnte agus ár gcuid ceardaíochta.”

“Tháinig an tionscadal seo ag am nuair a theastaigh comhlúadar go mór uaim agus de bharr an gháire go léir tháinig forbairt thar na bearta ar mo chuid muiníne.”



Tá dlúthchairdeas mar oidhreacht bheo sa chás seo—gréasán de chúram a mhairfidh ar feadh i bhfad i ndiaidh deireadh an tionscadail.

“Bhíodh faitíos orm ariamh anall maidir le páirt a ghlacadh, ach anois tá mé slán sábháilte agus páirteach i rud iontach speisialta.”

“Motháim go bhfuil mé saor chun triail a bhaint as aon rud.”

“Tháinig mé chun éin a dhéanamh — ach i ndáiríre is mise a d’fhoghlaim conas eitilt.”

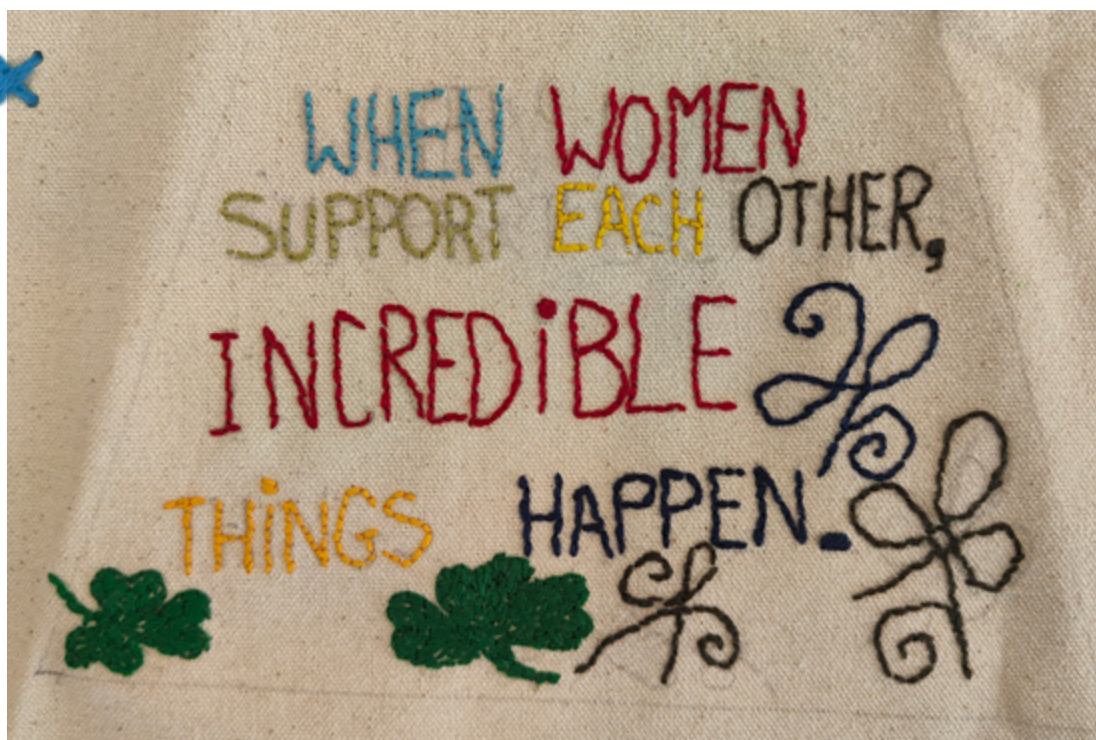
Cumhacht na Cruthaitheachta Roinnte

Agus dhá bhliain caite ag gáire, ag foghlaim agus cruthaitheacht roinnte tá *Birds of a Feather* níos mó ná tionscadal—is gluaiseacht chúram, fiosrachta agus misnigh cruthaitheachta é. Thaispeáin sé, nuair a thagann mná le chéile chun rudaí a dhéanamh agus chun éisteacht lena chéile, go gcruthaíonn siad rud níos mó na saothair s'acu: cruthaíonn siad pobal speisialta.

Amach as an gcéad teagmháil idir strainséirí tá gréasán marthanach cairdis, muiníne, agus sonais. Cuireann sé i gcuimhne dúinn nach mbaineann sé lena dhéanaimid lenár lámha—baineann sé lena dtógaimid lenár gcroí.

“Tá rud speisialta tógtha againn a mhairfidh níos faide ná aon cheardaíocht. Is gréasán cineáltais agus muiníne é a fhásann i rith an ama.”

Seo é an tús agus leanfaimid ar aghaidh le chéile: agus is cruthúnas é go mbíonn toradh rathúil ann nuair a dhéantar cruthaitheacht agus comhbhá a mheascadh le chéile.



Grianghraf ag: Eva Birdsthistle

Oidhreacht *Birds of a Feather*: Ceachtanna Foghlamtha agus Cuimhní Cinn

Anois agus dhá bhliain caite ag *Birds of a Feather*: Scéalta ó Oileán Roinnte tá saibhreas s'aige níos soiléire. Thosaigh sé amach mar thionscadal a thug mná le chéile ó Inis Bó Finne, ó Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, ó Inis agus ó Bhéal Feirste agus anois is scéal cumhachtach na cruthaitheachta, naisc agus aidhme roinnte é.

Sa dá bhliain de cheardlanna, de chónaitheacht, de thaisteal agus de chomhrá fuair na mná scileanna, ní hamháin scileanna nua as an tionscadal ach an deis chun muinín, pobal agus sonas a bhaint amach. Nuair a thagann mná le chéile chun rudaí a dhéanamh, a roinnt agus chun a gcuid samhlaíochta a úsáid bíonn impleachtaí rathúla ann — a théann i bhfeidhm ar shaol gach duine, a chruthaíonn cairdeas, rud a fhágann oidhreacht mharthanach.

