Quatrerion Quest, Solo show, the LAB, Dublin, 2014 curated by sheena barett

In 1843 the Irish mathematician Hamilton had long been mulling over the problem of how to multiply in 3D space. Whilst walking from Dunsink Observatory to the Royal Irish Academy, in a moment of sudden realisation and least he forget it, he inscribed the formula for Quaternion multiplication on Broom Bridge in Dublin on the 16 October 1843

This early act of mathematical vandalism was first described to me by an old school friend (now a mathematician), in her search for Broom Bridge as a site of mathematical pilgrimage. (There is an annual walk to the site by mathematicians and other Quaternion aficionados) The equation formed a type of bridge in modern mathematics between algebra and geometry. This installation and film is a quest to try to understand the equation and map that process.

This show was a solo show, curated by Sheena Barrett for the LAB gallery, Dublin city Council’s gallery. The work was born out of curiosity sparked by my mathematician friend’s quest to find the bridge. It took the form of me as an artist trying to understand the equation (a form of 3D multiplication which is has applications as diverse as satellite tracking and digital rotoscoping) through art making, 3D manipulations of materials and ongoing dialogues regarding the development of these works with Emeritus Prof Luke Drury from the Institute for advanced Studies as well as my mathematician friends Dr. Áine McManus & Dr. Peter Kootsookos whom first introduced me to the quest

The work was facilitated by Dunsink Observatory and the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies. Various events walks (including participation in the annual Hamilton Walk) were organised in conjunction with the show. With thanks to Prof Luke Drury, Dublin Institute for advanced Studies & Dunsink Observatory, Dr. Aíne McManus & Dr. Peter Kootsookos. Supported by RIAD, University of Ulster
Quaternion Quest 'The Bridge', salvaged timber & clamps, dimensions variable, the LAB, Dublin 2014
Quaternion Quest 'The Bridge', detail

Quaternion Quest, 'Gimbal', mixed media, bucket, cake tin, tin can & threaded steel bar
Quaternion Quest, Gimbal, mixed media, washing machine rubber, cake tin, polyfilla tub & threaded steel bar
Quaternio Quest, Gimbal, mixed media, embroidery hoops, knitting needles & tape

Quaternio Quest, Gimbal, mixed media, rice steamer carcass, bean tin, cookie cutter, knitting needles & tape
Quaternion Quest, Gimbal, mixed media, cookie cutters, panel pins & tape

Quaternion Quest, 3D Knitting
Quaternion Quest, 3D Knitting

Quaternion Quest, Slinky
Quaternion Quest, Bowls,
Exhibitions

The LAB Gallery, brought to you by Dublin City Council, is pleased to present:

Quaternion Quest - Aisling O' Bein

Preview Thursday 1st September 2014, 6pm to 8pm. Exhibition continues until Saturday 8th November 2014.

In 1843 the Irish mathematician Hamilton had been struggling over the problem of how to multiply in 3D space. Whilst walking from Dunsink Observatory to the Royal Irish Academy, in a moment of sudden realisation and least he forget it, he inscribed the formula for Quaternion multiplication on Broom Bridge.

The artist describes this act of mathematical vandalism as having been first described to her by an old school friend (now a mathematician), in her search for Broom Bridge as a site of mathematical pilgrimage.

The equation forms a type of bridge in modern mathematics between algebra and geometry. This installation and film is a quest to try and understand the equation and map that process.

With thanks to Prof Luke Grumly, Dunsink Observatory, Dr. Padraic O' Gabhain, NUI Maynooth, Dr. Aine McNamara & Dr. Peter Kostelancik.

Please click here to download the Gallery Guide.

The LAB Gallery, brought to you by Dublin City Council, is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland. This exhibition is also supported by WIT, University of Limerick.

The LAB Gallery, Fleary Street, Dublin. Tel: 01 232 5450. artoffice@dublincity.ie www.facebook.com/TheLabGalleryDublin www.thelab.ie www.aislingobein.com

Opening hours Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm Saturday 10am to 5pm. Free events of talks, walks and family for mathematicians and non mathematicians alike workshops programme http://quaternionquest.eventbrite.ie

Aisling O' Bein is based in Belfast, working most concerned with the politics of space for both gallery and site specific contexts. Recent work has been facilitated by dialogue with Armagh Observatory and Dunsink Observatory. She has exhibited nationally and internationally. She was one of the artists choosen for Northern Ireland’s first participation in the 1st Venice Biennale, she is a member of the group Centrefuge consisting of artists architects, theorists and curators from Zagreb, Irish and Belfast, investigating the notion of performativity in a European context. She is also a cove founder of COPW City Right of Way organising monthly walks in Belfast.

O’ Bein is also an Associate Lecturer in Sculptures at the University of Limerick and represented by The Third Space Gallery http://thirddspacgallery.com/
List of events organised by the LAB and Dublin City Council relating to the show

Ingenious Ireland Facebook post re event

Poetry Reading with Iggy McGovern advertisement
A Mystic Dream 4 - Iggy McGovern in Conversation with Prof Luke Drury

Introduction to knitting event
Natura / Nature event advertisement

Google Map of Natura / Nature Walk route taken live during walk