

## PRESS RELEASE

Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### New exhibition at Goethe-Institut takes inspiration from sights and sounds of West Cork

*Second instalment of 'The Glenkeen Variations' exhibition series features sound art, video works and paintings by four international artists*

The sights and sounds of West Cork's Roaringwater Bay and its surroundings have served as the inspiration for 'Composing Landscapes', a new multimedia art exhibition, which will open at the [Goethe-Institut Irland](#) on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Presented jointly by the Goethe-Institut Irland and the [Crespo Foundation](#), the exhibition is the second instalment of 'The Glenkeen Variations', a series of art exhibitions at the Goethe-Institut, which features the work of ten international artists who have participated in the [Glenkeen Garden Residencies](#), an artist-in-residence programme in West Cork.

Curated by coordinator of the Glenkeen Garden Residencies, Ben Livne Weitzman, 'Composing Landscapes' features the work of four international artists, who participated in the Glenkeen Garden Residencies in 2021 and 2022. The work on display at the Goethe-Institut includes:

- Two complimentary video works by Athens-based artists **Christiana Chiranagnostaki** and **Konstanza Kapsali** which explore the fusion of human labour and natural elements in the construction of dry stone walls, as well as their role as habitats for different species. In the two videos, entitled ***The distance we walked in this country I do not know*** and ***Throughs and Throughs***, the artists offer multifaceted narratives of interconnectedness, resilience, craftsmanship and property.
- An original piece of music entitled ***The Language of Water***, composed by Mexican sound artist **Tania Rubio**. The piece mixes sounds perceived at Glenkeen Garden – including rain dripping from leaves, bird calls, buzzing insects and distant cattle sounds – with rhythmic beats to create a sonic tapestry that reflects the garden's different topographies and the pivotal role of water in shaping these landscapes. Created for 12 instruments and electronics, the full composition will be premiered later this year. For 'Composing Landscapes', the electronic part of the composition will be available online [<https://taniarubio.com/obras/the-language-of-water/>] and serve as an invitation to take an attentive stroll through a composed landscape such as a park or other locations where constructed landscape takes form.
- Two paintings by Austrian-German artist **Markus Huemer**, whose practice navigates between traditional painting and media art. Triggered by the appearance of an orange full moon upon his first arrival at Glenkeen Garden, his paintings ***The Pumpkin is the Largest Berry*** and ***Nearly a Dusty Rainbow Experience*** attempt to capture that encounter and create it anew. Utilising digital tools like computers and algorithms alongside traditional materials such as canvas and brushes, Huemer delves into perceptual realms that exists between worlds and allude to the unseen.

Located in Ballydehob along the Roaringwater Bay, Glenkeen Garden was created by German photographer, psychologist, and philanthropist Ulrike Crespo (1950-2019) and her partner Michael Satke over a period of 20 years. Since 2021, the Frankfurt based Crespo Foundation has welcomed artists working across different disciplines to the Glenkeen Garden estate for three-month residencies. The residency programme invites artists to explore the relationship between art and nature during their stays and offers them opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange through collaboration with humanities scholars and scientists.

**'Composing Landscapes' will open at the Goethe-Institut in Dublin on 8<sup>th</sup> May and run until 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The series will conclude with the exhibition 'With or Without You' (8<sup>th</sup> November - 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024). The exhibitions are free to visit, and no advance registration is required.**

**Artist presentations and a panel discussion will take place at the UCC's Glucksman in Cork on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024. On 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024, the artists will offer a series of workshops and talks at the Working Artist Studios in Ballydehob, inviting participants to delve into the artists' creative processes and research.**

For further information about 'The Glenkeen Variations' exhibition and event series, visit: [goethe.de/ireland](https://goethe.de/ireland).

**ENDS**

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**Note to editors:**

- The artists, as well as curator Ben Livne Weitzman and Director of the Goethe-Institut Irland, Ulrike Gasser, are available for media interviews on request.
- A selection of images of Glenkeen Garden, as well as the artworks featured in 'Composing Landscapes' are available from this [Dropbox link](#).

