



PLATFORM

Issue three | Graduate Award edition

E: platformbelfast@gmail.com

T: 028 9031 1301

Address: unit 37-38 Connswater Shopping Centre,
17-18 Bloomfield Ave, Belfast BT5 5LP

Instagram: [@platformarts_belfast](https://www.instagram.com/platformarts_belfast)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/platformartsbelfast



Maria del Pilar
Morales

Graduate Award Show



Nina
Oltarzewska

Graduate Award Show



Sionnain Rafferty

Graduate Award Show



The Platform BA Graduate Award

This year was very different for those graduating from the Belfast School of Art. The usual end of year show could not go ahead.

However, we were still keen to offer the Platform award for all the hardwork the students had put in during this difficult time.

The Platform BA graduate award consists of the opportunity to present their work to the public in a group show in July 2021. They will receive curatorial support and mentoring from the co-directors of Platform, professional documentation of the exhibition and an opening reception. Each artist will also have the option to present a talk/workshop/performance in the gallery to allow audiences to learn more about their practice.

At first, the award was conducted digitally. Students that were interested in applying for the award submitted digital documentation of their degree show.

Fortunately for us, it was arranged that we could have a small private viewing of the BA shows. This was extremely helpful in allowing us to get an overall sense of the work.

We had a group exhibition in mind, so when viewing the exhibition we wanted to choose work that would play off each other, echo similar themes, explore a homogeneous narrative, as well as, having weight by themselves.

The three graduates we picked each explored themes that conveyed feelings that are conventionally hard to express. Such as grief, loss, identity, loss of identity, belonging, and not belonging.

This was reflected in the title of the group exhibition: 'all that was once felt'. Tying together the underpinning themes present in each artist's body of work.

Congratulations to:

Maria del Pilar Morales Caamaño :

Maria's work was well finished and presented. It was underpinned by some very comprehensive research and made interesting connections between subjects. We were particularly interested in bringing a body of work dealing with balaclavas to our new east Belfast gallery.

<https://www.bsoa21.com/student/maria-del-pilar-morales-caama%C3%B1o>

Nina Oltarzewska :

Nina's work was immediately captivating. We thought her work was very relevant to the present moment, as she focuses on the disconnection we have with ourselves that comes from the constant confrontation with distorted/untrue reflections of ourselves that we interact with through screens. We thought it would be very interesting to see this work in the context of a commercial shopping centre.

<https://www.bsoa21.com/student/nina-oltarzewska>

Sionnain Rafferty :

Sionnain's work stood out for being well produced. We enjoyed seeing the progression within the series but also felt each piece could stand alone. We liked the tension between the highly emotional theme of her work and the restricted palette she uses. It was beautiful and emotive.

<https://www.bsoa21.com/student/sionnain-rafferty>

Platform MFA Graduate award

Winner - Susan Hughes

The final year student body of Belfast MFA program presented their graduate show HERE / NOT HERE, online. Installed physically in the MFA studio spaces in the Art School but, due to Covid 19 restrictions, could not open to the public. They presented an inventive programme of online content including virtual tours, a performance of performance art, artist profiles, and professional photos of the work. The website is still live here:

<https://mfafineartbelfast.wixsite.com/2021/exhibitor>

Susan's work stood out to the selection panel from a very high calibre cohort of graduates for being striking and powerful. She states;

'the experiences which form the content of my work are complex and multi dimensional'

and we felt her work was similarly multidimensional as well as expertly presented. We are excited to see how this work continues to evolve and develop.

The MFA award recipient will have the opportunity to present a solo show at Platform in April 2022. They will receive curatorial support from the co-directors of Platform, professional documentation of the exhibition and an opening reception. They will also receive a fee for presenting a gallery tour / talk about their work as part of the exhibition programme.

Susan Hughes will present a solo exhibition in April 2022 at Platform. For more information on her art practice, have a look at her website:

<https://cargocollective.com/susanhughesartist/About>

You can also watch a short interview of Susan discussing her art and practice [here](#)

All that was once felt

2nd - 30th July 2021

We were delighted to present '*all that was once felt*', an exhibition by three graduating students from the Fine Art BA programme at Belfast School of Art. Maria del Pilar Morales Caamaño, Nina Oltarzewska and Sionnain Rafferty were selected as the recipients of the Platform graduate award 2021.

This gave the artists a chance to show selected pieces from the work developed for their degree show which due to Covid19 restrictions, was unable to open to the public this year. Works will include sculpture, video, performance, drawing and painting.

The opening night

For the first time since our move to Connswater we were able to have a proper opening reception (but still covid compliant) - late night art style.

It was amazing to see so many people enjoying art, which i'm sure we all have missed greatly since the beginning of lockdown.



