**Press Release**

**dlr/UCD Parity Studios Partnership Announced**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is delighted to announce a new partnership with UCD Parity Studios. Through this partnership the Council’s Arts Office will be supporting artists David Beattie and Méadhbh O'Connor who have been awarded residencies in UCD College of Science.

The programme offers yearlong residencies to professional artists who are interested in developing their arts practice in a multi-disciplinary environment. Artists are offered an artist's fee, 24 hr access to artist studios, access to UCD academics, researchers, courses, lectures and UCD libraries.

The studios, based in the School of Physics, provide a unique platform for sustained engagement with other researchers and a supportive environment for interdisciplinary enquiry, across all areas of research at UCD.

Welcoming this new initiative, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Cormac Devlin praised the work of UCD’s College of Science saying “I’ve been hugely impressed by the innovative work of the College of Science who established UCD Parity Studios in 2013. The team have created a new cultural space in the County where an exchange of research, learning, science and arts practice inspires everyone on campus, and beyond.”

Emer O Boyle, Creative Director of UCD Parity Studios is “delighted to be working with dlr Arts Office to meet our shared objectives of supporting the arts in Ireland, and in sharing the benefits of the campus and the activities it houses through the creative outputs of the programme."

Another of Parity Studios’ resident artists, Julie Merriman, has been awarded the 2018 dlr Municipal Gallery Commission Award. Funded by the Arts Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, the commission enables Julie to produce a new body of work to be exhibited in the Municipal Gallery, dlr LexIcon in June 2018.

Editors Notes

Since its beginning in 2013, UCD Parity Studios has worked with 23 of Ireland's esteemed artists towards capturing the value of the great public university to city and country. The programme connects the ecology of arts practice in Ireland with research and education at university.

<http://www.ucdartinscience.com/home/4579003802>