

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Nature and climate change at centre of new art exhibition at Goethe-Institut

*'Disquieting Frequencies'* marks the beginning of a new exhibition series, which showcases work of Glenkeen Garden artists-in-residence and explores relationship between art and nature

The impact of environmental pollution on plants and the effects of climate change on coastal wildlife are at the centre of 'Disquieting Frequencies', a new multimedia art exhibition, which was launched at the [Goethe-Institut Irland](#) today (07.03.24).

Presented jointly by the Goethe-Institut and the [Crespo Foundation](#), the exhibition marks the start 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.

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 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.

Curated by Ben Livne Weitzman, curator and coordinator of the Glenkeen Garden Residencies, 'Disquieting Frequencies' is the first exhibition in the series. It features the work of Berlin-based artists Moritz Fehr and Marcus Maeder, who participated in the Glenkeen Garden Residencies in 2022 and 2023. Fehr's video piece, *Plant Stress (SPF 50)*, examines the impact of excessive UV radiation on plant metabolism and growth, while Maeder's extensive art project, *Imeall an Chosta* (coastline), offers insights into the effects of climactic changes on the aquatic and terrestrial fauna of the Roaringwater Bay.

***'Disquieting Frequencies' will run at the Goethe-Institut until 8 April 2024. The series will continue with 'Composing Landscapes' (8 May - 8 June 2024) and conclude with 'With or Without You' (8 November - 7 December 2024). The exhibitions are free to visit, and no advance registration is required.***

Each edition of The Glenkeen Variations will also feature artist talks, presentations, and workshops held at the UCC's Glucksman in Cork and the Working Artist Studios in Ballydehob.

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:

- Photographer Marc O'Sullivan has been commissioned to cover the exhibition launch and will issue images to picture desks this afternoon.
- Artists Moritz Fehr and Marcus Maeder, as well as Ben Livne Weitzman and Ulrike Gasser are available for media interviews on request.
- A selection of images of Glenkeen Garden as well as the artworks featured in 'Disquieting Frequencies' are available from this Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/oor3tbvbg8mvmbdh12lgw/h?rlkey=vu2vqma80ipty180tvqmtvjwr&dl=0>

### **About Moritz Fehr / *Plant Stress (SPF 50)***

Moritz Fehr is an independent artist currently living and working in Berlin. Following a conceptual and research-based approach, he explores constellations of objectivity and emotion, technology and nature, and psychological and perceptual aspects of listening. He creates works with sound and moving images, which he often presents as site-specific installations, interventions or environments.

Fehr's video piece ***Plant Stress (SPF 50)*** navigates the concept of 'plant stress'—a term borrowed from scientific discourse, denoting unfavourable conditions or the impact of substances that disrupt the metabolism and growth of plants. The culprit in this instance is excessive UV radiation, a prevalent factor in environmental pollution. Filmed exclusively in the ultraviolet light spectrum, Fehr's work shows the act of applying SPF 50 sunscreen to various plants, thus creating a peculiar shield against the relentless impact of UV rays on the flora. This encounter creates a nuanced narrative around the implications of human influence on the natural world.

### **About Marcus Maeder / *Imeall an Chosta***

Marcus Maeder is an artist, researcher and composer of electronic music. Maeder studied Fine Arts at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences, Philosophy at the Fernuniversität in Hagen and is currently in the process of completing his PhD in Environmental Systems Science at ETH Zürich. Maeder has worked as an editor and producer for the Swiss radio station SRF and has been working as a researcher at the Institute for Computer Music and Sound Technology (ICST) of the Zurich University of the Arts ZHdK since 2005. In his research, Maeder is working on ecoacoustic investigations of areas, communities and organisms under the influence of climate change and other environmental issues. He contextualises his artistic and scientific work in the fields of Acoustic and Soundscape Ecology, as well as Artistic Research.

Maeder's his extensive project ***Imeall an Chosta***, which he developed in Glenkeen over the past two years, undertakes a dual scientific and artistic exploration of climatic changes along the Roaring Water Bay. Focusing on the impact of a changing climate on aquatic and terrestrial fauna, with particular emphasis on biodiversity, the study listens in on the intricate relationships shaped by microclimatic conditions and exposures in local communities within the context of shore ecology. Employing acoustic methods, automatic audio recorders and sensors strategically placed in transition zones from water to land capture the local soundscape at intervals, providing insights into the temporal and spatial dynamics of biodiversity and the weakening of the Gulf Stream (Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation). This ecoacoustic investigation provides new ways of understanding the changes occurring all around us. All recordings and data collected are accessible online at [www.imeall-an-chosta.net](http://www.imeall-an-chosta.net).

### **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).