Tugann na cuimhní cinn na príomhcheachtanna le chéile, mar aon leis an léargas agus na torthaí comónta den turas oileáin roinnte seo.

1. An chéad chéim: Sábháilteacht, Fáilte agus Iontaoibh

Ón gcéad lá bhí *Birds of a Feather* beo ar chairdeas agus ar chuimsiú. Bhí go leor de na mná nach raibh a fhios acu cad a bhí i ndán dóibh — bhí siad neirbhíseach faoi bheith páirteach i ngrúpaí nua nó bualadh le strainséirí — ach go luath ina dhiaidh sin bhí siad ar a sáimhín só de bharr cineáltais na mban eile.

“ Bhí mé neirbhíseach ag dul isteach agus ag gáire ag teacht amach.”

“ Bhí an oiread fáilte romham gur shocraigh mé isteach láithreach.”

Léirigh an tionscadal go dtéann sábháilteacht na mothúchán agus an chruthaitheacht le chéile. Nuair a bhíonn mná ar a gcompord, téann siad sa seans, roinneann siad smaointe, agus cuireann siad iad féin in iúl gan srian. B’ionann an iontaoibh sin agus croí *Birds of a Feather* — léiriú praiticiúil d’éiteas an Oileáin Roinnte i bhfeidhm.

“ Ní neart go cur le chéile.”

“ Cibé áit a ndeachamar bhíomar ar ár suaimhneas.”

2. Freastal ar Dhoimhneacht agus Luas

Tháinig a lán cruthaitheachta amach as na ceardlanna agus as an gcónaitheacht — bíodh bróidnéireacht, péinteáil, mósáicí, damhsa nó scríbhneoireacht i gceist. Thaitin an saibhreas agus an dúshlán leis na rannpháirtithe ach chomh maith leis sin roinn siad lena chéile an gá atá le cothromaíocht.

“ Is aoibhinn liom an chruthaitheacht, ach in amanna b’fhearr liom píosa beag níos mó ama díreach chun suí ag caint agus m’anáil a tharraingt ar mo shuaimhneas.”

“ Bíonn daoine chomh gafa sin ag cruthú gur lú seans atá ann chun roinnt: tá an fhéidearthacht ann chun tuilleadh aithne a chur ar a chéile.”

Éiríonn le cruthaitheacht má thugtar fúithi go deas réidh, agus gan aon bhrú. Tharla cuid de na hócáidí ab fhearr idir na seisiúin éagsúla — nuair a bhí daoine ag taistil, ag roinnt béilí, nó i mbun comhrá ciúine nuair a tháinig gáire agus scéalta chun cinn go nádúrtha.

“ Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine, agus bainfidh mé sásamh as na cuimhní iontacha go léir.”

3. Cruthaitheacht mar Mhuinín agus Athrú

Ar cheann de na ceachtanna ba shoiléire ó *Birds of a Feather* ná go dtacaíonn cruthaitheacht le muinín agus sláinte. D’fhoghlaim na mná seanscileanna arís, d’fhoghlaim siad cinn nua agus d’fhorbair siad a gcuid scileanna.

“ Chuir mé iontas orm féin — bhí mo lámha chun tosaigh ar m’intinn.”

“ Bhí botúin mar chuid den scéal. B’in an uair gur imigh an fhaitíos agus gur thosaigh mé ag baint sult as.”

“ Ní raibh bróidnéireacht déanta agam ó bhí mé óg, ach tháinig an modh oibre ar ais — agus cuid díom féin a bhí dearmadta ón tréimhse sin i mo shaol.”

Do chuid acu b’ionann cruthaitheacht agus leigheas — bealach chun gach rud a thógáil go bog, nasc a dhéanamh, agus mothúcháin a léiriú trí dathanna, trí éadaí agus trí ghluaiseacht.

“ Thaitin sé go mór liom an bhróidnéireacht a athbheochaint. Is rud álainn dul i mbun ceardaíochta gan aon bhuaireamh. Cothaíonn sé cumas agus cumhacht.”

“ Am ar shiúil, am ar leithligh, agus am dom féin — ar an mbealach is dearfaí agus is áille.”

D’éirigh leis an tionscadal feasacht ar an gcomhshaol a chothú ar bhealach chiúin chumhachtach. Chuir go leor de na ceardlanna béim ar athchúrsáil ábhair, ag athshlánú olla, agus ag cur beocht ar ais i dteicstílí. Roinn na mná modhanna inbhuanaithe lena chéile, ag cruthú áilleachta agus ag déanamh éadaí a caitheadh ar leataobh á athbheochaint.

“ D’úsáideamar cibé rud a bhí againn — fuilleach olla, seanléinte, píosaí ribíní — agus ar bhealach éigin tháinig sé ar fad le chéile.”

“ Tá rud iontach sásúil faoi rud éigin nua a chruthú ó rud a bhí i mbaol caite amach.”

D’éirigh le héiteas na seiftiúlachta cúram comhshaoil a nascadh le cumasú cruthaitheach — in ómós do thraidisiúin an oileáin i leith deisithe.

“ Níl aon rud ceart nó mícheart: níl ann ach cruthaitheacht, neart sonais — agus gan aon rud curtha amú.”

4. Nasc idir Fhad agus Éagsúlacht

D'éirigh go geal le *Birds of a Feather* toisc go raibh sé bunaithe ar oileán roinnte. Luaigh na rannpháirtithe go leanúnach cé chomh sona is a bhí siad bualadh le mná ó chontaetha éagsúla, ó chultúir éagsúla agus ó ghlúnta éagsúla — agus ag aithint na gcosúlachtaí eatarthu.

