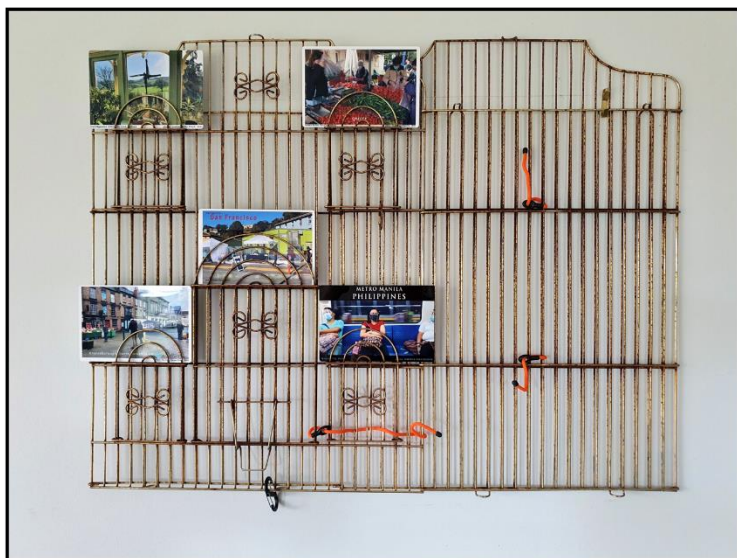


Postcards from the Other Side, 2021



Postcards from the Other Side is a collaborative project featuring the work of 6 artists – Ursula Christel, Emma Papadopoulou, Aodhán Floyd, Nawruz Paguidopon, Shaeron Caton Rose and Xiaojie Zheng. The birdcage-installation developed as an ancillary project for *Take Care / E Tiaki*. Five metal 'postcards' capture images taken in January 2021 - from Greece, Ireland, the Philippines, the UK and San Francisco.

Collated by Ursula Christel (as a follow-on from her work 'Essential Services/ Postcard Rack', 2020), the artists first connected via zoom, sharing their experiences of life in lockdown – the isolation, deprivation, anxiety, fear, loss, and radical lifestyle changes they have had to make.

Traditionally, postcards are positive pictorial reminders of exciting sea and air travel, tourists, destinations, holidays and postal communication. But in the Covid-era, the travel sector has become severely restricted and, in many places, totally halted. Instead, Covid-19 and its variants have become the tourists - continuing to 'travel' while abruptly changing the social environment of all our familiar landscapes, wherever it lands. These stark 'postcard' images remind us how much has changed and how much we all took for granted.

Ursula Christel (Warkworth, New Zealand)
BA Fine Art/Art Hist, Dip Ed



Farmers Market - Kaisariani, Athens, Greece

Photo taken on Tuesday 26th January, 2021 at 11.35am (Greek time) by Emma Papadopoulou

"Our weekly farmers markets typically sell food, plants, basic clothing and small household items. Since the lockdowns, only the food and plant stall holders can sell their products. All of the food produce,

mostly fruit and vegetables, is grown in various agricultural regions of Greece – the Peloponese, Central Greece and some islands.

The produce in this image is from Lakonia (capital Sparti) in the south Peloponese.

All the stall holders and shoppers have to wear masks and maintain their distance from one another. Most stall holders also wear latex gloves. In fact, people in Greece have to wear a mask whenever they leave their homes. They also have to send an sms or fill in a form/write on a piece of paper about the purpose of their outing, by checking a number which correlates to that purpose. The markets are not noticeably policed.

Anyone breaking the regulations - that is, not wearing a mask, being outside without the official documentation (sms or form) or outside after the 9pm curfew - is subject to a €300 fine."

Emma Papadopoulos (Athens, Greece)
MSc BA (Hons) Dipl.



Carrigandan Qiblih, Co.Cork, Ireland

photo: Aodhán Rilke Floyd, 2021

Window View - Carrigandan Qiblih, Co. Cork, Ireland

Photo taken 1st Feb, 2021, by Aodhán Floyd

"A photograph taken yesterday, 1st of February and traditionally, in the Irish calendar, the first day of Spring. It is also Brigid's Day, an early Irish saint, and this cross pattern, usually made with fresh rushes, is associated with her and has a rich folklore. Like Brigid herself, it is thought to have a long continuity with pre-Christian beliefs on

the island.