**About the artists:**

- **Christiana Chiranagnostaki** (\*1981, Athens) is an Athens-based filmmaker working for many years on social issues such as the Syrian refugee crisis and the Greek financial crisis as a producer. Notable projects include directing the interactive documentary *The Beggar* and the short films "The Day Humans Left" and "June Notes". Currently, she is immersed in crafting her debut feature-length documentary, "Dear Future", supported by the Greek Film Centre and the Greek Broadcaster (ERT). She recently screened her new work, "Here Again", at the In Situ Realities Eleusis Documentary Festival.
- **Konstanza Kapsali** (\*1989, Thessaloniki) is an Athens-based filmmaker. She completed her studies in History and Archaeology and went on to acquire an MA in Heritage Management (NL) and an MSc in Documentary Filmmaking (DE). Her films have been featured in international conferences and international film festivals and were included in academic journals. Her first short film, "Girls In Flower", was awarded the NIGHT AWARD at the 18th Signos da Noite Film Festival in Lisbon. She is a PhD candidate at LUCA School of Arts (BE), and she has been awarded the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Artist Fellowship by ARTWORKS (2021).
- **Tania Rubio** (\*1987, Mexico City) is a composer, researcher, sound artist, and field recordist focused on biogenic music. Her work explores environmental sounds through the lens of acoustic ecology, with a particular interest in the interaction between sound art, biology, and ethnology from an ecocritical perspective. Her artistic work engages in diverse concert formats, music theatre, chamber music, immersive multichannel sound installations, and hybrid formats. She is currently a PhD student at the Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität.
- **Markus Huemer** (\*1968, Linz) probes the essence of painting within the digital era, exploring the interplay between images and their digital manipulation. Studying at the Academy of Arts, Düsseldorf and the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne, Markus currently holds a professorship at the Academy of Fine Arts, New Media I, in Prague. By delving into the complexities of digital media, Huemer challenges perceptions of reality versus visual representation, fostering a dialogue on the evolving nature of artistic expression in the digital age.

**About Glenkeen Garden**

Glenkeen Garden is a large estate spanning ten hectares located in Roaringwater Bay in West Cork. The garden was created by Ulrike Crespo, founder of the Crespo Foundation, and her partner Michael Satke over a period of 20 years. The garden is an inspiration for creativity and was also a significant source of influence for Ulrike Crespo's photographic experiments and series. The garden has sculptures by several artists, such as Peter Kogler, Gunter Damisch, Arie van Selm, David Nash, Gregor Eichinger,

Laura Ford and Ulrich Rückriem. Piet Oudolf, who also designed New York's High Line, designed the central grass meadow. There are designated viewpoints within the garden that provide stunning views of the landscape and beyond. Nearby, the "rough lands" are an untouched area owned by the Crespo Foundation, which was never cultivated or farmed and acquired by Ulrike Crespo to preserve its natural state.

### ***About the Crespo Foundation***

The [Crespo Foundation](#), founded by the late Ulrike Crespo (1950-2019) – a gifted photographer, accomplished psychologist and passionate philanthropist – is based in Frankfurt am Main in Germany. Set up as a private charitable foundation in 2001, it champions the cause of arts and provides support to artists and arts institutions, while also undertaking several operational initiatives in the spheres of education and social welfare. The Glenkeen Garden Residencies, in keeping with Ulrike Crespo's vision, were set up with the aim of providing a place for artists to ruminate, reflect and create.

### ***About the Goethe-Institut Irland***

The Goethe-Institut is Germany's cultural institute, which is active in 98 countries worldwide. It opened its doors in Ireland 63 years ago, in 1961, and is based at 37 Merrion Square in Dublin.

It operates from a European perspective and works independently, without political ties. Its objectives are to promote the knowledge of the German language, foster cultural collaboration and exchange, and convey a contemporary image of Germany. It does this through maintaining and building relationships with partners from the cultural and educational sectors in Ireland.

The institute runs an extensive cultural and events programme, offers language courses and qualifications, and an on-site and online library, which combined holds more than 30,000 titles. These can be accessed by anyone, free of charge, once registered. To find out more, visit: [goethe.de/Ireland](http://goethe.de/Ireland).