“Thángamar ó threonna éagsúla, ach mhothaigh mé go rabhamar ar fad ag bogadh sa treo céanna.”

“Mairfidh an comhthuiscint idir na mná i mo chuimhne, ba chuma cárbh as dúinn.”

“Tá mná ó áiteanna éagsúla in Eirinn in ann nascadh lena chéile — in ainneoin aoise, cultúir, nó náisiúntachta.”

D'fhás an caidreamh de bharr an taistil. Agus iad ag cur aithne ar Inis, ar Inis Bó Finne, ar Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, agus ar Bhéal Feirste bhí deis ag na rannpháirtithe foghlaim faoi áiteanna éagsúla agus an stair áitiúil — agus chuir siad aithne ar a chéile.

“Agus mé in áit nua den chéad uair, bhí tuiscint nua agam ar an oileán — ní briste, ach roinnte.”

“Bhí sé an-tábhachtach bualadh le mná ó gach cúlra. Mairfidh na naisc i gcónaí.”

Mar chuid de na malartáin seo — gáire ar bhusanna, béilí le chéile, i mbun ceardaíochta le hais a chéile — léirigh na mná an próiseas síochána ag an leibhéal ba bhunúsaí.

“Thógamar comhthuiscint trí chairdeas — go ciúin, ach go daingean.”

comhroinn

5. Ó Rannpháirtíocht go dtí Cumasú

Faoin am go raibh an dá bhliain thart, tháinig go leor ceannairí i measc na mban chun cinn — ag múineadh, ag eagrú, agus ag roinnt a gcuid scileanna le daoine eile. D'fhás cumasú amach as rannpháirtíocht.

De bharr na húinéireachta comhchoitinne d'fhorbair an tionscadal *Birds of a Feather*; gluaiseacht de mhná cruthaitheacha a raibh muinín acu as glór agus fíis s'acu.

“D'fhanainn go dtí gur eagraigh duine éigin eile gach rud. Ach anois is mise an duine a thosaíonn an comhrá.”

“D'éirigh linn go léir foghlaim conas treo a thaispeáint inár seal féin, ag cabhrú agus ag spreagadh a chéile.”

“Tháinig cuimsitheacht i measc na mban toisc gur thacaigh siad lena chéile gan aon bhreithiúnas a thabhairt.”

“Gach duine ag tacú lena chéile mar a bheadh clann mhór amháin.”



Grianghraf ag: Justin Kernaghan

6. The *Birds of a Feather* Inis, Tionscadal Oidhreachta Chontae an Chláir: Athbheochaint ar Bhróidnéireacht an Chláir

Sampla beo na hinbhuanaitheachta agus na cruthaitheachta is ea Grúpa Pobail Mhná na hInse (EWCG) Tionscadal Oidhreachta — Athbheochaint ar Bhróidnéireacht an Chláir a fuair tacaíocht ó Chiste Féinrialach de chuid *Birds of a Feather* ag deireadh 2024.

Ag teacht as rannpháirtíocht s'acu sa phríomh thionscadal, d'éirigh le grúpa na hInse maoiniú a fháil chun seanthraidisiún bróidnéireachta an Chláir a athbheochaint. Agus larsmalann an Chláir ag tacú leo — a bhronn idir spás agus rochtain le déantúsáin bhunaidh — agus faoi stiúir Valery Larkin, d'fhoghlaim na rannpháirtithe faoi lúba traidisiúnta agus iad ag déanamh machnaimh i rith an ama ar shaol agus thionchar Florence Vere O'Brien, ceannródaí maidir le ceardaíocht agus dearadh na hÉireann.

Bhí inbhuanaitheacht mar chuid de chleachtas an ghrúpa, ag úsáid snáitheanna as an nua agus línéadach ón seanam má bhí siad in ann — agus iad i mbun feasachta ar an gcomhshaol a nascadh lena gceardaíocht oidhreachta.

“Thuigearmar go rabhamar ag tabhairt ómóis don am atá imithe in ionad aithris a dhéanamh air — ag baint úsáide as a raibh ar fáil dúinn, rud a rinne mná i gcónaí.”

I gcaitheamh sé seachtaine, chuir siad snas ar a gcuid scileanna, bhain siad triail as teicnící agus chruthaigh siad píosa bróidnéireachta eatarthu mar bhronntanas don larsmalann. Tá an saothar deiridh go hálainn agus siombalach araon: athbheochaint ar oidhrecht, ar ábhair agus ar chruthaitheacht.

Grianghraf ag: Deirdre Leahy



7. The *Birds of a Feather* Béal Feirste, Tionscadal Oidhreachta Chontae an Dúin: An Taipéis

Is píosa ealaíne ollmhór comhoibríoch é an Píosa Oidhreachta Bhéal Feirste a fuair ionsparáid ón Bayeux Tapestry. Amhail an chéad cheann, a léiríonn íomhanna casta, tá an taipéis seo bunaithe ar *Birds of a Feather* ó na chéad chéimeanna leochaileacha go dtí pobal lán mhuiníne.

Tháinig sí ó chomh-dhearadh agus sraith cheardlanna, is meascán é an taipéis de phéinteáil bhróidnéireacht, de fheiltbhrat, agus de mheáin measctha chun breith ar ócáidí, ar mhothúcháin, agus ar gharspriocanna sa dá bhliain. Bhí breis is seachtó bean ó gach réigiún páirteach chun é a chruthú.



Grianghraf ag: Eva Birchall

“Nuair a sheasann tú siar feiceann tú an pictiúr ina iomláine. Ach, nuair atá tú gar dó feiceann tú scéal i ngach aon snáithe.”

