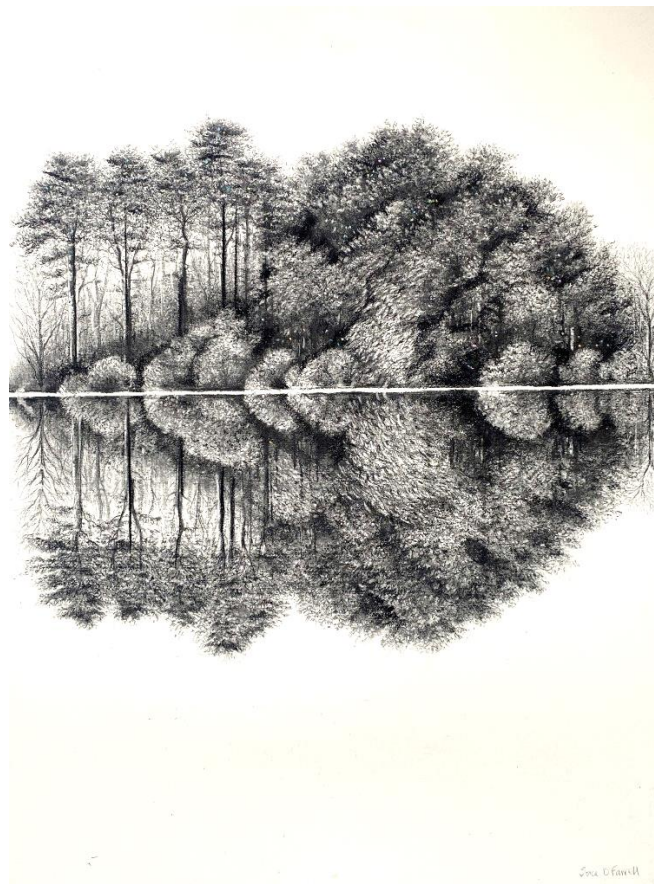


# Art Activism & Ecoart Communities in Ireland II

Jeudi 6 - Vendredi 7 février 2025

Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3

Salle Kouros, Saint Charles 2



Sorca O'Farrell, *Parallel Universe*, charcoal, indian ink & pastel on paper, 90 cm x70 cm, 2022

Organisation : Valérie Morisson, (EMMA, UPVM)

et

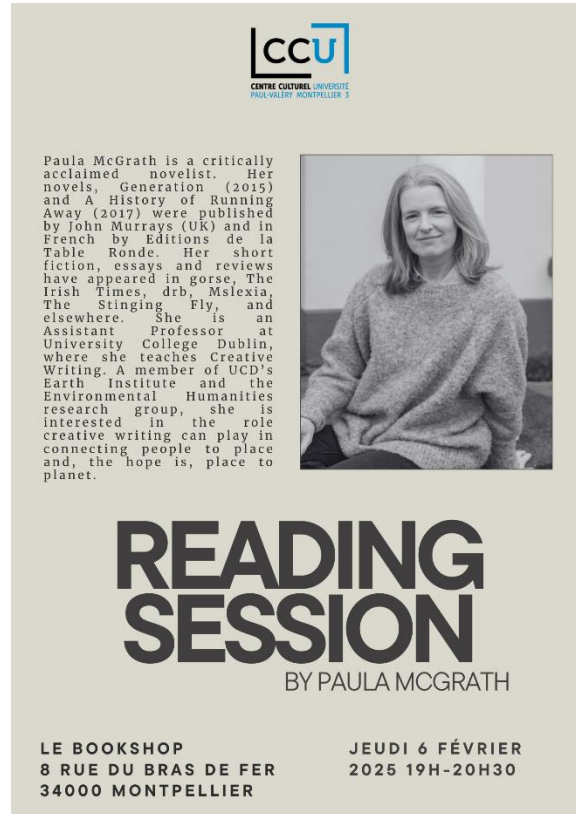
Marion Naugrette-Fournier (ERIN, EA 4398 PRISMES, Sorbonne Nouvelle)



