An exhibition of artworks by Laura Fitzgerald
Artist-in-Residence with the Waterford Healing Arts Trust

26th June - 13th August 2009
in the WHAT Centre for Arts & Health and Waterford Regional Hospital

17th - 31st August 2009
Index Gallery, Central Library, Lady Lane, Waterford

ONCE UPON A TIME

Supported by Pfizer
Once Upon A Time

Laura Fitzgerald has been running an Artist in Residence programme since its first artist, Aifric Gray came to Waterford Regional Hospital in May 1994. Visual Artists are given a studio space for a period of six months during which time they create a new body of work for exhibition in the hospital. The arts hospital is an innovative concept for developing a body of artists’ work and the residency programme enables artists to creatively respond to the hospital setting.

Laura is the first artist to use the studio space in the newly developed WHAT Centre for Arts & Health since its opening. The centre offers an opportunity for the hospital to engage in the arts in a new and innovative way. The WHAT Centre is a new arts initiative that is working to develop the arts within the hospital setting and to make the arts more accessible to patients and staff.

Laura has been running a participatory drawing project since January 2009 where she has invited other people to share their experiences and inspire her with new images and stories. She has worked with staff and patients of Waterford Regional Hospital to create a body of work that relates to their memories of the hospital.

Working in a hospital environment has also awakened me to the challenges of ‘real world’ scenarios. With the help and guidance of Mary Grehan and Claire Meaney, I have consulted, negotiated and communicated with many departments within the hospital to allow the viewer to become an active participant in creating a piece of art.

The hospital community is diverse and the hospital can be challenging places for artists to navigate. People are often busy and distracted and the artist has to work to establish a sense of collaboration with the patients and staff. This is important in the creation of a successful project.

Laura has created a body of work that is informed by her own experiences of life in the hospital. She has created a series of drawings that feature memories from staff and patients of Waterford Regional Hospital.

Laura will give a talk about her exhibition on Friday, 26th June at 1pm in the WHAT Centre for Arts & Health.

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Acknowledgments

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Waterford Befriending
Waterford Arts Forum
Indian Gallery

And everyone who shared a memory with the artist.