

Ancestral Biology

By Emma Bourke and Fiona Byrne
At the Custom House Gallery, Westport



What You Will Find in This

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About the artists and exhibition



Ancestral Biology is an exhibition by Emma Bourke and Fiona Byrne.



Both artists use glass to express their ideas and tell stories.



This exhibition explores how we share knowledge.



It looks at types of information that we pass on person to person.

This includes stories about plants and what they are used for.



It also includes craft skills, like glass making.



These types of information are stored inside us.

They need to be experienced to be understood fully.

A famous example of this type of information is the smell of coffee. It is very hard to know what coffee smells like without actually smelling it yourself.

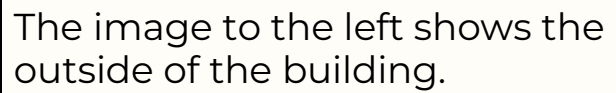
The Custom House
Upstairs Gallery
18 September 2025 to 12 October 2025
Open Mon-Fri, 10am – 5pm
Open Sat -Sun, 1pm- 4.30pm

Upstairs Gallery

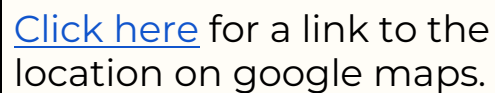
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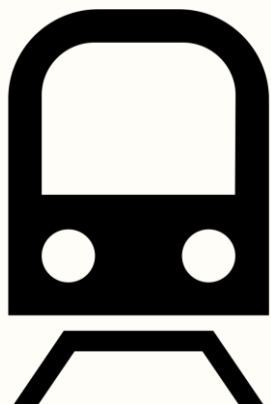
Open Sat -Sun, 1pm- 4.30pm



The Custom House Gallery,
The Quay, Cloonmonad,
Westport Quay, Co. Mayo,
Ireland



How to Get There



Train:

There is a train from Dublin to Westport which passes through Ballina and Athlone.

The train station is 40mins walk from the exhibition space. It is **not** well served by buses to the quay.

You might need to get a taxi.

[Timetable](#)

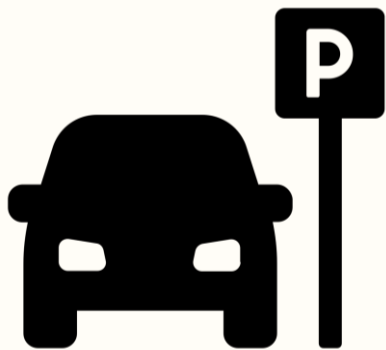


Buses:

The following buses go close to the exhibition. Please be aware there might be a walk of up to 15mins from the nearest stop.

[450](#) (Dooagh - Louisburgh)

[440](#) (Athlone - Westport)



Parking:

There is one disabled parking space in front of the building.

More information on parking in Westport [HERE](#)

What to Expect



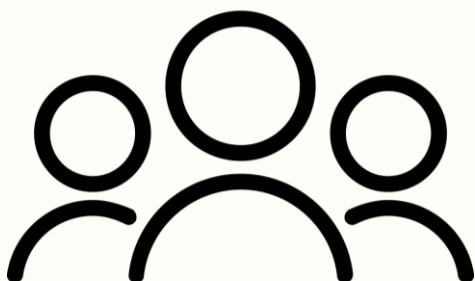
The exhibition is free.

No booking is required for the exhibition.



Everyone is welcome to the exhibition.

It is suitable for all ages.



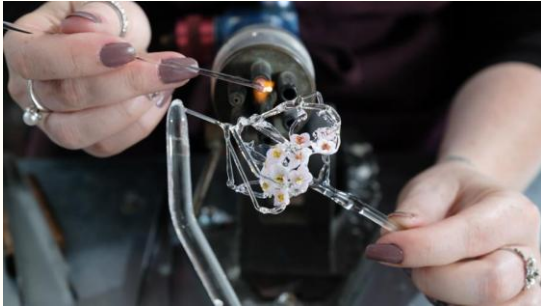
There will be a staff member who will be waiting to say hello.

