



**Acquired
Brain Injury**
Ireland



GLOBAL
BRAIN HEALTH
INSTITUTE



Alzheimer's
Society



Wednesday 18 March

Open 10am – 6pm

Thursday 19 March

Open 10am – 5pm

Friday 20 &

Saturday 21 March

Open 10am – 6pm

Closed Sunday 22 March

Monday 23 March

Open 10am – 6pm

Tuesday 24 March

Open 10am – 6pm

Artist talk: 11am

Wednesday 25 March

Open 10am – 6pm

**Thursday – Saturday,
26 – 28 March**

Open 10am – 6pm

Making the invisible, visible: creative arts for brain injury advocacy

18 – 29 March 2026

Showcasing artworks
from brain injury survivors
in Wexford

Curated by: Sheila Burton





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Exhibition overview

Creative arts café

This exhibition presents the outcomes of a pilot project exploring creative arts as a tool for brain injury advocacy, funded by the Global Brain Health Institute, the Alzheimer’s Association, and the Alzheimer’s Society.

This funding was awarded to Gráinne McGettrick in her role as an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health (Trinity College Dublin) and the project was led by Natasha Sinnott. Both Grainne and Natasha are team members at ABI Ireland.

The creative arts café was conceived as a sensory and social space that recognises that after a brain injury, experience is often felt, heard, touched, and sensed before it can be easily explained in words.



Working through sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste, participants used the creative arts to draw on lived experience, memory, and emotion. The café environment offered familiarity and comfort: conversation, shared time, creative focus, and the everyday rituals of a café setting.

Within this space, participants explored advocacy not through argument, but through sensory expression making the invisible impacts of brain injury visible, audible, and tangible.

This project supports brain injury survivors to have their voices heard on their own terms, valuing sensory knowledge as a powerful form of communication and self-expression.



Upcoming workshops



Meet the artists

Date: 24 March 2026, 11am - 1pm

Location: Green Acres Art Gallery, 2 Lower Georges Street, Selskar St, Townparks, Wexford (Eircode: Y35 RW7C)

Meeting the artists behind the exhibition is a very meaningful experience. Each artist lives with a life-changing brain injury, and through informal conversations they share the personal stories behind their individual pieces.

These discussions offer a deeper understanding of the artwork, as the artists explain what their creations represent to them, from memories and emotions to the small moments that bring joy and meaning to their lives.

Hearing directly from the artists adds a powerful and authentic layer to the exhibition, giving visitors a chance to connect with both the creativity and the lived experiences behind the work.



Songwriting workshop for carers

Date: 25 March 2026, 10:30am - 1:30pm

Location: Wexford Clubhouse, Rosslare Rd, Drinagh,
Wexford (Eircode: Y35 HD9X)

We are delighted to welcome Mike Hanrahan, renowned Irish singer-songwriter, for a one-off songwriting workshop for carers. No musical experience is required.

This informal and supportive session offers a wonderful opportunity to turn your own experiences and words into music.



Mosaic butterfly workshop

Date: 29 March 2026, 10:30am - 1:30pm

Location: Unit 5, Wexford Enterprise Centre, Strandfield Business Estate, Drinagh, Wexford (Eircode: Y35 VP65)

Mosaic artist, Helen McLean will facilitate a mosaic workshop for carers and clients to collaboratively create a butterfly artwork. This piece will have a permanent home in the Creative Laneways' Wings of Unity Laneway, creating a lasting legacy of connection and creativity.

Sensory pathway through the exhibition

Introductory piece

Hope

This collective piece takes the form of an antique café front being a space that suggests warmth, familiarity, and welcome. Cafés are places where the senses meet: the sound of conversation, the smell of coffee, the feel of a table beneath your hands.

Embedded within the café façade are the words that shaped the creative arts café from its very beginning. Generated through early brainstorming sessions, these words reflect memory, emotion, challenge, and possibility.

The word hope anchors the piece and the project itself. It represents a shared starting point and an invitation to imagine connection, expression, and change.

***This café is not a place to buy coffee; it is a place
to share experience.***



Mosaic

Facilitating Artist: Helen McLean

Individual mosaic pieces are brought together to form a collective work. The process of mosaic-making relies on touch, repetition, and careful placement, allowing artists to work through texture and form. Visually, the finished piece reveals how many individual experiences combine to create a shared narrative.

Artists: Denise Lawler, Heather Jones, Irene Delaney, Jamie McDonald, Karina Browne, Patricia Power, Thomas Nolan, William Aspel.

Pottery

Facilitating Artist: Laura Barry

Pottery offers a deeply tactile experience, where pressure, balance, and movement shape the final form. Each ceramic piece reflects a personal response to the material, highlighting how physical engagement can support expression when words are difficult to access.

Artists: Anne Cribben, Denise Lawler, Heather Jones, Irene Delaney, Jamie McDonald, Karina Browne, William Aspel.



Music

Facilitating artist: Ruth Gallagher

An immersive audio-visual collage draws visitors into the sensory world of sound. Music becomes a way of accessing memory, emotion, and connection through rhythm, harmony, and shared listening, offering an experience that is felt as much as it is heard.

Musicians: Denise Lawler, Irene Delaney, James Power, John Furlong, Karina Browne, Krzysztof Mlak, Mark Kileen, William Aspel.

Poetry

Facilitating artist: Eithne Hand

Poems written from lived experience are presented both visually and through recorded readings. Hearing the poets' own voices adds depth and intimacy, allowing visitors to engage with the rhythm, tone, and emotional resonance of each piece.

Poets: Denise Lawler, Heather Jones, Irene Delaney, Jamie McDonald, Karina Browne, William Aspel.



Tactile and scent installation

Facilitating artist: Christina Tallon

This installation foregrounds smell and touch senses closely linked to memory and emotion. Scents and textures invite visitors to experience how meaning can be carried through the body, revealing aspects of brain injury that are often difficult to articulate visually or verbally.

Artists: Albert Rochford, Denise Lawler, Jamie McDonald, Irene Delaney, Karina Browne, William Aspel.

Photography

Photographer: Christina Tallon Phelan

Beautiful photography captures the atmosphere, gestures, and interactions that shaped the project. These images offer a visual record of process, presence, and connection being moments often unseen but deeply felt.

***When language falters, the senses remain.
Through touch, sound, smell, and sight, these works
speak.***



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