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# THE KINGDOM COMES TO QUEEN'S ELM

Cill Rialaig Presents  
AN EXHIBITION OF ART



OPENING OF THE ENVELOPE BY DIARMUID GAVIN special guest HUGHIE O'DONOGHUE

**Cill Rialaig** village (c. 1790), set high on a cliff at the very edge of Western Europe was Phase one of a self help three part economic and social plan for the much neglected Gaeltacht area (Irish speaking) of Ballinskelligs, Co Kerry. It involves the rescue and redevelopment of the pre-famine village of Cill Rialaig as a retreat for artists, poets, writers and composers of national and international repute. The Cill Rialaig Project founded by Dr. Noelle Campbell-Sharp is a voluntary body a company limited by guarantee whose main aim is to develop and maintain a retreat for artists and writers from Ireland and abroad. Already seven studios and a utility house have been completed at the village. Over **2500** artists from Ireland, Northern Ireland, the UK, Europe, Russia, the US, South America, Canada, China, Japan and Australia have enjoyed the experience which they claim has impacted on their work and careers. Accommodation is *free of charge* in self-catering individual house-studios. A communal house (Tig an Comhra - conversation house) where visiting artists can meet one another and the local people, their language, music and culture, is now complete and was in 2008 dedicated by *President McAleese* to the memory of the village's most famous early inhabitant, seannachai (story teller) Sean O'Connaill. Over **250,000** applications have been received from all over the world for residencies. Open all year round.

The retreat does not have a website in view of its special location and its unique *ethos* of isolation and eremitic like living and working space. The retreat nearly 20 years old is mainly funded by its founding patrons , fund raising events and new patrons grants. The Arts Council have given a small anual grant and it is hoped this might increase in coming years. Culture Ireland have supported this first London event.

Artists are invited to apply for residencies all year round. For application forms and details email [cillrialraig@gmail.com](mailto:cillrialraig@gmail.com).

Cill Rialaig  
Artists  
Retreat is the  
best kept  
secret in the  
arts world



the view of deserted village 1990



the village rebuilt for artists 2009



the view from Cill Rialaig by Caroline Hinkley (US)

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ALISON ROSSE  
SIMON TARRANT  
DONLAD TESKEY  
and poet  
SUE HUBBARD

at **THE QUEEN'S ELM**  
**241 Fulham Road**  
**London SW3 6HY**

Opening by  
**DIARMUID GAVIN**  
on

Thursday 22nd October 2009  
Special Guest Hughie O'Donoghue

Wine Reception 6-8pm courtesy of Billington Farms and Guinness