

2012



300,000

People

300

Activities

150

Big Ideas

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# Intro

The Cultural Olympiad in Northern Ireland has engaged with over 300,000 people in more than 300 activities to date, recognising excellent community art projects through Inspire mark and celebrating Open Weekend since 2008 (see pages 6-15). So far, 11 artists and arts organisations in Northern Ireland have been commissioned to produce new work on a scale like never before (see pages 16-19). Our 2012 finale is the London 2012 Festival (see pages 20-21), an ambitious and exciting programme involving some of the world's leading artists.

There are still opportunities to get involved and champion Northern Ireland's arts and culture to the world. With ceremonies and Torch relays, live sites and festival, the opportunity to champion participation and inspire excellence in the arts on a global stage is becoming ever more real. 2012 will be a unique year and I look forward to seeing you at some of our shows.

**Cian Smyth**  
London 2012 Creative Programmer

“Northern Ireland has a deep understanding of the core values for our Olympic and Paralympic ambitions. From the community-based work through to London 2012 Festival, we want to champion and forge that inspiration into a significant moment of celebration. None of this would be possible without the motivation and enthusiasm of the work in this programme.”

**Ruth Mackenzie**  
Director of the Cultural Olympiad  
London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games

Image: London 2012 Festival launch  
Photo: LOCOG

I am very pleased and proud that my Department has been working closely with partners across these islands to deliver an exciting and varied Cultural Olympiad programme which marries great local talent with celebrated international artists.

The programme and plans for 2012 will enable us all to celebrate our rich and diverse cultural traditions, as well as experience new interpretations from world famous artists of our place in the global community. The events and activities presented here reflect the vision of the Olympics which seeks to build a peaceful and better world through mutual understanding and in a spirit of friendship and solidarity. I believe our events and activities associated with the Cultural Olympiad will deliver something for everyone on all of these levels. I extend my thanks to all of those professional artists, volunteers and communities that are working tirelessly to turn the Olympic vision into a reality and contributing to a local legacy for our future generations.

**Carál Ní Chuilín MLA**  
Minister, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



# Inspire mark



An Olympic and Paralympic first, the London 2012 Inspire programme enables excellent participatory projects by non-commercial organisations to be officially recognised by the London 2012 Games. The following pages present some of our newest projects in 2010/11.

#### **The Demeter Project**

Prime Cut Theatre Company (Belfast)

#### **Hands Around the World**

Creative Peace Mural Society (Ballymena)

#### **Art Take Part**

Voluntary Arts Ireland and Culture NI (Nationwide)

#### **The Art of History**

NMNI and Arts & Disability Forum (Cultra, Down)

#### **Digital Discoveries**

Department of the Environment (Nationwide)

The Legacy Trust UK programme for Northern Ireland, Connections, includes 4 Inspire mark projects:

#### **Luminous Soul**

Open Arts (Nationwide)

#### **The Chess Piece**

Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company (Derry-Londonderry)

#### **Comment-8**

Verbal Arts Centre (Derry-Londonderry)

#### **ImagineAction**

BEAM Creative Network (Donaghmore)

Image: Still Life Still  
Photo: Prime Cut Productions



#### **The Demeter Project** Prime Cut Productions

A six month project with Ardoyne Women's group, Dee Street Community Centre and Newhill Community Centre, brought together two generations of women from North, East and West Belfast to explore the contribution of women to the city over the past century. Participants developed and performed in a theatrical production, Still Life Still, based on their collected stories while also providing a rich archive of material for future exhibition.

[www.primecutproductions.co.uk](http://www.primecutproductions.co.uk)



### Art Take Part

Voluntary Arts Ireland and Culture NI

An initiative of Voluntary Arts Ireland and Culture Northern Ireland, Art Take Part is an online search facility and guide providing people with information about local arts activities in which they can get involved. Art Take Part aims to inspire young people to get involved in the arts. Through video, blogs and stories, this web platform wishes to inspire others through peer to peer networks, connecting those delivering activities with those who want to participate through the recommendation of peers.

[www.arttakepart.org](http://www.arttakepart.org)



### Hands Around the World

Creative Peace Mural Society

Creative Peace Murals began in Ballymena in 2000 as a millennium project and have since been delivered in ten countries around the world, from Japan to Uganda and from Uruguay to Switzerland. These 15' x7' tapestries will return to the UK in 2012 and inspire a new Olympic themed tapestry to be made by 500 students from the Ballymena Learning Together programme. Supported by Ballymena Borough Council, the project was one of the first in the UK to be recognised as an official Truce Inspire project by London 2012.

[www.creativepeacemurals.org](http://www.creativepeacemurals.org)



# migratory birds

## Digital Discoveries

Department of the Environment

Digital Discoveries is a project by the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland, linking a number of communications initiatives through digital engagement. It aims to inspire wider audiences to explore and capture new discoveries about their environment and to share their photos, videos and stories online. The campaign is supported by a number of activities like the Migratory Birds project involving schools in Northern Ireland and Ghana.