“Nuair a fheicimid ar scéal s'againn ar an mbealach seo — feictear dúinn go bhfuil ár gcairdeas fite fuaite go buan.”

Is léiriú é an taipéis ar an scála agus ar an gceardaíocht choiteann de chroí an tionscadail ar fad: aontacht trí chruthaitheacht. Is léiriú marthanach den nasc, den chomhoibriú, agus den chairdeas buan a d'eascair as *Birds of a Feather*.

8. The *Birds of a Feather* Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Tionscadal Oidhreacht Chontae na Gaillimhe: Na hÉin Mósáice

I mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, tháinig mná ó gach ceantar le chéile le bheith páirteach chun píosa ealaíne poiblí a chruthú: mósáic do leabharlannan bhaile. Agus iad faoi stiúir an ealaíontóra ar mhósáic Alison MacCormaic, dhear agus thóg na rannpháirtithe painéil ar na ballaí leathchiorcalach ina léirítear cruinniú na n-éan ar chraobhacha ceangailte go dlúth le chéile — léiriú feiceálach ar an tionscadal féin.

“ Tá a scéal féin ag gach éan, ach is rud i bhfad níos mó iad le chéile — ar nós muidne.”

Chruthaigh gach grúpa éan s’acu féin, ag cur isteach dathanna, patrúin, agus pearsantacht. Beidh an ealaíon ann go buan agus nasc a bheidh ann idir an leabharlann agus an seomra pobail agus an dánlann béal dorais. Beidh plaic chuimneacháin le hainm gach rannpháirtí air in aice leis an mósáic, chun cinnte a dhéanamh de go dtugtar aitheantas poiblí dá gcuid cruthaitheachta.

“ Bhí sé iontach speisialta mósáic a chruthú le chéile — táimid ag fágáil píosa dár gcuid oibre inár ndiaidh le go mbainfidh an pobal sult as.”

Seasfaidh an píosa oidhreacht seo mar shiombail de phobal, de chruthaitheacht agus de chomhoibriú — agus is cuireadh oscailte é do dhaoine tabhairt faoin rud céanna.

Grianghraf ag: Eva Birthistle



9. Ceachtanna Buana agus Cuimhní Cinn

Tá oidhreacht an tionscadail bunaithe ar na heispéiris go léir a bhí ann lena linn. Baineann siad le gáire agus foghlaim, misneach agus cairdeas marthanach, agus an bealach go bhfuil an nasc idir na daoine in ann gach constaic a shárú.

“ An onóir mhór a bhí ann bualadh le mná iontacha ó gach cúlra agus ó áiteanna éagsúla thuaidh agus theas — meascadh leo agus cairdeas buan a chruthú.”

“ Bhí sé iontach neart spraoi agus gáire a roinnt.”

“ Ilchultúrtha, cruthaitheach, grá, spraoi, leigheas, cairdeas, draíochtúil, iontach, cúram, dóchas: iad seo ar fad agus eile.”

“ Tá cuimhní speisialta faoi na mná go léir agus an t-atmaisféar le chéile.”

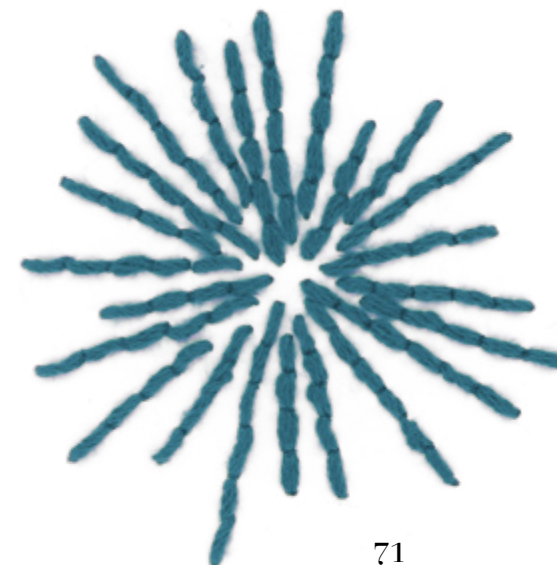
“ An cairdeas agus an díograis atá ag gach duine dá gceird, agus cé chomh bródúil is atá siad as a gcuid saothar.”

“ Ag athnascadh, barróga, ag féachaint ar an taipéis agus na saothair áille a bhí lárnach sa tionscadal seo — cairdeas agus dúil mhór chun na naisc a leanúint.”

Tógtha le chéile, is turas é seo ina mbogann na glórtha ó bheith éiginnteach go dtí muinín, ó strainséirí go dtí comhoibrithe, ó thaiscéalaíocht chruthaitheach go dtí oidhreacht roinnte. Cuireann siad i gcuimhne dúinn nuair a bhíonn mná in éineacht lena chéile go gcruthaíonn siad níos mó ná ealaíon — cruthaíonn siad muintearas.

10. Ag Cothú Naisc agus Cleachtas Inbhuanaithe: An Bóthar Romhainn

Agus an chaibidil seo de *Birds of a Feather* á dúnadh, leanann a scéal ar aghaidh tríd an gcuidreamh, tríd na scileanna, agus tríd an muinín atá beo i gcónaí — isteach sna grúpaí áitiúla, páirtnéireachtaí nua, agus comhoibriú sa todhchaí.



Ceacht le foghlaim:

Tabhair tús áite don fháilte agus don chineáltas.

Féach ar chruthaitheacht mar phróiseas agus mar aidhm araon.

Tabhair spás do mhachnamh, scíste agus sonas.

Cumasaigh mná le go dtabharfaidh siad treoir agus le go roinnfidh siad eolas.

Lig d’oidhreacht fás as a stuaim féin trí dhaoine agus trí áiteanna.