Exhibition poster for *all that was once felt*

Stills from '**Consume Me**'

Live performance by Nina Oltarzewska @oltarzewska as part of '*all that was once felt*' July 2021

watch the full performance on our instagram here

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CQ1XXTM157q/>





*Maria del Pilar Morales Caamaño -
Textile Banner with quotes from Julia Bryan Wilson.*



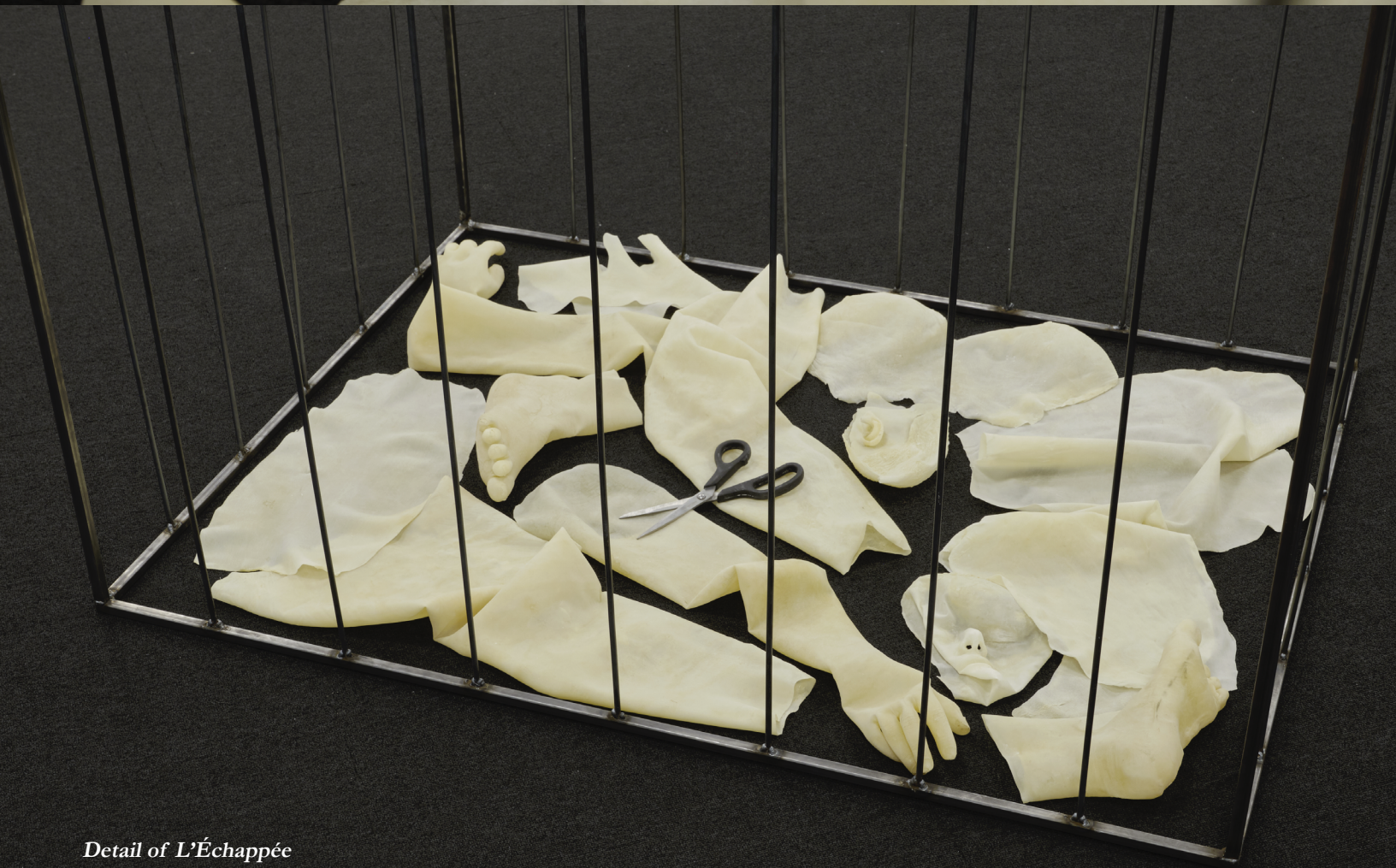


Nina Oltarzewska

Nina is a multi-media artist whose work focuses on the complex feelings that arise as a result of existing as an embodied being. Ranging from performance to casting, metal-working to sound, her work creates sensory experiences that create a feeling on the verge of either panic or safety.

