Walking Wisdom with Bernadette Divilly

Silent walking, memory maps and contemplative dance practice - tools to engage our intelligence and support ease and connection between bodies, space and place.

Choreography that supports relationship with every-body, city spaces and the enduring wisdom of the body & place and memory.

Saturday 2 July 16
Overview
Making urban streets and places is increasingly being understood as fundamental to the future success of cities.

Re-introducing place as an important factor in urban areas where public space has been damaged by the dominance of the car is seen as intrinsically linked to the continuing social and economic health and vitality of urban communities.

In the case of Woodquay in Galway City, it is the aspiration of the local business and residents association that this type of re-balancing process will provide a regenerative effect to help reverse a perceived decline of the economy and liveability of the neighbourhood.
Gaitway to Woodquay

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydzx3QuaxtA
Walking Wisdom With...

• Design with Communities - City Architect Rosie Webb and SAUL
• Ómos Áite, Mapping, NUI Galway, CKI and Centre for Irish Studies
• Woodquay Resident and Business Community
• Galway Rowing Club
• Galway One World Centre
• Town Hall Theatre

Saturday 2 July 16
Contested Spaces - Mobilizing Memory

“There is no age or place where knowledge of the body is without use” - Bodystories by Olsen and McHose.
Mobilisation of Memory
At this moment

Bodies

Stories

Places

Saturday 2 July 16
This event was to honour local knowledge and memory; "This needs to be documented so that future generations of architects, city planners, and citizens of the city can be informed". 40 local residents crossing 3 generations gathered to put down their memories.

Panel discussion chaired by Nessa Cronin

http://www.rte.ie/radio/utils/radioplayer/rteradioweb.html#!rii=b16%5F20816726%5F2387%5F20%2D07%2D2015%5F
MARTIN O'REILLY
The Blind Piper of Galway
Dance Date at Galway Dance Days with Dance Performance at Martin O’Reilly (1826 – 1911) Historical Dance House

https://vimeo.com/138729182
Password: Woodquay2468@
The Land League guaranteed to launch by John Dillon MP at Woodford, Co Galway, on October 23 1887. It had been called at the beginning of the 19th century there were so many pipers in County Galway that, in England, the uilleann pipes were often referred to as the ‘Galway pipes’. In 1882 there were seven pipers in the Aran Islands. Among the legendary Galway pipers were Michael Egan, who died in New York in 1880, Paddy Connolly, Patsy Tuohy, Dennis Deaby, who was blind, the ‘Piper’ Reilly from east Galway, and Stephen Brown from Shantalla.

Another was Martin Reilly, who was born blind in 1852 and lived most of his life in Galway city. He learned to play the pipes and in 1882 travelled to Liverpool to buy a set, but he had to wait five months for them to be finished. He married a widow named Ellen Morris. She already had a son, John, and Martin taught him to play the pipes. John later became a well-known musician in America.

Reilly apparently lived in Eyre Street and ran a ‘dance house’ in Suckeen. It is thought it was the one-storey building in our photograph, which was next to the back of where the Goalpost pub is today. It was a profitable venture and it must have been exciting to watch young people dance to the music of the uilleann pipes, but it was too much for the local clergy, who had the building shut down in 1889. Emigration and a decline in interest may also have contributed to the closure. Sightless and getting old, Reilly was unable to make a living by other means than music, and eventually he was forced to take refuge in the workhouse. The 1901 Census records him as living in the Galway workhouse.

The idea of musical and literary competitions to promote Irish culture was revived in the 1890s, and the first Feis Ceoil and Oireachtas gatherings were held. Many of the old music and dance traditions were revived. Reilly’s reputation as a consummate musician meant he still had many admirers, and he was taken from the workhouse and brought to Dublin where, out of practice and all as he was, he won first prize in the piper’s competition at the fair in 1891. A Dublin newspaper described the event as follows: ‘A notable incident was the playing of Mr Martin O’Reilly, who played a selection entitled “The Battle of Aughrim”, descriptive of the advance, the trumpets of the British, the battle onslaught of the Irish soldiers and the wailing of the women. Aughrim was of course a lost field, but nothing manslaughter, the gallant old piper, throbbing with a spirit that might long to play his countrymen into battle, fired them with a stirring and stirring version of the victorious march of Brian Boru. He played in perfect time and produced marvellous tones on his instrument.’

The piper’s rustic ways often contrasted with the decorum of the Dublin Gaelic League and he was a source of stories.

He was the central figure in various entertainments around the country and made a number of cylindrical records. Eamonn O’Ceididh was a great fan of his and often put him up in his house in Dublin. Sadly, his general interest in Reilly waned and he died in Galway Workhouse of pneumonia in 1904, less than a mile from his home. He is buried in Fort Hill.

Now a lecture series is being launched in his name. The inaugural Martin Reilly lecture will take place on Tuesday next at 2.30pm in Galway City Library on ‘Folk music collecting in Galway before the Famine’.

The Land War: In Ireland 1845-1910, Martin O’Reilly’s dancing rooms, Sunday 29th March 2015, 4-5pm at K Club, Athlone, County Westmeath.

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• **General Web Links**

  http://bernadettedivilly.com/classes/
  http://www.muscailt.nuigalway.ie
  http://www.barbaradilley.com
  https://anniebrook.com

**Culture File Review of Walking Wisdom**

http://www.rte.ie/radio/utils/radioplayer/rteradioweb.html#!rii=b16%5F20816726%5F2387%5F20%2D07%2D2015%5F

**Dance Date at Galway Dance Days with Dance Performance at Martin O'Reilly (1826 – 1911) Historical Dance House**

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http://bernadettedivilly.com/videos/
Applications - Urban Design, cultural heritage, engagement with diverse and storied histories associated with urban landscapes in Ireland
Thank You

Eleanor Hough
Rosie Webb
Nessa Cronin
John Corcoran
Sheila Flanagan
Sheila Gallagher
Sharon Murphy
Elodie Rein
Jackie Small
Willie Henry
Doireann Carney
James Harold
Cindy Cummins
Ronan Browne
Ríonach O Neill

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