

# TREAD SOFTLY...

2-21 August

## Foreword

Welcome to the 10th Tread Softly festival taking place 2nd to 21st of August. This has been an unprecedented time for us all and the way we do things has changed. Although collaborative participation between artists and communities exploring place continues to be the bedrock of what we aim to achieve, the way this happens has adapted and shifted; and we are using different forms to bring events to you, either at a physical location, through a digital platform, or a mixture of the two.

Highlights include **Ancestors** a sculptural installation representing ghost-like former island inhabitants; six-artist participation **Walking Keshcorran** reflects on a guided tour of Kesh Caves; mass art participation **Sand Drawings** - please get in touch to participate; and **Tidelines** pursues five artists charting the Sligo coastline over five days.

Equally enjoyable - the launch of **The Cormorant's** selected works; **Maugerow, beneath the blowing sands** a book launch and event; **On Baile's Strand** performed by Blue Raincoat Theatre Company; **The Battle of the Books** soundscape; and exhibitions - **Jack Butler Yeats; Assembled Memories** at The Model, and invited artists' interpretations of **Meditations in Time of Civil War** along with Angela Hackett's **Amidst the Flowers I tell the Hours** at Hamilton Gallery. **To the Waters & the Wild** is a walking festival in various locations throughout the county.

We hope you enjoy our programme.

THE TREAD SOFTLY TEAM #treadsoftly21

STREAMED

**Mon 2 - Fri 6 August**  
treadsoftly.ie & facebook | 8pm daily

## Ancestors

Following the success of *Underwave*, visual artist Bettina Seitz collaborates with videographers Fionn Rogers and Peter Martin to create *Ancestors*; a sculpture installation of ghost-like, life-size figures representing the former inhabitants of an uninhabited island off the Sligo coast. Inspired by their daily lives and custodial role on the island, this site-responsive installation explores how our ancestors lived in close contact with the natural world. It is an enquiry about continuity between our distant ancestors and us, and whether we can find our place as part of an interconnected natural world again.

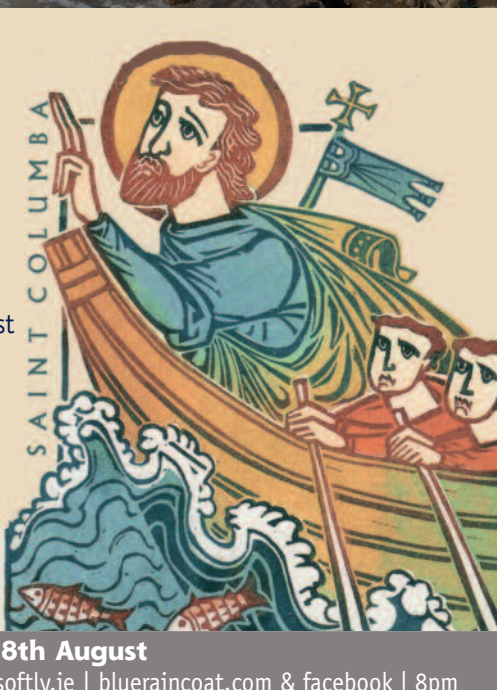


STREAMED

**Sat 7 August**  
treadsoftly.ie & facebook | 8pm

## Bare Hazel Battle of the Books Soundscape

A Sandy Field Writers soundscape, based on the sixth-century battle at Cúl Dreimhne. Does a copy have autonomy, or is it just an offshoot of the original? This piece explores what happens when a story is reshaped to suit different narratives. Like all good legends, it's not the story itself that each generation cherishes, but the telling of it. With Peggie Gallagher, Terence Herron, Niamh Mac Cabe, Mairéad McCann, Bernie Meehan, and Rhona Trench.



**Sun 8th August**  
treadsoftly.ie | blueraincoat.com & facebook | 8pm

## On Baile's Strand by WB Yeats

King Conobar, wary of Cúchulainn's bravery and his unruly temper, makes him swear an oath of obedience. This oath leads Cúchulainn to unwittingly fight and kill his own son. When he finds out the truth, Cúchulainn, mad with despair, runs out to fight the sea.