[www.doeni.gov.uk/digitaldiscoveries](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/digitaldiscoveries)

Image: The Naked Tornado  
Photo: Verbal Arts Centre



## Comment 8

Verbal Arts Centre

Comment-8 is commissioning a series of original musical and literary compositions, inspired by the theme of sports commentary. These works are being collaboratively developed by selected local writers, composers and members of sporting groups and will be performed in non-arts venues.

[www.comment-8.com](http://www.comment-8.com)



### The Chess Piece Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company

The Chess Piece was the culmination of Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company's first year delivering Into Contact, a three year programme funded by Legacy Trust UK. Awarded the London 2012 Inspire mark, The Chess Piece proved a brilliantly colourful performance involving amateur and professional dancers at the Guildhall in Derry-Londonderry.

[www.echoechodance.com](http://www.echoechodance.com)

# Open Weekend 2011

From extreme sports to singing on buses, from bog snorkelling to dance flash mobs, Open Weekend events have varied widely in scale and curiosity since 2008, but they have all helped to engage and excite nearly one million people across the UK over one weekend.

Open Weekend 2011, 22-24 July, marks one year to go to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in the UK and aspires to be better than ever. For more information on the celebrations and how to be involved, visit the website below:

[www.london2012.com/get-involved/open-weekend](http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/open-weekend)

One year to go.  
Open Weekend  
celebrates the  
countdown to  
the Games.



# Northern Ireland Commissions

Eleven local artists and arts organisations have so far been commissioned to deliver new work for the Cultural Olympiad throughout 2012 in Northern Ireland. Some will be delivered in anticipation of the Games from January to June and others during the London 2012 Festival from 21st June to 9th September.

## Artists Taking the Lead

**Nest** by Brian Irvine and John McIlduff  
Produced by Dumbworld Productions

## Unlimited

**The Screaming Silence of the Wind** by Maurice Orr  
Presented in association with The Braid, Ballymena

**CAUTION** by Sinead O'Donnell  
Produced by Arts Admin  
Presented by Golden Thread Gallery

## New Music 20x12

**Our Day** by Conor Mitchell  
Produced by NI Opera

## Community Celebrations

**Land of Giants** by Giant Events Company  
Produced by consortia: Beat Initiative,  
Belfast Community Circus School and Young at Art

## somewhere\_to

Northern Ireland campaign delivered by PLACE

The above local commissions, with a total value of almost £1.5million, are funded by a variety of partnerships throughout the UK.

These commissions complement the delivery of UK-wide projects such as TATE Movie, Film Nation Shorts and Discovering Places by a broad range of Northern Ireland partners.

Image: Tate Movie at the Golden Thread Gallery  
Photo: Phil Smyth photography



**TATE Movie**

Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast

[www.tatemovie.co.uk](http://www.tatemovie.co.uk)



# Unlimited

Unlimited celebrates disability arts, culture and sport on an unprecedented scale. Two artists from Northern Ireland are amongst the 23 commissions made in the first two rounds of funding.

## CAUTION

Sinead O'Donnell

CAUTION brings together six international performance artists to collaborate on a major international project. The artists will explore invisible disability through performance and produce an international exhibition that will showcase high quality, ambitious work by disabled and deaf artists at Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast.

## The Screaming Silence of the Wind Maurice Orr

Visual artist Maurice Orr will create an exhibition of large scale paintings inspired by the raw, barren landscapes of Northern Ireland and Iceland. Through paint and natural materials, such as fish leather, the paintings and exhibition have been developed with due consideration for the visually impaired. The Screaming Silence of the Wind opens at The Braid, Ballymena, on 1 September 2011.



# London 2012 Festival 21st June to 9th Sept 2012

At the heart of the London 2012 Festival will be a programme of commissions by some of the finest artists in the world with events ranging from pop to film, from visual arts and fashion to theatre, opera and digital innovation.

The London 2012 Festival will play a significant part in delivering a Cultural Olympiad legacy for Derry-Londonderry UK City of Culture.

The first announcements for London 2012 Festival events in Northern Ireland include:

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**London 2012 Festival opening –  
Peace One Day concert**

In partnership with Culture Company 2013.  
Derry-Londonderry.

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**A coastal installation by Deborah Warner**

Produced by Artichoke. With support from Culture Company 2013, Derry-Londonderry and The Roundhouse, London.

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**The Story of Film: An Odyssey by Mark Cousins**

In partnership with Northern Ireland Screen.

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Further details of the programme for London 2012 Festival will be announced in Autumn 2011.





global rainbow  
JANUARY 2012

For further information about the Cultural Olympiad programme in Northern Ireland please contact:

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