

SCIENCE

GALLERY

SCIENCE

GALLERY

STORIES

RESEARCH

THE VIRTUAL ART + SCIENCE

READING GROUP

Autumn Brown, Science Gallery Dublin's first funded PhD researcher, talks about the Art + Science Reading Group, a virtual discussion about art, science, and society that is an example of collaboration between Science Gallery Dublin and the Trinity Long Room Hub, both at Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin.

WHO?

- ▶ Autumn Brown, PhD researcher, Science Gallery Dublin and the School of Education
- ▶ Amelia McConville, PhD candidate, School of English and Institute of Neuroscience
- ▶ Science Gallery Dublin
- ▶ Trinity Long Room Hub

WHAT?

Autumn Brown is the co-founder of the Art + Science Reading Group, a now-virtual café where researchers, artists and thinkers come to share ideas. Together with PhD candidate Amelia McConville, she organises a virtual space that explores the ways art and science shape one another and society. The initiative is supported by Science Gallery Dublin and the Trinity Long Room Hub.

During each session, the group discusses an article and an artwork alongside a guest. The series invites people from a variety of backgrounds to shed light on the online discussion while providing a personal perspective to some of the work shared. Originally the group met in Science Gallery Dublin's café and built up a core group of attendees through word-of-mouth. Presented with the challenges of Covid-19, the event moved to an online setting, creating an opportunity to open the virtual café doors even wider, reaching a global audience.

Autumn is the first PHD researcher funded to develop her work inside Science Gallery Dublin. Using the gallery as her laboratory, she explores how the future is imagined and created at the crossroads of art and science.

Her research is built around four critical case studies, including an artist residency partnership between Science Gallery and Accenture, and science engagement through zine-making, but now Autumn considers the Art + Science Reading Group her unofficial fifth case study. She finds it deeply gratifying to see people from different backgrounds, from all over the world, in real time, sharing ideas and considers being challenged by complete strangers on a monthly basis a valuable learning experience.



The Art + Science Reading Group

WHAT

THEY SAID?

“Science Gallery Dublin and the Trinity Long Room Hub are both huge supporters of transdisciplinary research. They both have a deep affinity for the ideas which emerge from the in between places, and at the intersections of different disciplines. I think the ease of the partnership comes from a place of mutual respect, and a pioneering spirit. These groups don’t chase the horizon, they create it.”

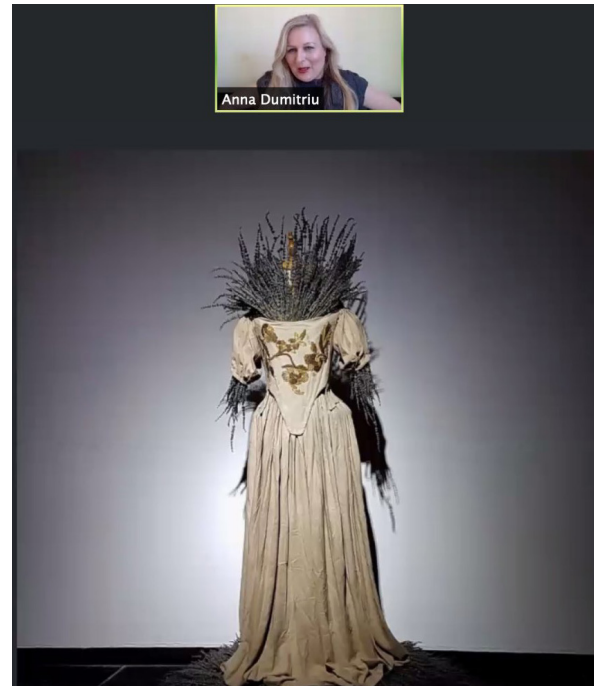
(...)

“Science centres and museums are not just keepers of knowledge. We have the potential to provide our communities with vital science support which sees them explore, critique, and build the world they want to live in. It is our responsibility to become the relevant and responsive resource that communities across the globe deserve.”

- Autumn Brown

WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS AND IMPACTS?

- ▶ Inspiring academic choices
- ▶ Personal development
- ▶ Inspiring creativity
- ▶ Public engagement
- ▶ Engagement with real research



“Plague Dress”: Bioartist Anna Dumitriu speaks about her work at the Art + Science Reading Group



PhD Researcher Autumn Brown

LINKS

Learn more about Art + Science Reading Group:

<https://dublin.sciencegallery.com/news/join-us-for-the-the-art-science-reading-group-on-7-may>

<https://dublin.sciencegallery.com/search/art-science-reading-group>

Sources: Interview with Autumn Brown

Compiled by: Jahitza Balaniuk, Science Gallery International
2020

Activity date: 2020