*'Why do you hang your head? It's a good life. The head grows prouder in the light of dawn, And friendship thickens in the murmuring dark, Where the spare hazel meets the wool white foam.'*

Cúchulainn to his son - *On Baile's Strand*

Blue Raincoat Ensemble: Bob Kelly, John Carty, Sandra O Malley, Ciaran McCauley, Brian F Devaney & Chakra O Connor. Sound by Joe Hunt. Videographer Peter Martin.

Image by Steve Rogers



STREAMED

**Wed 18 August**  
Launch location/time

## Walking Keshcorran

Caves of Kesh in the Bricklieve Mountains, Co. Sligo (RMP: SL039-034; NGR: 17060 31215) form the genesis for this collaborative arts project. Through a guided walk led by Dr Marion Dowd, archaeologist and leading cave expert, six arts practitioners - Kiera O'Toole, Ruth Le Gear, Christine Mackey, Julianna Holland, Kate Oram and Sarah Ellen Lundy - from the North West of Ireland explore the cave's history, mythology and human relationships. Caves as primordial sites are often associated with thresholds between realms that are unfixed and unknowing. 'Walking Keshcorran' embraces the idea of the threshold for unanticipated visual and conceptual exchanges between the artists and the caves. The project builds upon 'Walking Bird's Mountain I & II'.

Image by Tommy Weir 'Threshold, Keshcorran'



LIVE EVENT

**Thurs 12 - Sun 15 August**  
Contact info@treadsoftly.ie

## To the Waters & the Wild

A festival of specially curated guided walks with archaeologists, mythologists and knowledgeable folk who have particular affinity for a subject or area.

**Thurs 12th August**  
11am **Aughris** - local community guide  
1:30pm **Streedagh Beach** - Prannie Rhatigan

**Sat 14th August**  
11am **Doorly Park** - Damien Brennan  
2:30pm **Knocknashee** - Dr Marion Dowd

**Fri 13th August**  
11am **Rosses Point** - Willie Murphy & Ann Joyce  
3pm **Knocknarea** - Padraig Meehan

**Sun 15th August**  
11am **Killaspugbrone** - Seatrails.ie  
3pm **Slish Wood** - Martin Enright

Places are limited, please email info@treadsoftly.ie to book.



**Mon 9 - Fri 13 August**  
Sligo Youth Theatre | The Factory Foyer |

## Tidelines

Exploring the skyline and shoreline; five artists, led by Leonora Neary and including Conor Gallagher, Karen Webster, Kari Cahill and Matt Jones, move along the Sligo coastline creating landscape art pieces each day. A photographer follows their progress as their location changes. By using GPS coordinates, each of the sites can be visited as the week progresses. The works can also be viewed on [treadsoftly.ie](http://treadsoftly.ie) and social media platforms.



STREAMED & LIVE

**Wed 18 August**  
Factory Foyer | 7pm

## The Cormorant Book Launch

In the summer of 2018, Tread Softly launched a broadsheet of poetry and short prose. Since then, six issues have featured both familiar and unexpected voices from all over the world. Emerging writers were placed beside established, urban next to rural, a story of here beside a story of elsewhere. This democracy and collision gave the broadsheet energy. Submissions flooded in. Now, a selection of this work is collected in a perfect-bound book, its variety of perspectives and ways of telling more than the sum of its parts.

Image by Cormac O'Leary

Hamilton GALLERY  
Sligo



**Sat 21 August**  
Streedagh Beach | 12am-5pm | Contact info@treadsoftly.ie

## Sand Drawings

Sand Drawings is a signature large-scale community participation project led by Jackie McKenna and a team of professional sculptors. They will be assisted by up to 100 community volunteers. The theme for this year's sand sculpture event is 'One World'. Taking an inherently harmonious structure, the circle, and reflecting on what it potentially represents; artists and families will create a work developing the principle of connectivity to one another and the natural world.

If you would like to participate please contact [info@treadsoftly.ie](mailto:info@treadsoftly.ie) and we will provide you with all the necessary details.