JEUDI 6 FEVRIER

**19h : Reading Session with Irish writer Paula McGRATH**

Le Bookshop, 8 Rue du Bras de Fer, 34000 Montpellier



The poster features the LCCU logo at the top center, which stands for Centre Culturel Université Paul Valéry Montpellier 3. To the left of a portrait of Paula McGrath is a block of text describing her work and background. The portrait shows her sitting and smiling. Below the portrait, the words 'READING SESSION' are written in large, bold, black capital letters, followed by 'BY PAULA McGRATH' in a smaller font. At the bottom, the event details are listed: 'LE BOOKSHOP 8 RUE DU BRAS DE FER 34000 MONTPELLIER' on the left and 'JEUDI 6 FÉVRIER 2025 19H-20H30' on the right.

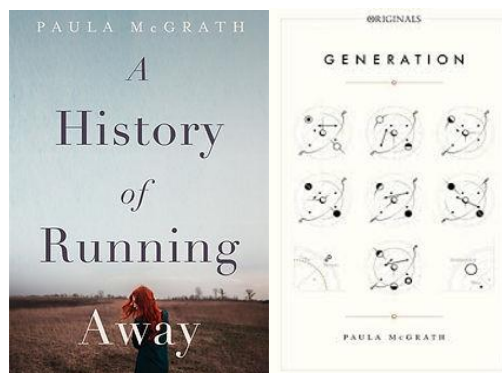
Paula McGrath is a critically acclaimed novelist. Her novels, *Generation* (2015) and *A History of Running Away* (2017) were published by John Murrays (UK) and in French by Editions de la Table Ronde. Her short fiction, essays and reviews have appeared in *gorse*, *The Irish Times*, *drb*, *Mslxia*, *The Stinging Fly*, and elsewhere. She is an Assistant Professor at University College Dublin, where she teaches Creative Writing. A member of UCD's Earth Institute and the Environmental Humanities research group, she is interested in the role creative writing can play in connecting people to place and, the hope is, place to planet.

**READING SESSION**  
BY PAULA McGRATH

LE BOOKSHOP  
8 RUE DU BRAS DE FER  
34000 MONTPELLIER

JEUDI 6 FÉVRIER  
2025 19H-20H30

**Paula McGrath** lives in Dublin. Her novels, *Generation* (2015) and *A History of Running Away* (2017) were published by John Murrays and have been translated into French by Cécile Arnaud (*Génération*, Table Ronde, 2017 and *La Fuite en héritage*, Table Ronde, 2019). Recent short stories include "An Múinteoir/The Schoolteacher", published as part of *The Irish Times* Summer Series, 2021, and "The Marquee", *Katherine Mansfield Studies*, 2022. She is Assistant Professor of Creative Writing & Head of Creative Writing at University College Dublin, and her teaching and research interests are focused on creative writing, contemporary fiction, environmental writing, and women's writing.



## VENDREDI 7 FEVRIER

**9h-9h30** : Catherine CONAN (Université de Bretagne Occidentale) : « Drawing a Line, Making a Mark : The Spatial, Material and Textual Practices of Gwen Wilkinson »

**9h30-10h** : Hélène LECOSSOIS (Université de Lille) : « Miriam de Búrca : visual art and decolonial ecology »

**10h-11h30** : visite guidée en anglais du Jardin des Plantes de Montpellier

**12h** : Lunch (site Saint Charles)

**13h-13h40** : Glenn LOUGHRAN (TU Dublin School of Creative Arts)

Glenn Loughran is an artist and researcher working in socially engaged art, and education. He holds a BA in Painting, an MA in Sculpture, and a PhD in Education from the NCAD. An innovator in art, education and social practice in Ireland, his research develops transversal modes of exchange between communities and contexts through artistic events. Key research areas focus on; socially engaged art, innovation in education, event-based research, community engagement and Island studies. Recent book publications include: *What is an Island? Towards a Patchwork Pedagogy for a World Archipelago* (Create Press, 2024). Forthcoming in 2025, *Being in the World Anew: Events of Art and Education in Post-Climax Times*, with Prof. Carl Anders Säfröm (Routledge).

