

RUBY WALLIS: BETWEEN DOG AND WOLF

A SPACE FOR LISMORE PROJECT 2025



30 AUGUST - 21 SEPTEMBER 2025
PREVIEW SATURDAY 30 AUGUST, 3 - 5PM

Each year Lismore Castle Arts invites an artist to work with a local audience over a sustained period of time, to create a meaningful, collaborative project. Working with our Learning team and using our new print studio as a base, artist Ruby Wallis has facilitated a series of workshops with International Protection Applicants living in Lismore. Taking inspiration from early photographers like Anna Atkins and William Henry Fox Talbot, participants have experimented with camera-less techniques like phytography, anthotype print-making and lumen printing.

Participants have reflected on their relationship to Lismore Castle's gardens, with conversations often moving towards the healing and culinary uses of different plants in their home countries. These conversations have become a point of connection, creativity and cultural memory as the garden becomes a site of personal significance. It is a space for cultivation, healing and growth, but also of replanting, resilience and transformation.

The project culminates with this exhibition at St Carthage Hall, showcasing new work by Ruby Wallis, alongside collaborative artworks produced in partnership with the Lismore community. Plants are named in the languages of the participants: Arabic, French, Yorùbá, Russian, siSwati, Irish and English, bringing multiple knowledge systems together. Plants referenced in the exhibition include; bamboo, beetroot, blackberry, cactus, fennel, fern, grape, kale, lemon balm, nettle, palm tree, rose and tulip.

The exhibition title - Between Dog and Wolf, refers to an in-between state. This moment of flux also relates to the experience of living in temporary dwelling. A collaborative sound work, mixed by Michael Smalle accompanies the exhibition and features recordings from walks and conversations in the garden.

Image: B&W 35mm photograph, taken by workshop participant in Lismore Castle Gardens, 2025. Courtesy the artist.

Join us for the exhibition launch on Saturday, 30 August from 3 – 5pm.

St Carthage Hall, Chapel St, Lismore, Co. Waterford, P51 WV96

Open Saturdays & Sundays, 12 – 5pm & by appointment. Admission Free.

Artist Biography

Ruby Wallis is a visual artist whose practice is rooted in photography and extends into sound, video, text and print. Adopting a haptic approach and a close-up perspective, she investigates touch and embodied experience. Her work engages with movement – twisting, turning, walking, and explores themes of fragmentation and materiality. Increasingly collaborative, Wallis integrates conversations, images and texts to reframe historical narratives through intersectional viewpoints. She actively seeks tensions between the wild and domestic, disorder and order, the human and non-human, allowing these oppositions to shape her process. To unsettle the smooth surface of the photograph, she experiments with digital, analogue and camera-less techniques creating moments in which conscious and unconscious modes of perception slip and merge. Her work has been shown at the Hugh Lane Gallery, Museum of Contemporary Photography of Ireland, Lismore Castle Arts (This Rural), The Lab, Photomuseum Ireland, BX Gallery, The Dock, Vondelbunker (Amsterdam), TULCA Festival of Visual Arts, the Perlman Teaching Museum, and Solas Nua (USA). Upcoming exhibitions include the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA). Published in The New Yorker and the British Journal of Photography, her work is held in the collections of the Arts Council, National University and US collections. She lectures at the Burren College of Art. Her practice has received support from the Arts Council.

NOTES TO EDITORS

For further information, or to request images, please contact Paul McAree, Curator, Lismore Castle Arts at: gALLERY@lismorecastlearts.ie

About Lismore Castle Arts

Lismore Castle Arts, a not-for-profit initiative, was founded in 2005 and is committed to the presentation and promotion of contemporary visual art in Ireland. It hosts exhibitions of international significance alongside a series of smaller exhibitions, projects and events as well as a comprehensive learning programme. In 2025 Lismore Castle Arts celebrates its 20th year.

Since opening, the gallery has presented the work of many leading international artists including Matthew Barney, Gerard Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Nancy Holt, Josephson, Richard Long, Eva Rothschild, Danh Vo and Ai Weiwei. In 2011 a second project space, St Carthage Hall, located in the town of Lismore opened. This gallery, in a former church, has presented a varied programme of exhibitions including works by Camille Henrot, Martin Healy, Niamh O'Malley, Roman Signer, Superflex and Corban Walker. A third space - The Mill, opened in 2022 on the outskirts of Lismore town, bringing back into use a historically significant building, and allowing an opportunity to present more physically challenging artworks. In 2022 the space hosted *Cascade* by Virginia Overton.

Lismore Castle Arts is situated in the historic gardens of Lismore Castle, which includes permanent works by Roger Hiorns, Eilís O'Connell and Franz West. Lismore Castle Arts has a deeply embedded community engagement programme, with learning projects such as *Artifice*, and projects such as *A Space for Lismore*, which foster long term projects between artists and communities.

This project is supported by the Arts Council, Waterford City & County Council and Creative Ireland.