Instagram: [@oltarzewska](https://www.instagram.com/oltarzewska)

Detail of L'Échappée
180x120x90cm, steel, latex,
photo -
Simon Mills @photosby.si



Detail of L'Échappée
180x120x90cm, steel, latex, photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si



Le Pied Glisse Sur La Pierre Érodée, 7m46s | Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si
[watch it here](#)

Sionnain Rafferty

- Within my practice, my artwork acts as an emotional response to subjective experiences surrounding mortality and my own process with grief. As a conceptual painter, my work strives to evoke feelings of vulnerability, along with complex and obscure imagery that reflect on my own subconscious renditions of the human experience, and the longevity of human life. Important within my practice, my subject matter is sourced from spontaneous and vivid mental imagery that often appears through moments of thought and lucid dreams. My paintings tend to juxtapose between energetic and expressive gestures with structured and rigid forms. Within my work, there are recurring geometric structures throughout; these prevalent forms often represent human presence, by which I question their state of existence in the afterlife. I include figurative aspects alongside geometric and loose, energetic shapes to reinforce the essence of human presence, and allude to a sense of uncanny that is open to the interpretation of the audience. My paintings often challenge perspective, as they comment on the stages of human life, even in the afterlife. Colour theory is a significant element within my practice, whereby I tend to work within a controlled and minimal palette of neutral, earthy tones. I believe this element is vital for my work, as it helps convey particular emotions to the audience and can transform the perception of a space.

Instagram: [@sionnainrafferty_art](https://www.instagram.com/sionnainrafferty_art)

Intersection

Oil on canvas

182.5 X 153.5cm

2021

Photo -

Simon Mills @photosby.si



The Gateway, Oil on canvas 184.5 X 154.5cm, 2021
Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si



Time Capsule, Oil on canvas, 183.5 X 152.5cm, 2021
Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si

Maria del Pilar Morales Caamaño

I am a multidisciplinary artist exploring the relationships of memory and the human condition with materiality, specially textiles and fibre. My practice is driven by states of being one or the other and feelings of belonging and not belonging. I am interested on the questioning of cultural interactions and representations.

website: <https://artmariapmc.cargo.site/>



Untitled 2 - Hands and Thread series,
Cotton fabric, found pillowcase, thread and
wood. 95x80cm
Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si



PLATFORM



Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si



Untitled 1 - Hands and Thread series, Cotton fabric, found pillowcase, thread and wood. 95x80cm
Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si



Archive flash on textiles, film
Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si



1. Textile Banner with quotes from Julia Bryan Wilson. 2.90mx2m.

2. No hay olvido, Video on textiles and memory.

3. Textile banner, Metal, Fabric, cotton, acrylic, latex, thread, shawl, embroidered and weaved fabric. 2.90Mx2M



Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si



Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si



Political Party, line drawings on wood stands, 2021.

Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si



Community buildings, Stoneware, earth ware with black slip and plastic people with acrylic on wooden plinth, 2021.

Photography - Simon Mills @photosby.si

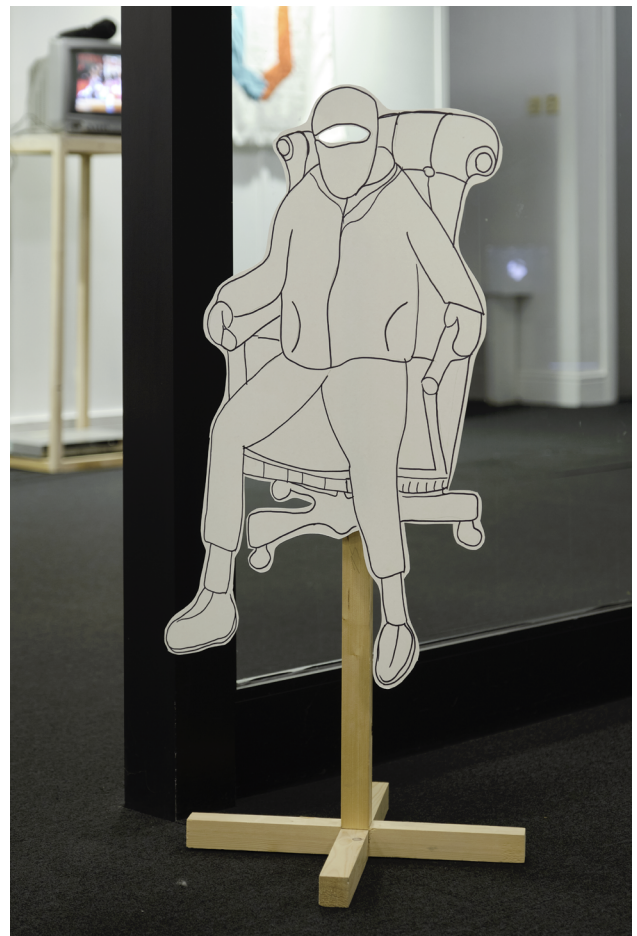


Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si



Photo - Simon Mills @photosby.si



PLATFORM

Upcoming Exhibition

Petra Dominová- Ritual

Opening : September 3rd | 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

“I find myself standing in the midst of an eternity, a vast and inexhaustible present.”