Bíodh meas ar inbhuanaitheacht — thimpeallacht, shóisialta agus chruthaitheach — ag gach céim.

Léirigh na rannpháirtithe go seasta gur mian leo fanacht i dteagmháil lena chéile — chun an fhoghlaim, an cheardaíocht agus an gáire a leanúint le chéile. San áireamh leis na chéad chéimeanna indéanta eile:

- **Ciorcail chruthaitheacha áitiúla a thagann le chéile i ngach pobal.**
- **Malartáin tras-phobail trí thaispeántais, fhéilte agus trí chuaipteanna.**
- **Dánlanna digiteacha de chartlann scéalaíochta chun naisc chruthaitheacha a chothú.**

Tá inbhuanaitheacht mar chuid d’éiteas marthanach an tionscadail. Leanann go leor rannpháirtithe leo ag úsáid ábhar as an nua agus á n-athchúrsáil ina gcuid oibre, ag múineadh na nglúnta óga gur féidir leis an gcruthaitheacht a bheith samhlaíoch agus cineálta don timpeallacht araon.

“D’fhoghlaimíomar go bhfuil cúram do dhaoine agus cúram don phlainéad mar chuid den rud céanna.”

I measc na gcúiseanna ba mhó bróid de chuid *Birds of a Feather* ba é an bealach gur tháinig ceannaireacht na mban chun cinn. Tá cuid mhór acu ag feidhmiú mar riarthóirí, mar theagascóirí, agus mar mheantóirí ina bpobail féin; tá cuid eile ag eagrú taispeántas, margaí, nó ag múineadh deiseanna den chéad uair.

De bharr tacaíochta leanúnaí, is féidir le *Birds of a Feather* leanúint leis ag forbairt ó thionscnamh rannpháirtíochta ealaíne go dtí gréasán marthanach de mhná cumasacha, cruthaitheacha atá ag múnlú a dtodhchaí inbhuanaithe mar aon le todhchaí inbhuanaithe an oileáin.

Focal scoir

Go bunúsach bhí *Birds of a Feather* mar thurgnamh maidir le cruthaitheacht roinnte agus naisc dhaonna. Léirigh sé go bhfuil cumhacht shéimh ag an ealaíon chun pobail roinnte a dhlúthú, muinín a chothú agus síocháin a thógáil — ní de réir pholasaí nó bhrú ach de réir rannpháirtíochta; tríd an ngníomh shona shimplí de rud éigin a chruthú le chéile.

Sa dá bhliain, d’éirigh leis a bheith ina ghréasán beo de scéalta, de chairdeas, agus de mhuinín athnuaite. Tagann comhdhlúthú na síochána ó gach snáithe, stríocadh scuaibe, agus mósáic — agus, de réir a chéile, tagann cúram don timpeallacht agus cúram dá chéile.

An bóthar romhainn

- **Naisc a chothú idir na mná fud fad an oileáin.**
- **An chruthaitheacht a chothú mar ghléas i dtreo saol folláine.**
- **Tabhair ómós don oidhreacht agus tabhair aitheantas don nuálaíocht agus don inbhuanaitheacht.**
- **Leanúint ar aghaidh ag cruthú oileáin roinnte trí dhéanamh, trí scéalaíocht agus trí chairdeas.**

Agus an chaibidil seo ag teacht chun deiridh, tá fírinne amháin ag seasamh amach go follasach: is é sin go bhfuil an oidhreacht cheart a bhaineann le *Birds of a Feather* ná na mná a ghlac páirt ann — a misneach, a ngreann, a gcuid seiftiúlachta, agus a gcroíthe. Leanfaidh spiorad s’acu ar aghaidh cibé áit a dtagann siad le chéile chun scéal a roinnt, píosa éadaí a athbheochaint, nó suí le chéile i gcomhlúadar cruthaitheach.

“Rinneamar níos mó ná ealaíon — neartaíomar a chéile.”

Ar go leor bealaí, ní deireadh é seo ach tús nua — splanc a scaipeadh ó lámh go lámh, trí phobail agus ghlúnta éagsúla. Agus b’fhéidir gurb é an ceacht ba mhó atá ann ná: go bhfuil síocháin, ar nós ceardaíochta, lámhdhéanta — nasc amháin, cruthaitheacht amháin, gníomh comhfhiosach amháin de chúram ag an am.

Aguisín 1: Modheolaíocht Measúnaithe

Bhí an measúnú ar *Birds of a Feather* bunaithe ar chuir chuige éagsúla a leagadh amach chun sonraí cainníochtúla a aimsiú mar aon le heispéiris cáilíochtúla luachmhara na rannpháirtithe. Ba é an phríomh aidhm ná tuiscint a fhorbairt ar thionchar an tionscadail maidir le sláinte, cruthaitheacht, muinín, agus nasc trasphobail, agus ag an am céanna ag déanamh cinnte de gur tugadh faoi gach gníomhaíocht measúnaithe go tuisceanach, go measúil agus le macántacht eiticiúil.

Cur chuige

Bhí an measúnú bunaithe ar phriosabail rannpháirtíochta agus ar thaighde feimíneach, ag tabhairt aitheantais do thábhacht ghlórtha na mban, an t-eispéireas beo, agus scéalaíocht comhchoitinne. Bhí sé mar aidhm mar chuid den phróiseas na rannpháirtithe a chumasú mar chomhúdair in ionad féachaint orthu mar ábhair an staidéir. Bhí an bailiúchán sonraí atriallach agus machnamhach, agus lig sé seo don mheasúnú teacht chun cinn mar fhreagra ar riachtanais agus ar aisfhreagra na rannpháirtithe.