**13h40-14h40** : Tim COLLINS and Reiko GOTO (Collins & Goto Studio, Glasgow) : « HAKOTO / Portach / Bog, A sense of otherness through creative practice »

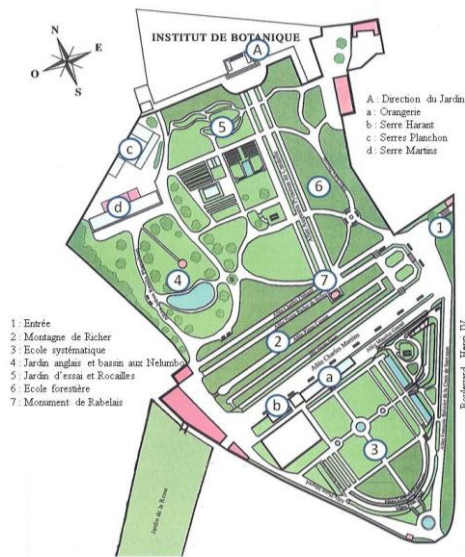
Tim Collins and Reiko Goto are distinguished artists whose collaborative work investigates the intersection of art, ecology, and the public realm. Based in Glasgow, (Scotland), they are internationally recognized for their socially engaged environmental art. Working since 1985 in locations such as San Francisco, Pittsburgh, and Glasgow, their practice emphasizes empathic relationships with living systems. Through interdisciplinary collaborations and projects like “**Deep Mapping Lough Boora Sculpture Park**”, they explore ecological systems, cultural histories, and the human experience within the commons. Using innovative tools like **the HAKOTO instrument**, which translates the unseen processes of trees into sound, they open new dialogues about how we perceive and interact with the environment. Their current projects explore the idea of “**Cultural Decoys**,” which challenge traditional distinctions between nature and human-made objects. By creating these decoys, Collins and Goto prompt audiences to reconsider the meaning and value of the artifacts, ecosystems, and urban spaces that surround us.

### Coffee Break

**15h-15h30** : Camille d'ALENÇON (Université de Rennes) : « Nature Writing and the Environmental Crisis in Sara Baume's *A Line Made by Walking* »

**15h30-17h30**: « *Writing the Environment* »: A Creative Writing “Walkshop” with writer Paula McGRATH

## ‘Writing the Environment’ Creative Writing Walkshop



“In our era of climate change and biodiversity loss, creative writing can provide a way to think from place to planet. Research tells us that the more we connect with a place, the more likely we are to care for it. In a 2020 study (by Ian Alcock Uni of Exeter) it was shown that people who spend time in ‘nature’ are more likely to engage in environmentally friendly behaviour. It can also be a way of coping with climate anxiety. There is a growing body of psychiatry and psychology literature which demonstrates the beneficial effects of writing about traumatic or stressful events on physical and emotional health.

For these reasons, I developed the module, Writing the Environment. Students have the opportunity to meet and engage with scientists and reserve management. They learn to position their own writing within nature and environmental writing traditions, and they consider aspects of craft such as image, symbolism, character and voice through the lens of environmental writing. They explore problems and ask questions that matter in the context of the current crisis, including the who’s, what’s, why’s, when’s and how’s of activism. And they respond through stories, essays and poems. A series of walkshops (walking workshops) developed out of this module, on Bull Island and elsewhere.

Our walk in Jardin des Plantes de Montpellier will extend the scope of the walkshop project and give participants a flavour of the ways in which creative writing can affect their relationship with places past, present and future. This walkshop, or walking-workshop, will introduce participants to some of the tools of creative writing as a means of connecting to a specific and beautiful Jardin des Plantes de Montpellier.

No creative writing experience needed! Bring paper and a pen (if you prefer to write on your phone or other device, that’s fine, too). We will be outside for some the walkshop so dress for the weather!”

Paul McGrath