



This June **Age & Opportunity** is pleased to offer our Creative Exchanges two-day course at IMMA (Irish Museum of Modern Art), Dublin. Creative Exchanges is designed for activities coordinators working in residential or day care settings. It is also suitable for those with an arts background interested in engaging with older people in a care setting. \* Creative Exchanges provides participants with:

- Practical skills to carry out creative activities with people in residential and day care settings
- An understanding of the value of creative activity, particularly in care settings
- Experience of taking part in arts-based workshops

The course is designed to provide meaningful opportunities to engage older people in arts activities and adopts a person-centred approach promoted by, HIQA's National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People (2016). On completion of the course, a Certificate of Attendance will be issued to participants by Age & Opportunity.

## VENUE AND DATES

The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Kilmainham, Dublin 8, The Creativity Hub and Studios 9 and 10.  
Wednesdays: 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025. 10:00am – 16.30

## PRICE/BOOKING

Creative Exchanges costs €399 per participant. As places are limited, fees need to be paid in advance to secure a place. To enrol, please contact Fiona at [engage@ageandopportunity.ie](mailto:engage@ageandopportunity.ie) or Tel (01) 913 3922.

\*If you are a professional artist (working within a creative or interpretive artform as defined by the Arts Act of 2003), you might like to explore either the Artists Care Exchange or the Arts, Health and the Older Person, training initiatives, we offer for professional artists, visit: [www.ageandopportunity.ie/arts](http://www.ageandopportunity.ie/arts) for more detail.

---

**PROGRAMME - Comprises 3 sessions per day and a gallery tour at IMMA (Day TBC)**

**DAY 1**

**Introduction - Creativity and Wellbeing, Facilitator - Brian Dooney**

This session looks at the significance of creativity in our lives and its benefits for greater health and wellbeing.

**Reminiscence Theatre Workshop, Facilitator - Gillian McCarthy**

This workshop demonstrates how to utilise objects and images as a means to invite people to share stories and memories, thereby opening the doors to their personal histories. It also illustrates how personal histories/shared memories, can be used to spark the development of characters for use in role play or drama.

**Visual Arts Workshop (1), Facilitator – Joanna Hopkins**

In this workshop participants are given practical ideas about facilitating art-making activities within a care setting. They also learn how to use ordinary materials more creatively for art-making.

**DAY 2**

**Introduction – Ageing, Facilitator – Brian Dooney**

This session looks at different attitudes to/or representations of ageing and the impact they have on our sense of self and society. The value of a life-course model for positive ageing is also examined.

**Visual Arts Workshop (2), Facilitator – Joanna Hopkins**

In this workshop participants learn how to encourage a group within a care setting, to work creatively and artistically together, using a range of media and to explore different ways of utilising them more creatively.

**Movement Workshop, Facilitator – Philippa Donnellan**

This session offers tips and techniques in facilitating fun creative movement activity with others. By way of introduction, participants are guided through a series of easy, energising exercises and sequences set to music of all kinds, designed to aid mobility and strength. Following on, we explore the use of songs, text, and simple props to create dance and encourage inclusive, imaginative participation.

**WHO WE ARE**

**Age & Opportunity** is the national organisation that provides a range of opportunities for older people who want to get more involved in arts and culture, sport and physical activity, civic engagement and personal development. For more information visit: [www.ageandopportunity.ie](http://www.ageandopportunity.ie)

---

## FACILITATORS

**Brian Dooney** has been a Facilitator with Age & Opportunity's Engage programme since 2016. He designs and delivers courses on literature and the arts; and on positive ageing – in the context of building resilience and confidence; developing creativity; promoting lifelong learning and engagement.

**Gillian McCarthy** is an actress and theatre facilitator with over twenty years' experience. As a facilitator she has worked with various groups, schools and organisations including Co-Operation Ireland, the Gaiety School of Acting, the Irish Cancer Society and the Law Society of Ireland. She has a keen interest in storytelling and has also facilitated Creative Exchanges for Age & Opportunity in recent years.

**Joanna Hopkins** is a visual artist working in video, drawing, photography and installation, often using place specific vegetation as inspiration. Her projects involving arts, health and older persons related contexts include CREATE Project Realisation Award 2024, working with Beaufort Nursing Home in Navan, from 2023 - 2024; The Growing Gallery, a dementia inclusive installation for the Lexicon Gallery, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, 2022; and as the inaugural Artist in Residence in a Healthcare Setting, Orchard Day Centre, Blackrock, funded by Age & Opportunity, for Bealtaine (Arts Festival) 2017.

**Philippa Donnellan** is a choreographer and dance facilitator. Since 2007 she has worked with older age communities in varied settings across Ireland. She has co-led an online dance residency in care centers in Dublin, Naas and Kildare under the *Care Hubs of Arts & Creative Excellence 2020/2021* initiative by Age & Opportunity. She also facilitates dance workshops for healthcare professionals and others in the care sector, designed to build understanding of creativity through movement.