



# Rozzi Kennedy

## #antainartists

### Reflection

## November 2019

The highlight of my residency was taking the work from The Birches Day Centre, where it had already achieved many proposed therapeutic project outcomes, to be exhibited in The Basement Gallery where it was seen and discussed in terms of artistic merit.

During a private preview, the artists viewed their works, professionally presented in the gallery. I had been saying all along we were working toward a public exhibition, we had spent time thinking up titles and I had shared the poster and sent invites but I think they still thought I was joking and didn't believe their own work would be hanging in a gallery until they saw it.

Another exciting outcome was that three beautiful paintings from the exhibition were acquired for Louth County Council's public Collection. This has expanded the reach of the artworks, which will be protected, archived and added to the online catalogue Taisce Lú : Louth County Council's Art Collection web-page.

The residency program has had a lasting impact on my work by expanding my thinking on Arts & Health, which has become an important and fulfilling aspect of my artists' practice. In their many forms, the arts are so versatile; they explore limitless subjects in many different ways – an under-tapped resource with amazing scope to work for everyone.

Just after the exhibition I had an opportunity to work with young people to promote dementia friendly attitudes. In order to highlight the stigma of the disease we made masks based on the important work of American artist, William Utermolhen, whose powerful self-portraits - made between 1990 and 2000 - documented his journey with dementia. The key message of the workshop was the importance of seeing the person beyond the diagnosis.

I hope the legacy of the project will be an extension of the relationship between The Birches Day Centre & their local Arts Centre, An Táin along with continued engagement with the Azure project at The Highlanes Gallery. I really enjoyed getting to know everyone, below are pictures of some people I had the pleasure of working with - in action & showing off the end product!





**Rozzi Kennedy was An Táin Arts Centre's visual artist in residence. She was in residence in the Basement Gallery studio during July, August and September 2019.**

**Review her progress on Instagram @rozzikennedy #antainartists**