Ritual is an exhibition, by Petra Dominova, which depicts a sentient world – a network which encompasses internal universes and material planes, as they are all expressed in unity.

The work is born out of ritual. Through the visual and sensory media and with the use of symbols and its own intuitive cosmology grasps at our connection to Nature and the psyche in which we are thoroughly immersed. The body of work is driven by a process, which fosters and gives room to a subjective experience, which is sensory, unique, personal and intimate and is then presented in an immersive environment.

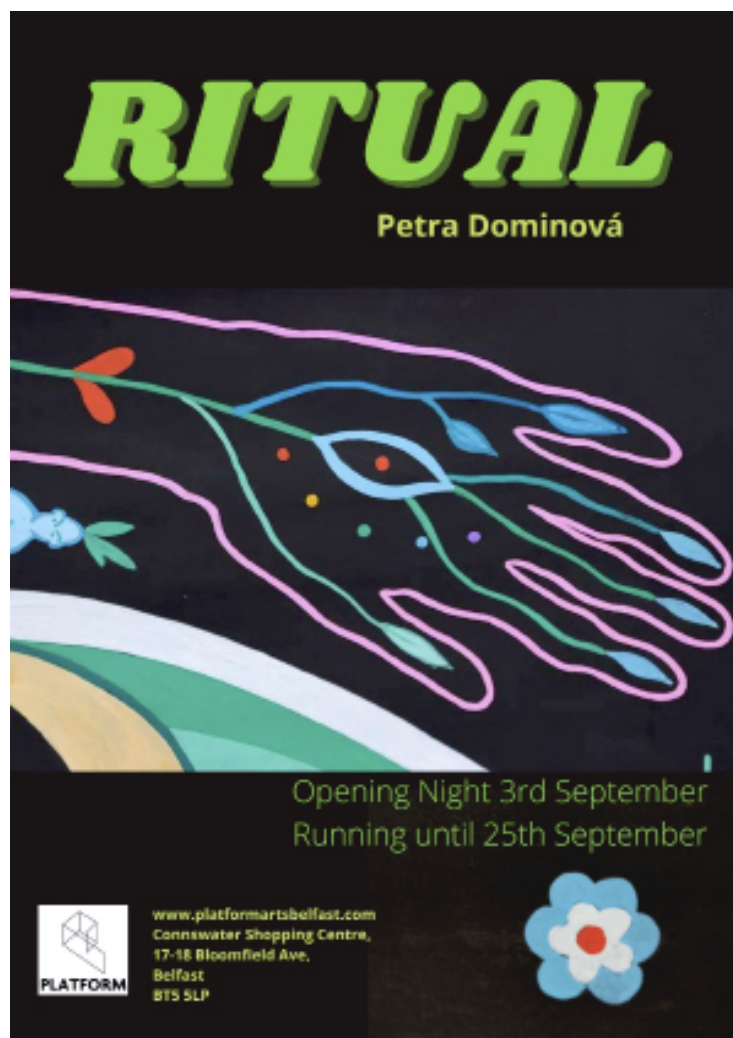
Petra Dominova

is a Czech born, Belfast based contemporary artist.

Through the use of myth and personal, intuitive iconography, her work brings attention to the subconscious layers of the psyche, where significance is given to symbolism, depicting a connection to the unity of Nature and our roots, whilst also exploring new ideas about consciousness and expanding our field of vision into the future. Building worlds, that are weaved together through organic forms and futuristic figures, submerged in a collective sensuous reality.

Her practice is an attempt at introspective inquisition, with ideas manifesting in the form of painting, sound art, moving image and installation.

She has completed her MFA in Fine Art at the Ulster University in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 2019. And she is also the recipient of the Platform graduate award 2019.



PLATFORM

Other news

co-director call out

Platform Arts is currently seeking expressions of interest for the role of Co – Director.

Platform was founded on the basic principle of supporting and promoting the creation of innovative contemporary art. Its mission is to actively promote the creation, presentation of and access to contemporary art through its studio, gallery and education programs.

A rolling board of voluntary directors is responsible for the running of Platform, this is drawn from both studio members and external applicants. It is the responsibility of the Directors to manage the operational, administrative, public and financial affairs of Platform Arts. Each Co-Director term lasts two years.

for more information on how to apply visit our website [here](#)

fundraiser

We're raising £1,000 to Fix up our new space

We need some money to help us fix up the space and help keep supporting artists in our exhibition program and studios while bringing you the best events and keep the arts thriving in our beautiful new space in Connswater Shopping Centre

At the moment we are looking for some extra support for this and to get some critical parts of the space fixed up. Any donation small or big will help us!

- Platform Arts Team



<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/were-raising-1000-to-fix-up-our-new-space>