Modhanna Bailiúcháin Shonraí

1. Agallaimh duine le duine leis na Rannpháirtithe

Bhí treoircheistneoirí leis na mná le linn an tionscadail chun fáil amach faoina dturais phearsanta, faoina gcúis spreagtha, agus faoina machnaimh maidir le rannpháirtíocht. Léirigh na comhráite seo léargas caolchúiseach ar an mbealachgo ndeachaigh rannpháirtíocht in *Birds of a Feather* i bhfeidhm ar a sláinte, a muintearas agus a gcumasú.

2. Breathnóireacht an Rannpháirtí

Bhí an meastóir i láthair ag gach mórócáid agus ceardlann, agus ag feidhmiú mar mheastóir agus rannpháirtí araon. De bharr an mhodha seo bhí léargas díreach ar an dinimic shóisialta, an t-atmaisféar, agus ar an gcaidreamh a cothaíodh trí chomhoibriú cruthaitheach. Bhí na breathnóireachtaí dírithe ar chuimsitheacht, ar rannpháirtíocht, ar ghlór mothúchánach, agus ar ról na cruthaitheachta chun naisc trasphobail a éascú.

3. Suirbhéanna an Rannpháirtí

Scaipeadh suirbhéanna gearra ag gach ócáid chun aisfhreagra cáilíochtúil agus cainníochtúil leanúnach a bhailiú maidir le heispéiris na rannpháirtithe. Bhí suirbhéanna bunaithe ar leithéidí leibhéil sástachta,

foghlaim aitheanta, forbairt scileanna, muinín, agus nasc sóisialta. Toisc gur baineadh úsáid leanúnach as suirbhéanna bhí deis ann chun comparáid fadaimseartha a dhéanamh le linn an tionscadail go léir.

4. Agallaimh le Ceannairí agus le hÉascaitheoirí an Tionscadail

D'éirigh leis na hagallaimh le ceannairí, le comhordaitheoirí, agus le héascaitheoirí na cruthaitheachta tuairimí straitéiseacha agus oibríochtúla a sholáthar. In imeacht ama, bhain na comhráite seo le dúshláin sheachadta, feidhmiú na páirtnéireachta, agus forbairt ar éiteas an tionscadail agus na modheolaíochta.

Cúinsí Eiticiúla

Agus bunús éagsúil agus trasphobail den ghrúpa rannpháirtí á thabhairt san áireamh bhí rannpháirtíocht eiticiúil lárnach sa phróiseas measúnaithe. Fuarthas cead ó gach rannpháirtí, agus míníodh go soiléir an aidhm a bhí leis, cén úsáid a bhí leis, agus an rúndacht a bhain le gach gné den phróiseas. Bhí rannpháirtíocht sna gníomhaíochtaí measúnaithe go hiomlan dá dtoil féin, agus bhí an rogha ag na rannpháirtithe tarraingt amach as an bpróiseas ag aon am agus gan a bheith thíos leis.

Maidir le gach rannpháirtíocht bhí cur chuige ann a bhí tuisceanach ar chúrsaí tráma agus ar chúrsaí cultúrtha mothálacha. Bhí na meastóirí tuisceanach ar chúlráí na rannpháirtithe, féiniúlachtaí, agus an tuiscint a bhí ag eascairt as comhthéacs síochána agus trasphobail an tionscadail. Tugadh faoi gach agallamh agus breathnóireacht ar bhealach a thug tús áite do shábháilteacht mhothúchánach, d'iontaoibh, agus do dhínit. Bhíothas cúramach chun cinnte a dhéanamh de gur léiríodh scéalta na rannpháirtithe go fírinneach, go measúil, agus gan ainm más cuí.

Anailís

Rinneadh anailís de réir téamaí ar shonraí cáilíochtúla a tháinig ó agallaimh agus ó bhreathnóireachtaí chun patrúin thimthriallacha, torthaí, agus cuntas na rannpháirtithe a aithint. Cuireadh sonraí suirbhé cainníochtúla le chéile agus rinneadh achoimre orthu chun fianaise comhlántach a sholáthar maidir le tionchar braite sástachta. Thairg na gnéithe seo le chéile tuiscint iomlánaíoch de thionchar, de bhaint, agus de chomhbhá de chuid *Birds of a Feather* taobh istigh agus taobh amuigh de na pobail rannpháirtíochta.

98% de na rannpháirtithe feabhas maidir le cúrsaí sláinte, rud a threisigh tionchar suntasach an tionscadail ar fhorbairt an duine aonair agus ar chaidreamh an phobail. Is léiriú sa bhreis iad an sásamh agus an fhorbairt ar scileanna pearsanta maidir le rath an tionscadail agus cruthaitheacht, muinín agus comhoibriú á gcoth.

Aguisín 3: Inbhuanaitheacht Bheo: Ag Cruthú go Cúramach

Ón gcéad lá, leag *Birds of a Feather* béim ar inbhuanaitheacht maidir lena chuid gníomhaíochtaí. Sna ceardlanna agus sa chónaitheacht bhain na mná úsáid as ábhair arís is arís, olann as an nua, teicstílí, agus modhanna oibre roinnte a léirigh ómós don cheardaíocht agus don timpeallacht. D'éirigh leis an rud go bhféadfaí a chaitheamh ar leataobh a athchruthú mar rud álainn, tábhachtach agus úrnua.

Bhí éiteas simplí ann ach cumhachtach ag an am céanna: déan go cúramach, ná cuir mórán amú, agus bí an-aireach — ar ábhair, ar phobal agus ar an domhan thart orainn.

Luaigh go leor de na rannpháirtithe an sástacht a bhain le rud éigin a chruthú as rudaí a bhí caite ar leataobh:

“ Bhaineamar úsáid as a raibh againn — píosaí lása, píosaí éadaí, olann athchúrsáilte — agus ar bhealach éigin tháinig áilleacht chun cinn.”

