

GAIL MAHON

ECOSOMATIC ARTIST, MOVEMENT EDUCATOR & RESEARCHER



EDUCATION

P/T P.H.D BELFAST SCHOOL OF ART

Ulster University - Faculty AHSS
2023- present

MASTERS IN CERAMICS & GLASS

The Royal College of Art
2013 - 2015

P. G. C. E. IN HIGHER & FURTHER EDUCATION

Bolton University
2024- 2006

TEACHING/LECTURING

P/T CERAMICS LECTURER, NWRC

Northwest Regional College
2016- 2023

VISITING LECTURER, CERAMICS

Ulster University
2017

VISITING LECTURER, CREATIVE PRACTICE

Bath Spa University
2015

ARTIST LECTURES

FORM FOLLOWS

Queen's University Belfast, Architectural Society
2018

RESIDUE

GMIT, Galway University, Ireland
2017

UNMAKING

Ulster University
2017

CREATIVE PRACTICE

Born 29th September 1978

Gail Mahon is an artist and practice-based PhD researcher at Ulster University, specialising in eco-somatic and biological arts. Working with ceramics as a material lens, her research engages bone mineralogy and environmental dialogue through embodied material culture and movement ecology. Her practice investigates the interconnections between climate, ecology, and embodied health, drawing on bioarchaeology and the body as a site of ecological exchange.

Through immersive installations, image-making, workshops, and collaborations, Mahon prioritises trust-building across her socially engaged roles as a mode of creative exchange. Her work highlights ecological and cultural transformation as multiscalar processes unfolding across time, body, and landscape.

EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Soft Clay//Hard Play*, Art Arcadia, St. Augustine's, Derry- Londonderry
- 2022 *Bone Oracles oo*, Roe Valley Arts Centre, Limavady, N.I.
- 2020 *Litmustone InVit(r)o*, Verbal Arts Centre, curated by Gregory McCartney
- 2019 *In Search of the Vernacular*, Thameside Studio Gallery, London, collaboration with Kim Norton
- 2018 *Dissolving Histories: New Narratives*, Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast
- 2017 *Residue*, Contemporary Clay Series curated by Kate Howard and Rob D'Arth, Galway Arts Centre.
- 2017 *Shape of the Future*, curated by Angela O'Kelly, National Craft Gallery, Killkenny, NCAD Gallery
- 2015 *Hundred Acres*, Pumphouse Gallery, Battersea Park, London

COLLABORATIONS, RESIDENCIES

- 2023 A-I-R, *Soft Clay//Hard Play*, Art Arcadia, Derry-Londonderry (2018, 2017 Italy)
- 2021 Collaborative Residency with Aengus Freil Lawrence, Leitrim Sculpture Centre
- 2013-20 Founder C.A.A.K.E, Collaborative Arts + Kinetic Environments
- 2019/20 *FL*OOOW*, (C.A.A.K.E.) Art Acadia, Winter Residency, Derry-Londonderry
- 2016 *Readings in Passage*, (C.A.A.K.E.) Sperrin Mountain Residency, R-Space Gallery, Lisburn
- 2011-13 Co-Curator, 'MAK9' Stuart Cairns & Heather Wilson, Applied Arts Heritage Projects
- 2013 *Draw on The Walls*, Derry-Londonderry, St. Columb's Cathedral, Deanery & Boomhall
- 2011 *Things That Fall In Between*, R-Space Gallery & Rectory, Lisburn

AWARDS

- 2023 Northern Bridge Doctoral Training, AHRC, Ulster University
- 2022 Arts Council NI, Support for Individual Artist Award (2020, 2017, 2016, 2011, 2009)
- 2021 Causeway Coast and Glens- Individual Artist Bursary (also 2021)
- 2020 Arts Council N.I. Individual Artist Resilience Programme
- 2016 Shortlisted for V&A Ceramics Residency, London
- 2013 UnLtd & Culture Company- Award for Social Entrepreneur (C.A.A.K.E.)

PRESS PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 Abridged o-6, Echo Issue, Verbal Arts Centre , N.I. (also in 2013 Primal Issue)
- 2019 Visual Arts Ireland Newsletter, Regional Focus, Aug 2019
- 2018 CCQ magazine, Summer issue 2018
- 2017 Ceramics Ireland, Residues, Contemporary Clay Series, issue 39.
- 2016 Imago Mundi, Contemporary Artists of Ireland, Luciano Benetton

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CURRENT POSITIONS

STUDIOMA_HON // ARTIST & CULTURAL PRODUCER

Installation artist, with specialism in Ceramics and site-specific projects, and collaborative project production

2006 -present

BOARD MEMBER ECHO ECHO DANCE THEATRE

Derry- Londonderry

2023 - current

FOUNDER - THE CLAY GYMNASIUM (TCG)

A Creative Commons // Future Health Project

Derry City & Causeway Coast, Northern Ireland

In development as a Social Enterprise (CIC)

Derry-Londonderry

2023-present

CONTACT

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STUDIO: Eglinton/Campsie, Derry-Londonderry

www.gailmahon.com

linktr.ee/studioma_hon

MOVEMENT PRACTICE

MOVEMENT EXPERIENCE

- 2025 St. John Ambulance FIRST AID Certification at Work (pending)
- 2024 MOVNAT Level 2 Certified Trainer in Natural Movement Fitness
- 2022 MOVNAT Level 1 Certified Trainer in Natural Movement Fitness
- 2024 (TCG) Ecosomatic Flow Series, HIVE Cancer Trust, Gasyard
- 2023- present(TCG), Ecosomatic Movement, Echo Echo & St. Columbs Park

MOVEMENT STUDIES

- 2024 Ecosomatics Research Group, with Dr Rachel Sweeney, Schumacher College
- 2019 Fighting Monkey Practice, Spine & Coordination Workshop, Portugal
- 2018 Hand Balancing Techniques, Mikael Kristiansen, Dublin Workshop
- 2017-present Mixed Movement Training: CrossFit, Powerlifting, Natural Movement (MOVNAT)
- 2009- present Contact Improvisation & Somatics, Echo Echo Dance Theatre

PERFORMANCE & FILM PROJECTS

- 2021 Together Alone, Performance commission, Echo Echo Theatre, production by Colin Norrby, 'Amid the Noise and the Haste'
- 2021 *Haptic Oscillations*, Culture Night Live Performance, with Aengus Friel-Lawrence, Leitrim Sculpture Centre and Glens Centre, Leitrim

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC PROJECTS

- 2025 *EcoSensing Ecologies*, Void Arts Centre /The Bloom Project/NIMHAF/Ulster University
- 2024 *Embodied Earth: Soft Clay//Hard Play*, workshop series, CCA, Derry-Londonderry
- 2019 *Connections in Clay*, Arts Space Multisensory, ACNI-funded Commission
- 2013 & 2011 *Design & Craft Council Education Panel*, Art and Schools Programme
- 2011 & 2012 *Make with Meaning* - Intergenerational workshops, Ulster Museum, Belfast
- 2013 *Pieces of Gold*, Live & Learn Project in conjunction with Tower Museum, local Women's group, also at the Ulster American Folk Park and Ulster Museum
- 2012. 'Craft Matters' Derry-Londonderry-Donegal, Consultant and Artist-Researcher, Inner City Trust