At the moment, Ireland is reeling from the pandemic and we are now in our third period of lockdown. But one can be sure that every child in the country currently being home-schooled made a Brigid's cross! Many artists also shared beautifully made examples online, some inventing new variations on the pattern. It seems like more people have made it this year than ever. A simple form and a humble material, I think its continuation in an increasingly secular society speaks to people's need for connection, both social and spiritual, which has been even more heightened because of our necessary, physical distancing. We can only hope that this pressing crisis directs us to ways we can better look after each other and, indeed, the natural world. This is all one of the themes of our exhibition, 'taking care'.

My own cross is made with dogwood from the garden and, consequently, is a little more open and robust, a sculptural quality that I like.

The view is across the valley from the farmhouse where I live in the uplands of the Lee Valley. In this time of year, the oak tree is very often lost in mist and 250 years ago this whole part of the country would have been a deep oak woodland or what

ecologists would term a temperate Atlantic rainforest, pockets of which still exist. The temelos, or eye at its centre, encloses the church on the opposite ridge. Cill Éanna church was built in the 1860s not long after the Great Famine 1845–49 which hit this particular locality very hard; 90 percent of the population was lost to disease, famine and emigration. As it happens, the church is directly south-south-east from us, which is important for Bahai's as that it is the direction of prayer. I've come to call the view the Carrigdangan Qiblih, Carrigdangan being the name of our townland and qiblih, the point of adoration!"

Best wishes, *Aodhán Floyd*



Quezon City MRT Train - Metropolitan Manila, Philippines

Photo taken on January 28, 2021,
9PM by Nawruz Paguidopon

"Only 3 people can fit the train bench that is marked with X's to maintain social distance. Before the pandemic, 9pm is usually a rush hour in Metro Manila, and trains are always full."

*Nawruz Paguidopon, Manila,
Philippines*

Market - Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, UK

Photo taken on 27th January 2021,
at 9.30 am, by Shaeron Caton Rose

"The photo shows our weekly market which has been allowed to continue trading all through lockdown. It is the oldest continually running outdoor market in the UK, dating from 1206 and receiving a Royal Charter in 1310 from Edward II.

A few years ago, the market was threatened with closure and I spearheaded a petition and protest which reinvigorated it and ensured its continuation. The photo shows what the market looks like during complete lockdown, with only food stalls being allowed to trade. Usually, the town square is full of various stalls with a lively atmosphere and traditional Town Crier. It's a good tourist attraction as well as meaning that locals like me can buy fresh produce



photo: Shaeron Caton Rose, 2021

without having to go to a supermarket. It also brings a lot of extra trade into local shops.

We try to shop locally as much as possible and so I have been going to the market every week even during Covid. We have 2m apart rules for queuing. Masks are not obligatory outside but I notice that more and more people are wearing them. I have also noticed more people using the market, probably because they are working from home at the moment and so can make time in the day to shop. You have to go very early to catch the fishmonger stall as the queue is often 3/4 hour."

Shaeron Caton-Rose

BA Hons (Printmaking), PGCE Art Teaching (secondary), MA Fine Art



25th Street, Potrero Hill district, San Francisco

Photo taken on January 25, 2021 at 11:35am, by Xiaojie Zheng

"This photo was taken on 25th Street in Potrero Hill district in San Francisco on January 25, 2020. It was 11 Celsius in the winter, around 11:35am when I was walking my dog in the neighbourhood. The two tents

were set up for Covid testing, people were lined up to take the sample. This is a new scene; I have not seen it the day before when I walked my dog as this is our regular route.

San Francisco is continuing to experience a significant surge in COVID-19 cases. We were the first city in the country issued shelter-in-place order by the mayor starting on March 17, 2020. Current registration is mandatory to wear a face covering when we are outside of the house. We cannot gather with anyone who doesn't live with us, even outdoors. We can keep doing activities by ourselves or people we live with. We can shop for essentials. We can get healthcare and go to the dentist. Everyone coming back to San Francisco from outside the 10 Bay Area counties must quarantine for 10 days.

Violation or failure to comply with the order could result in "a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment or both," according to San Francisco's Department of Public Health order. Fines for violators could be as high as \$1,000, while time in the county jail could reach as much as a year, according to the order. Violators may be subject to both a fine and jail time."

Xiaojie Zheng, San Francisco, California, United States