“ Chuir sé sin mo mháthair agus mo sheanmháthair i gcuimhne dom, daoine ab ea iad nár chaith aon rud amach mar go mbeadh úsáid eile leis.”

“ Chuir athshlánú ábhar beocht sa bhreis inár gcuid oibre — rinne sé muid a nascadh leis an traidisiún, leis an talamh agus lena chéile.”

Léiríodh an chruthaitheacht chiorclach seo sna ceardlanna ar fud an oileáin: Rinne na mná bróidnéireacht an Chláir a athbheochaint trí úsáid a bhaint as línéadaigh ón seanam agus snáitheanna bronnta; d'úsáid siad tífleanna athchúrsáilte, gloine, agus blúirí ceirmigh mar aon le héadaí athchúrsáilte.

Bhí níos mó ná praiticiúlacht ag baint leis na roghanna seo; léirigh siad eitic an chúraim agus leanúnachais — in ómós do shean traidisiún na seiftiúlachta in Éirinn agus ag an am céanna ag taispeáint an bhealaigh i dtreo thodhchaí chruthaitheach atá níos inbhuanaithe.

“ Ní bhaineann inbhuanaitheacht le hábhair amháin — baineann sí le dearcthaí. D'fhoghlaimíomar go bhfuil luach i ngach rud atá againn cheana féin.”

Trí athúsáid, trí dheisiú, agus trí athbheochaint, thaispeáin *Birds of a Feather* gur féidir le cúram don timpeallacht agus léiriú ealaíonta dul i dteannta a chéile — ag cruthú go bhfuil rud atá go maith don domhan go maith don anam chomh maith.

Aguisín 4: Réimse na nGníomhaíochtaí

✕ Am sóisialta ag gach Grúpa Ban

✕ Cuairt ar Tionól Thuaisceart Éireann

✕ Siopadóireacht ag Margadh Naomh Seoirse

✕ Iarsmalann an Titanic

✕ Turas Bus thart ar Bhéal Feirste

✕ Rang Céilí Ionsaí na hInse

✕ Bróidnéireacht

✕ Ceardlann Teanga Chomharthaíochta na hÉireann

✕ Sheela na-Gig

✕ Scéalaíocht

✕ Ealaíon Mandala

✕ Turais treoraithe ar Inis Bó Finne, ar Bhéal Feirste, ar Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe agus ar Inis

