

ACTIVITY	ALGAE SUMMIT (Coney Island / Inis Da Drom - Fergus Estuary IRL)	
DATE : 15-18/6/2017		Commissioned by ASKEATON CONTEMPORARY ARTS & LISMORE CASTLE ARTS (Ireland)
LOCATION: Coney Island -Shannon Estuary Ireland		
DESCRIPTION	Convened by Filip Van Dingenen, the Algae Summit was an international conference taking place in Askeaton and nearby Shannon River Estuary concerning the seaweed rights and seaweed spirits.	
NR. PARTICIPANTS Alongside contributions from the Askeaton locality, participants include artist and curator Paula von Seth (Stockholm), environmental activists John Bhaba, Jaic Ó Confhaola, Sinead Mercier and Séagh Mac Siúrdáin, Berlin-based Australian poet, critic and curator Rachel O'Reilly, energy therapist and artist Ive Van Bostraeten (Belgium), cyanotype expert Sarah Codd and Czech artist Klara Hobza, all alongside Irish artists Domestic Godless, Adrian Duncan, Maurice Foley, Mary Conroy and Seanie Barron and seaweed food company Mungo Murphy		
QUESTIONS	How to include the active voice of seaweed and sea plants into our conversations?	
OBJECTIVES	Creation of interspecies diplomacy	
PROCESS	Askeaton and its outlying territories is an acknowledged centre of seaweed cultivation from at least medieval times, as it was used as the primary agricultural fertilizer in the region to sustain daily nutrition and life. The introduction of chemical substitutes in the 1950s saw its decline alongside depopulation of many islands on the Shannon. Van Dingenen has repeatedly visited Askeaton in recent years to research this history, seaweed cutting and the still-unresolved nature of harvesting rights in Ireland, along with the wider ecological impulses that must be spoken of – all to remove the divide between human and nature, and challenge the alienation of contemporary life from the now unheard environmental spirits in our midst. A focal point is a two-night engagement held on uninhabited Coney Island in the middle of the Shannon Estuary, with the aim of creating a new alternative treaty to address this wide-ranging issue. As we understand the political isolationism directed from Trump and big business towards the delicate world we inhabit, the Algae Summit served as a model to identify and promote the needs and urgencies of indigenous critical resistance.	
CHOICES		
METHODS	Workshops on clay & seaweed, discussions, presentations of seaweed harvesting & rights, seaweed tasting & cooking, seaweed bathing, inearthing crystals, introduction stickmaking	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Bringing together critical voices on harvesting rights and reflection on environmental justice.	