

## **Research Project Proposal**

**Project title:** UGO 0.2: Developing new project space practices in digital-based student learning and research.

**Project Lead:** Jonathan Kelham

### **Introduction (rationale for the research)**

The UGO 0.2 project proposes to investigate the theoretical and practical development of a new learning platform, a digital project space. The research intends to theorise, test and consider the increased focus in digital production and curation in contemporary fine art practice.

The outcome will be a solely digital platform for the presentation of works by invited artists and students, interested in ideas of virtual, viral, documentation and collaboration. The project space will add currency to the curriculum, provide professional development opportunities for level 6 students working in collaboration with facilitator Jonathan Kelham. The proposal is a development on from previous ACE [2016] & Birmingham City University [2011] funded practice-research on project spaces.

### **Literature Review**

Greenfiled, Andrew. 2017. *Radical Technologies* London: Verso Books.

Gronlund, Melissa. 2017 *Contemporary Art and Digital Culture*. London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

Ngai, Sianne. 2015. *Our Aesthetic Categories*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Osborne, Peter. 2018. *The Postconceptual Condition*. London: Verso.

Thompson. Hemment. Cooper. Luis de Vicente. et al. 2013. *Digital Public Spaces*. Manchester: FutureEverything Publication.

Wade, Gavin, Gavin Everall, and James Langdon. 2017. *Upcycle This Book* . London: Book Works.

### **Methodology**

Methodology follows practice-led research patterns highlighted in current research as part of PG CHEP Module 1 'Drafting a Digital Project Space: Evaluating project space technologies in visual arts teaching & learning'. Key methodology theorists include Greenfiled, Andrew. 2017. *Radical Technologies* & Thompson. Hemment. Cooper. Luis de Vicente. et al. 2013. *Digital Public Spaces*. Both publications present the emerging and established digital technologies in art education as 'tools' or practices, to be considered as significant a cannon as 'painting'. The writing of Ngai, Sianne in *Our Aesthetic Categories* [2015], suggest that the adaptability,

flexibility and fluid approach to the artist in the 21st century provides the most relevant and contemporary methodology / approach to ideas of the artist, art-research and art production.

### **Outcomes and expected benefits of the project**

UGO 0.2's benefit to students:

- ❖ professional development opportunity –wider practice: curator, administrator, documentation, artist
- ❖ professional development awareness – role of technologies & impact on and opportunity to apply practice to digital project pedagogy.
- ❖ professional exhibition opportunities.
- ❖ enhancing BFA programme ethos to reflect contemporary fine art practices and relevance to students awareness of wider art-world.

UGO 0.2's benefit to staff:

- ❖ reflection of contemporary fine art practices and current research interests of staff.
- ❖ as a vehicle to support and model new or underdeveloped areas of knowledge.
- ❖ as potential pedagogical platform to be utilised in future modules and applied to challenge student expectations. For instance, a group show of outcomes achieved on the Level 4 Sculptural Process Support Module.
- ❖ Support the undertaking of the PG CHEP Module 2 research by Jonathan Kelham.

UGO 0.2's benefit to UCC | School of Art | BA Fine Art:

- ❖ Raises the profile of the research interests and specialisms of the course.
- ❖ Showcases engagement with contemporary fine art practice.
- ❖ Showcases professional development opportunities and student ownership of the BFA.
- ❖ Showcases UCC engagement with and facilitator for working with nationally and internationally renowned artist.
- ❖ Digital content / platform is effective in a visual representation of some areas of interest for external individuals, organisations and prospective students.
- ❖ Marketing.

UGO 0.2's expected outcomes:

- ❖ Established programme of projects commissioned as part of the 2018-19 UGO 0.2 project space. To include student, alumni and nationally renowned artists in solo, two-person, collaborative and group projects.
- ❖ Research Output: 6000-word case study as part of PG CHEP Module 2.
- ❖ Research Output: UCC Research Report 2019.