✕ Turas ar Eachroim

✕ Draíocht Mhiondíola

✕ Stionsaláil ar scláta

✕ Stionsaláil ar Éadaí

✕ Mósáic

✕ Péinteáil

✕ Banúlacht

✕ Cur i láthair Karolina York

✕ Feiltbhrat Fliuch

✕ Coróin Blátha

✕ Siúl Oileáin

✕ Fíodóireacht

✕ Damhsa ar an tSean-Nós

✕ Sníomh Olla

✕ Ciorcal Cniotála

✕ Forbairt Scéil

✕ Scríbhneoireacht Chruthaitheach

✕ Potadóireacht

✕ Ceardaíocht Páipéir

✕ Mufaí útamála

✕ Colláis

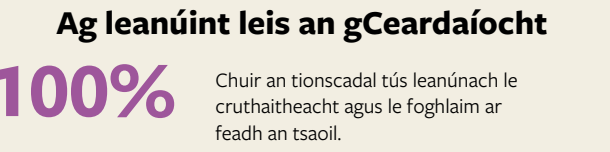
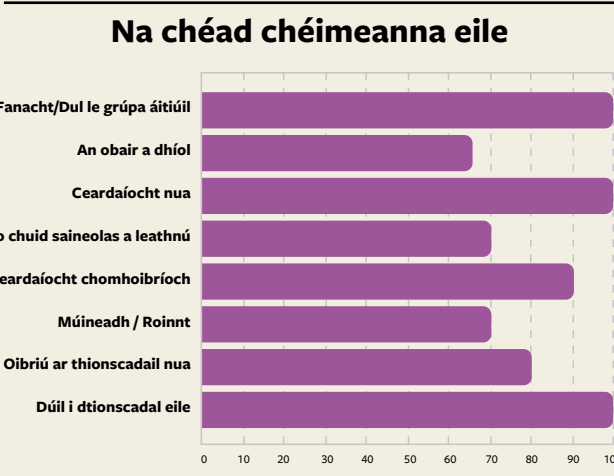
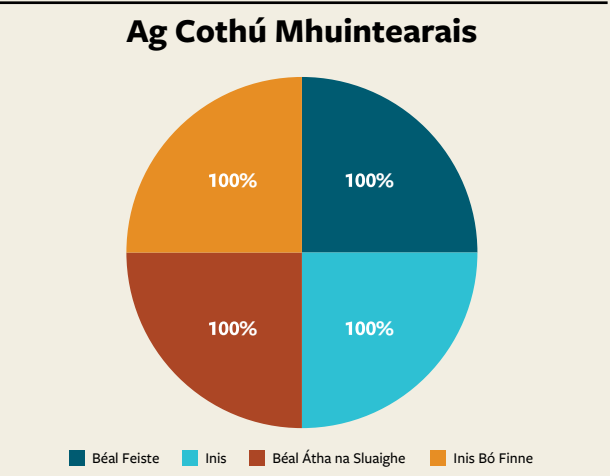
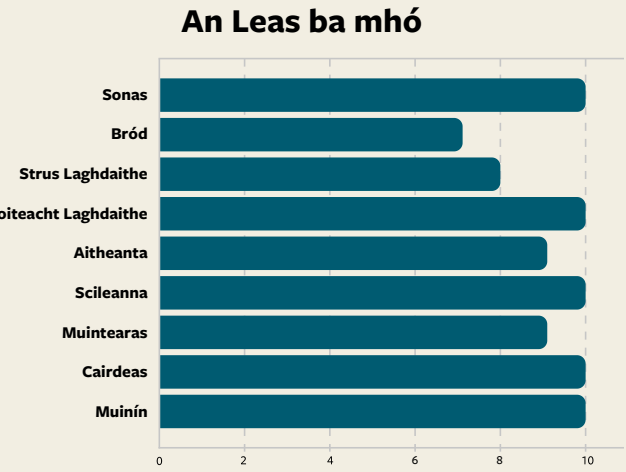
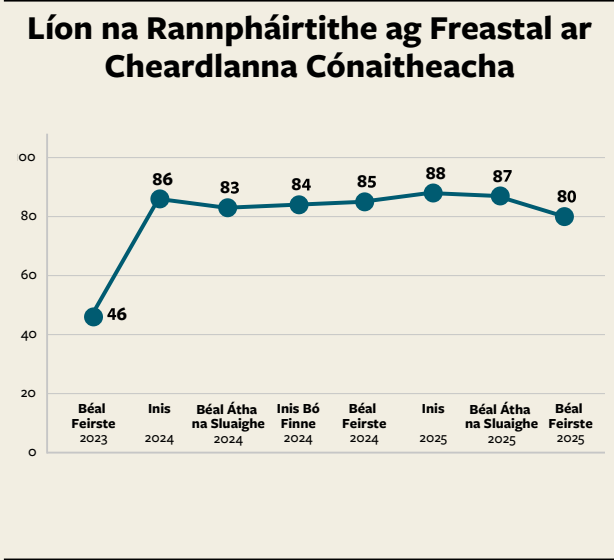
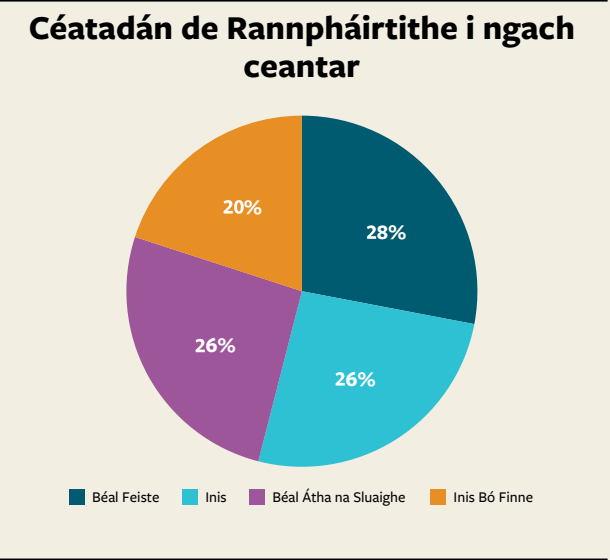
✕ Cruthú Cátaí

✕ Damhsa i gCiorcal

✕ Cré agus Gloine

✕ Turas Báid ar an tSionainn agus Siúl sa Dúlra

Birds of a Feather, na huimhreacha



Debbie McCaughey – Natalie Yaffe – Eileen Linder – Florence Duwoody – Isobelle Woodhead – Jean Cross – Kate Girvan – Renee Murray – Isobell (bell) McConnell – Irene Menzie – Linda Morton – Margarette Hands – Ann Anderson – Elaine Smyth – Diane Magill – Ann Magill – Jennifer McCall – Mary Keely – Janette Cousins – Valarie Holmes – Alberta McQueen – Sylvia Milligan – Vera Wilson – Ann Mallaghan – Rosie Darragh – Jackie Goode – Bernie McGuire – Jean O’Hehir – Anne Duffy – Anne Byrnes – Patsi O’Grady – Kimberley Goddard – Lama Al Hassan – Rosanna Clinco – Mary Lynskey – Asmaa Alqanqa – Fatima Al Jamaa – Kitty Cahill – Geraldine Dean – Zara Little Campbell – Majida Sawan – Marian Brannelly – Rena Staunton – Rita Spencer – Florence Mambala – Deirdre Leahy – Una Patton – Yvonne Kelly – Nora Barry – Carmel Mullane – Kirsten Costello – Mary Dormer – Mary Ui Ruairc – Wieslawa O Brien – Martina Corbett – Maura Rafferty – Liz Leamey – Michelle Fallon Toft – Catherine McMahon – Chris O Gorman – Bernadette Malone – Sarah Cummins – Mary RyanSlattery – Mari Clune – Hilary O Sullivan – Rita O Connell – Maureen Rochford – Bernie Callinan – Kathleen Cassidy – Mary Leahy – Louise Skerritt – Debbie Coughlan – Christina O’Reilly – Marian Hayes – Dominique Corr Thomas – Angela McMahon – Bernie McClerkan – Kathleen Coll – Audrey Murray – Catherine O Connor – Jackie Jefferson – Patricia Concannon – Veronica Cunnane – Bridget Cunnane – Xandra Pienaar – Celine Mc Cormack – Bronwyn Lavelle – Jutta Gopfert – Frances Coyne – Maureen Mooney – Margaret Schofield O Halloran – Mary Day Lavelle – Mary Lavelle – Veronika Straberger – Joanne Elliot – Imelda Reidy – Grainne Coyne – Ann Prendergast – Anne Day – Lena Schofield – Cathy O Halloran – Roz Small – Hilary Tonge – Helen Walsh – Niamh O Donovan – Eva Birdthistle – Maire Braniff – Fiona McSweeney – Mary-Anne Kearns – Mags McAlpin