They are there to assist you and answer any questions.

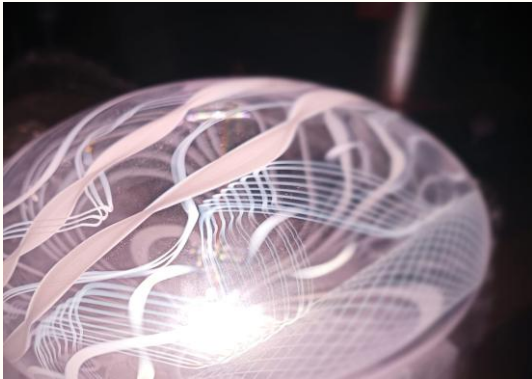


There will be a series of sculptures in glass on display.

There will also be some drawings on the walls.



Emma's work is very small and has lots of detail.



Fiona's work has lights inside it. These will come on as you approach the sculptures.



When you enter you will notice an area with plants.

This is our plant exchange.



Here you can swap one of your own plants for a different one.

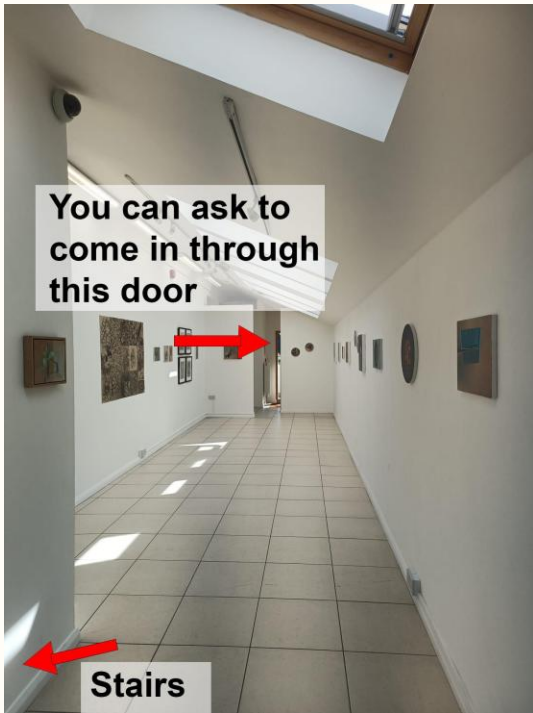


Every plant has a story.

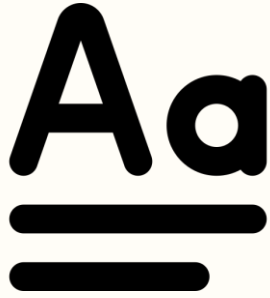
A postcard template for 'Ancestral Biology Plant Exchange'. The background is a grayscale image of various leaves and plant stems. The text is overlaid in a clean, sans-serif font. At the top left, there is a small '10 Save' icon. The title 'Ancestral Biology' is in a large, elegant script font, with 'Plant Exchange' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. Below the title, there are two lines for text: 'Plant Name:' followed by a blank space, and 'Donated By:' followed by a blank space. Further down, there is a line of text: 'Aon Scéal? Is there a story about your plant?' followed by a blank space. At the bottom, there is a line of text: 'Care instructions:' followed by a blank space.

When you leave your plant please fill in a postcard.

Postcards are on the shelf beside the plant exchange.

Access Information

	<p>The exhibition is upstairs.</p> <p>If you need to enter the exhibition space without stairs, you can do so from the left of the building. This door is normally locked.</p> <p>Please call before you arrive so that someone can be ready to meet you:</p> <p>(098) 28735</p>
	<p>The exhibition will have Audio Description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- By a QR code scanned on a mobile phone
	<p>There is a braille description of the exhibition text on the wall.</p>



A large font version of the exhibition text will be displayed.



There will be a relaxed approach to movement and noise.

You will be able to leave and re-enter, tic and move around.



There is an accessible toilet at the end of the gallery space on the left.



If you have questions or need more information on accessibility please contact us at:

(098) 28735

or get in touch at:

info@customhousestudios.ie