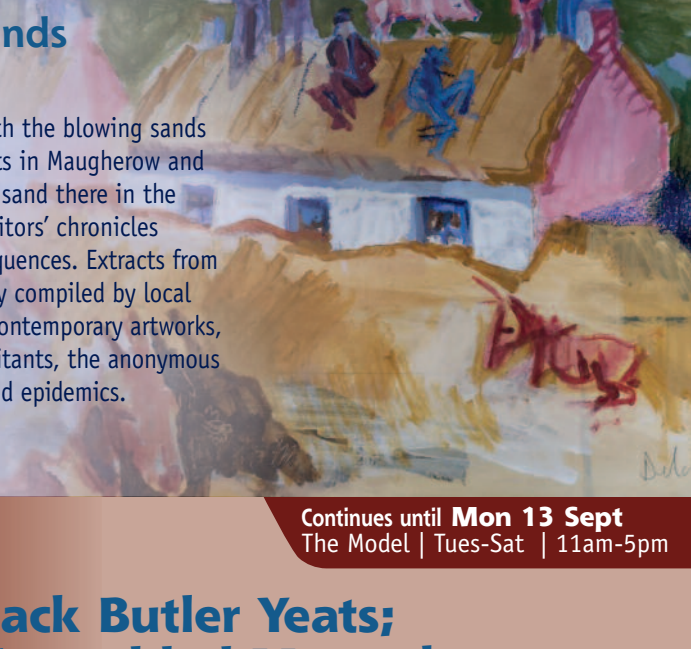
LIVE EVENT

10am-5pm  
**Fri 13-Sun 15**

## Maugerow beneath the blowing sands Book Launch & Multimedia Event

Curated by Seán Golden; *Maugerow beneath the blowing sands* is a community response to historical events in Maugerow and environs. Entire villages were inundated by sand there in the nineteenth century. Historical texts and visitors' chronicles describe the blowing sands and their consequences. Extracts from traditional emigration songs and oral history compiled by local schoolchildren in the 1930s combine with contemporary artworks, poetry and prose to give voice to the inhabitants, the anonymous victims of the blowing sands, the Famine and epidemics.

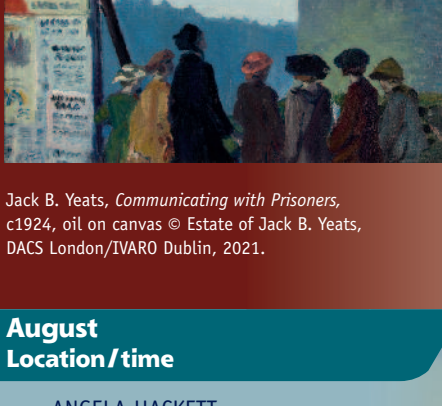
Image by Diarmuid Delargy 'Blowing Sands'



Continues until **Mon 13 Sept**  
The Model | Tues-Sat | 11am-5pm

## Jack Butler Yeats; Assembled Memories

The Model is proud to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jack Butler Yeats in his home town of Sligo. Sligo's Municipal Collection, named after Nora Niland, includes some of the finest work by Yeats across every phase of his long creative practice; from his early socio-politically themed work in oils of the 1920s to his late great visionary masterworks of the 1940s & 1950s.



Jack B. Yeats, *Communicating with Prisoners*, c1924, oil on canvas © Estate of Jack B. Yeats, DACS London/IVARO Dublin, 2021.

The Model home of The Niland Collection | sligoarts | Sligo County Council | Sligo.

LIVE EVENT

**August**  
Location/time

ANGELA HACKETT

## 'Amidst the Flowers I Tell the Hours'

This poet's motto to pause and be mindful of the fleeting nature of time. In association with the Yeats International Summer School and Tread Softy festival 2021. Opens Sat 7 August.

INVITED ARTISTS

## Meditations in Time of Civil War

2021 Annual Invited Artists exhibition of small works curated by Hamilton Gallery, Sligo. With 125 invited artists taking part, this will be the last in the series of the WB Yeats/Decade of Commemoration themed exhibitions.

Image by Josephine Kelly 'The Crossing'

LIVE EVENT



TREASD SOFTLY...

Photo: fredcorcoranlandscapes.com

In association with our sponsors



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